The Search
Since its inception in 1964, Rock Valley College has served as a regional resource to students, their families, and the employers of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. To lead this vital institution, the Board of Trustees seeks an exceptional candidate who understands the significant role of the community college in the present and emerging global landscape.

The Presidential Search Committee invites applications from individuals who excel at blending vision and execution, inspiring and leading stakeholders, and who can successfully adapt to an ever-changing environment. The hallmark of the next president’s tenure will be academic excellence, increased enrollment, an engaged faculty and staff committed to students and their goals, a prepared workforce ready to augment growth of regional employers, taxpayers, and stakeholders who value education and the contribution of Rock Valley College to the greater community.

The institution is uniquely positioned to serve the growth opportunities in the community by aligning an ambitious agenda with strategic regional partnerships including business, industry, not-for-profit agencies, municipalities, and taxing districts.

The Board of Trustees
Leadership for Rock Valley College is provided by a seven-member non-partisan board elected by citizens in the college’s service area. Board members live, work, and pay taxes in the district, and serve six-year terms without pay except for mileage and expenses. Often possessing backgrounds in education, industry and civic causes, the trustees strive for mutual respect and keep the best interests of the college and district taxpayers at the forefront of their efforts.

The College
Rock Valley College is a comprehensive two-year community college in Rockford, Illinois offering more than 100 courses for transfer, career programs and certificates. With a total operating budget of approximately $84 million, Rock Valley College derives revenue from numerous sources including tuition and fees, local property taxes, state appropriations, and state grants and contracts. Vital to the financial health of the college is the work performed by the Rock Valley College Foundation.

Since 1999, the Rock Valley College Foundation has raised more than $12 million in cash and pledges for scholarships, grants to faculty and staff for innovative projects and programs outside
the college budget, equipment, campus beautification, and capital projects. Of that, over $1.5 million has been awarded to students through the Foundation Scholarship Program. In addition, the Foundation has allocated more than $833,000 in grants to faculty and staff to enhance classroom instruction, experiential learning, and professional development for Rock Valley College instructors and staff.

Rock Valley College is part of the 48-institution Illinois Community College System and serves a total population of more than 340,000 in Winnebago County, most of Boone County and portions of Ogle, Stephenson, McHenry and DeKalb counties. The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association; it is also recognized by both the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

With four satellite locations throughout Rockford and extensive facilities on its wooded 217-acre main campus, RVC enrolls 7,500 students, and serves annually more than 25,000 students in its non-credit and career enhancement programs. The campus also boasts a refurbished Student Center and Educational Resource Center, newly renovated Physical Education Center, and the brand new state-of-the-art Karl J. Jacobs Center for Science and Math. The college is home to the one-of-a-kind retractable roof Bengt Sjostrom Starlight Theater, and has a brand new Aviation Career Education Center at the Chicago-Rockford International Airport. The college will open a site in downtown Rockford this fall. Unique partnerships will soon allow the college to provide bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering—in conjunction with Northern Illinois University—on the RVC campus and bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in nursing—in partnership with the OSF Saint Anthony College of Nursing—in a brand new Health Sciences Center on the main campus.

Mission and Vision

Mission Statement
Rock Valley College empowers students and community through lifelong learning.

Vision Statement
Rock Valley College empowers the community to grow as a society of learners through well-designed educational pathways, leading to further education, rewarding careers, cultural enrichment, and economic-technological development.

Strategic Plan
The 2014 strategic plan has provided a general framework for the College's priorities to address its mission, promote excellence, and allocate resources. Through the planning process, five goals that will guide RVC's planning for the next several years were identified. The next president will be expected to lead the implementation and execution of these goals.

On November 14, 2014 the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees proposed the following statements represent their strategic interests.

Rock Valley College will…
1. Create pathways to ensure the access and success of current and potential students.
2. Align the resources and potential of the college to educational need of the district, thereby increasing effectiveness.
3. Provide pathways for students to accelerate and achieve their goals.
4. Provide a variety of support programs to make the attainment of educational plans cost effective.
5. Play a larger role in strengthening the culture of education in our district at all levels and to all people.
6. Have a larger presence of Rock Valley College music, theater, art, athletics and other educational programs off-campus in cultural centers throughout the district.
7. Expose more residents to career and technical education. This includes building a world-class CTE facility, further aligning programming with employer needs, growing public/private partnerships and clearly communicating CTE career opportunities to our citizens.
8. Establish a permanent downtown campus with offerings for continuing, adult and traditional credit-hour courses that complement the strengths of our district’s urban core.
9. Offer more bachelor’s degrees locally at Rock Valley College through new/expanded partnerships with four-year, degree granting higher education institutions.
10. Raise awareness of the adult education crisis in our district and work in collaboration with community partners to increase participation in adult education programs.
11. Turn Rock Valley College students into local, national and global leaders in their respective fields and recognize them when this occurs.

