# *CULVER-STOCKTON COLLEGE*

***Mission:*** *Culver-Stockton College prepares students to Be Bold, Think Big, and Create Change through Experiential Learning, Innovation, and Community Engagement.*

**ABOUT CULVER-STOCKTON COLLEGE**

Culver-Stockton College is a small, residential college founded in the liberal arts tradition and affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As the first college west of the Mississippi River to be chartered for co-educational purposes and one of only two colleges in the United States following a unique 12-week + 3-week semester calendar, Culver-Stockton College has a history of innovation in education and a successful track record of graduate outcomes. The College was recently ranked among the top 8 regional colleges in the Midwest for social mobility and top 9 for best value.

Culver-Stockton's 140-acre campus sits high atop "the Hill" overlooking the iconic Mississippi River in Canton, Missouri. Culver-Stockton College is home to more than 1,000 students coming from all over the world to study, explore their talents, set their career goals, and develop leadership skills. The majority of C-SC Wildcats live on campus in residence halls or fraternity and sorority houses that are within close proximity to academic classrooms, athletic facilities, dining options, and countless student life opportunities. Culver-Stockton's close-knit community is home to 21 NAIA athletic teams, 10 Greek organizations, and over 50 student organizations. Students enjoy fine arts productions, mock trial experiences, student-run print and broadcast journalism opportunities, and much more!

The student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1 allows for a personalized student experience on "the Hill" that creates opportunities for optimal academic achievement. Over 69 percent of faculty members hold the highest degree in their field and are committed to raising the bar of academic excellence. Students can choose from more than 80 majors and minors or create their own "limitless" degree track. With our 12+3 academic semester calendar, students take the majority of their course load in the first 12 weeks of the semester and utilize the remaining 3-week session to focus on one subject. The 3-week course is designed to provide students with hands-on experience that includes opportunities in creative expression, service learning, simulations, travel study, research and innovation, leadership, and professional experience.

In addition to the traditional undergraduate experience, Culver-Stockton College also offers 11 fully online undergraduate programs, including a pathway for degree completion. Beyond the undergraduate offerings, C-SC has continued