Academics

Rock Valley College serves its community by providing an excellent, affordable education to students at the end of their educational careers as well as for those who intend to go on to a four year institution. There are seven academic units which administer 30 degree programs that award an associate degree and more than 60 certificate and apprenticeship programs that provide specialized training. RVC students also benefit from more than 40 joint educational agreements with two-year colleges in Illinois and Wisconsin, small class sizes, and contact and mentoring provided by a faculty, many of whom hold terminal degrees in their field, committed to academic excellence.

RVC has a strong and scholarly record of academic achievement, innovative academic programs, and state-of-the art classroom facilities. Please visit our website for more thorough and dynamic presentations of academics at Rock Valley College.
http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Academics/

Through a new partnership with Northern Illinois University, students will be able to earn their associate in applied engineering at RVC and then earn bachelor’s degrees in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering or applied manufacturing technology from NIU while taking all of their courses on the RVC campus. A master’s degree program in engineering will also be offered. Industry support is strong for this program, and internship and living lab opportunities will be available in Rockford at some of the premier aerospace companies in the
world. The Woodward Technology Center on the RVC main campus is being renovated for the launch of this program in fall 2016.

Upon completion of a 60,000 square foot Health Sciences Center on the RVC main campus, RVC will launch a partnership with the OSF Saint Anthony College of Nursing to offer bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in nursing on the RVC campus. The OSF Saint Anthony College of Nursing will be located on the top floor of the new building and an agreement is in place for RVC students who wish to transfer to OSF to receive preferred admission, discounted tuition and placement upon successful completion of the OSF program. [http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Nursing](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Nursing)

**Satellite Campuses**

As a vital institution in the community, RVC has worked to make its program offerings geographically diverse and accessible. The next president will not only oversee the activities on the main campus, but at the four satellite locations as well.

Bell School Road Center – The Bell School site hosts the Center for Learning in Retirement. With over 2,100 members, the Center for Learning in Retirement is one of the largest and most successful lifelong learning institutes in the nation. Over the past 20 years, it has grown from offering just five classes to offering over 350 per year.

Samuelson Road Center – Located in the southern part of Rockford, the RVC Samuelson Road Center is home to many of the college’s vocational and technical programs including automotive technology, certified nursing assistant, dental hygiene, fire science, graphic arts technology, respiratory care, surgical technology and welding. It is also the home to RVC’s TechWorks, an employer-driven training organization that develops and delivers a customized curriculum to prepare students for a career in advanced manufacturing in just six to eight weeks.

RVC Downtown – Opening for classes in fall 2016, the RVC Downtown center will bring credit, developmental and adult education programs into the heart of Rockford. Located in the historic Register Star Tower, the RVC Downtown location offers a site that is easily accessible by public transportation and with ample parking.

Aviation Career Education Center – Located at the Chicago-Rockford International Airport, this 40,000 square foot facility is four times the size of the hangar that it replaced. The increase in space and upgrade in facilities has helped RVC dramatically increase the number of students enrolled in the program to earn their airframe and powerplant certificates. The creation of this facility was a crucial factor in the airport attracting AAR, Inc., one of the largest maintenance, repair and overhaul operations in the world to build a brand new facility right next door. This proximity and the strong relationship developed between AAR and the college will afford aviation students unprecedented learning opportunities.

**Business Community Partnerships**

Serving the needs of its community, Rock Valley College has developed a number of long-standing resources that serve both the citizens of the area and local and regional businesses. Many of these partnerships have become part of RVC’s infrastructure and are relied upon by the
community to provide training and employment. The next president will improve, expand, and deepen these partnerships:

- Business Professional Institute (BPI) (http://rockvalleycollege.edu/BPI)
- Continuing Education (CE) (http://rockvalleycollege.edu/CPE)

RVC has strong partnerships with Northern Illinois University for engineering, the OSF Saint Anthony College of Nursing and AAR, Inc. for aviation maintenance.

RVC has been designated as a Right Skills Now college. Such a designation distinguishes the College as one of 10 Right Skills Now colleges in the country. RVC has also received special recognition on the M-List from the Manufacturing Institute for its Right Skills Now program. The M-List, which showcases the best programs across the nation, distinguishes quality manufacturing education and training programs that are a preferred source of talent for manufacturing employers.

RVC is one of just 70 schools in the nation recognized on the M-List, one of only five in Illinois, and is the only school in Illinois designated as a Right Skills Now college.

**Unique Features, Facilities, and Programs at Rock Valley College**

In addition to RVC’s commitment to academics and workforce development, the college also promotes life-long learning and cultural enrichment. Please consult our website for information about these creative opportunities, resources, and partnerships:

- Running Start
- Whiz Kids
- Bengt Sjostrom Starlight Theatre
- Seven sports that compete at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III level
- RVC has won 16 national championships since 1996
- Multi-purpose Physical Education Center that seats 4,000
- More than 30 student clubs and organizations
- Freedom Field
- Dislocated Workers Program
- National award-winning Model United Nations team
- Center for Learning in Retirement
- State-of-the-art Math Center to provide an ideal learning environment
- National award-winning robotics teams
- State-of-the-art labs for dental hygiene and nursing
- Cutting edge laboratory spaces in the Jacobs Center for Science and Math
- Four-year engineering degree partnership with Northern Illinois University
- Four-year nursing degree partnership with OSF St. Anthony College of Nursing
- Brand new 40,000 square foot Aviation Career Education Center
- GED to work programs
- English as a Second Language
• Downtown location with development, adult education and credit programs (including digital communications)
• TechWorks program that leads to National Institute for Metalworking Skills certifications in six to eight weeks

**The Rockford Region**
Rockford, the third largest city in Illinois with more than 250,000 people in its metropolitan area, is located only 80 miles northwest of Chicago via Interstate 90 and is in the center of a rich agricultural area just south of the Wisconsin border. The metro markets of Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago are all approximately an hour’s drive.

Highlights of Rockford include:

**Health Care**
Three modern, well-equipped hospitals are located in Rockford: Saint Anthony Hospital, SwedishAmerican Hospital, and Rockford Memorial Hospital. Affiliated with Mayo Clinic, University of Wisconsin, and Mercy hospital groups, these facilities attract a high level of professionalism represented by the more than 300 doctors and countless leaders who serve the community.

**Education**
Rock Valley College District 511 includes several public school districts including the Rockford Public School District, the Belvidere Public School District, the Harlem Public School District, the Hononegah Public School District, Winnebago School District, Pecatonica School District the Byron Public School District, and others. Additionally, many church-sponsored, Montessori, and secular schools make up the more than 20 private schools in the Rockford area. In addition to RVC, college level work can be pursued at Rockford University (a four-year liberal arts college), and Northern Illinois University, which operates a Rockford facility and the main campus in DeKalb. Advanced degree work can be pursued in Rockford at Rockford University, the University of Illinois, and Northern Illinois University.

**Religion**
More than 160 churches and temples offer spiritual and education assistance to various religious faiths. All major religions in the world are represented in the Rockford area.

**Culture**
Few communities the size of Rockford can match its cultural resources. Music, art, dance, and theater are offered in great variety:

• Rockford Symphony Orchestra
• Rockford Art Museum
• Clark Arts Center at Rockford University
• Rockford Dance Company
• Burpee Museum of Natural History
• Midway Village
• Discovery Center Museum

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Recreation
The city enjoys an excellent park system, which has been recently awarded the prestigious gold medal from the National Recreation and Park Association. Rockford offers recreational activities that will appeal to every interest: For example, golf courses (six public and three private courses), tennis courts (two private indoor clubs, three private outdoor clubs, and over 60 public outdoor courts), a paved riverside recreational path, 2,800 acres of public parks, and a beautiful state park are available to local residents.

Rock Valley College President Challenges and Opportunities
The next president will be taking over leadership of Rock Valley College at a crucial time. Funding for public higher education from the state was not allocated in fiscal year 2016 due to the lack of a state budget. New and expanded facilities have given the students and faculty of RVC a beautiful, functional, and first-rate campus. The community RVC serves, however, needs the college to do more. Shifts in demographics and economics, mirrored in the rest of the country, require an educational institution that is nimble and responsive to a changing world, but faithful to the goals and values of education. The next president of Rock Valley College will be expected to address the following challenges:

Articulate a Clear Vision and Strategy for RVC
The president, along with the Board of Trustees, must carry out the vision for RVC. The college needs to continue to develop educational programming for the current and future needs of its students and the larger community, setting priorities based on criteria such as student interest, community need, transferability, employment possibilities, chance of success, and affordability. To meet this challenge, the president must be a strong, collaborative leader who has good fiscal responsibility and experience, and is able to inspire others to work together in difficult financial times to grow enrollment. The president will lead a process that yields decisions that are discerning and realistic, as well as bold and creative, and that are responsive to the community as well as consistent with a cohesive sense of the college's educational philosophy and purpose.

Promote the Academic and Personal Development of Students
As an open-enrollment institution, RVC offers educational opportunity and access to students who come to the college from a wide range of backgrounds and with varying levels of preparation. The college has a strong tradition of liberal arts and sciences infused throughout its curricula as well as a strong general education program. The president will be required to work with faculty, staff and administration to ensure that all students have access to support services that enable them to reach their potential. The college has strengthened the career and technical educational programs in response to the needs of the community, helping with workforce development, and preparation of engineers, nurses and allied health workers, and the transfer of GED prepared students to their next educational level.

Assure Financial Stability and Growth
In order for RVC to continue offering affordable, high-quality education to the community, the president must work to ensure funding from a diversified range of sources. The president will be responsible for developing and stewarding RVC's operating budget and for working to guarantee financial stability. To successfully manage RVC's finances, the president must work closely with
the board to ensure that the college is prepared for all future economic scenarios. The president must diligently work with elected and appointed county, state, and national leaders to aggressively advocate for the college’s needs, especially with declining assistance from the state. In addition, the president will work with the RVC Foundation in helping the college to raise money through philanthropic donations, and to generate corporate sponsorships through partnerships with the area’s businesses, industries, and public-sector enterprises. The foundation has been successful at providing funding for student scholarships and is poised to take on an even larger role. The president, along with the foundation, will need to continue to build a culture of philanthropic support among the college’s alumni, many of whom have achieved remarkable success after leaving RVC. Through personal efforts and by galvanizing board and staff, the president must be tireless in seeking all appropriate potential sources of financial support.

Enhance the College’s Role in Community Revitalization
The president will work to strengthen the college’s presence as a valuable community resource, enhancing its image and utility to the broader community. It is expected that the president will lead the college in responding to the rapid pace of change in the region by positioning the college to be more responsive to emerging workforce development needs through partnerships with business, industry, community leaders, and other educational institutions. Furthermore, the president will continue to strengthen RVC’s connection to K-12 education in the region and across the state. The president should work with local and regional high schools to highlight RVC as an institution of choice and continue to increase articulation agreements across the state and country.

The president should promote RVC as a vital community partner with a strong reputation throughout Winnebago County and beyond as an institution of choice for college preparation, workforce training, and continuing education. Through its satellite campuses, RVC should be viewed as an institution that ties multiple constituencies together and is a resource to all citizens in the community, regardless of neighborhood and socioeconomic status.

Expand RVC’s Capacity and Reputation as a Resource for Workforce Development
Local leaders in business and industry have historically partnered with RVC to develop training and certificate programs that will allow students to move quickly into available jobs. The region remains a national leader of manufacturing and industry; however, employers are still challenged to find skilled, local workers qualified to take open positions. The employment crisis in the region provides not just an opportunity, but a need for the next leader of RVC to facilitate partnerships with businesses for training and certificate programs that are dynamic and beneficial to students and to businesses, and are impactful to the economics and spirit of the community.

Qualifications and Characteristics
The next president of Rock Valley College will be chosen based on a strong leadership background, ideally with experience operating in a strategic role within both the business and education sectors. Prior experience in a collaborative union setting and reporting to an elected board are preferred.
In addition, the successful candidate for president should possess many, if not all, of the following experience and qualifications:

- Collaboration and political sense.
- Experience working in collaboration with a board.
- Ability to make difficult decisions.
- Ability to balance academic best practices with financial management strengths to advance the college on its community-aligned grown agenda during a difficult funding climate.
- Ability to maintain programs to foster success in the community and at the college.
- Discernible capacity to provide visionary leadership that inspires students, faculty, administration, trustees and staff.
- Superior ability to balance short-term and long-term pressures and opportunities.
- Resilience and flexibility in the face of unexpected constraints; a proven ability to implement change and manage conflict.
- Ability to look “outside of the box” and problem solve with a different paradigm.
- A strong record of building consensus-unifying individuals with diverse agendas around creative solutions to difficult problems.
- Integrity, openness, and the ability to connect and communicate with students, faculty, administration, trustees, and staff, as well as external stakeholders at all levels.
- Fiscal budget experience that combines both the understanding of public finance and the realities of enrollment-driven budgets.
- Experience leading an accredited institution with strong assessment of successful student learning outcomes.
- A history of collaborative and strategic engagement with trustees.
- A proven track record of supporting and expanding diversity throughout the organization.
- Experience establishing strong community relationships and developing strategic partnerships with a broad range of organizations.
- Successful experience partnering with K-12 systems and baccalaureate institutions.
- An understanding of the rapidly changing dynamics affecting global workforce development; the ability to lead ahead of demand.
- A track record of success in fund development and donor retention.
- An understanding of national and regional trends in higher education.
- Demonstrated experience in progressively responsible executive leadership positions.
- A terminal academic degree preferred.

All inquiries, applications, and nominations should be sent electronically to Jessica Jones, Vice President of Human Resources at j.jones@RockValleyCollege.edu.

RVC is an equal opportunity employer committed to increasing diversity and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups. EOE.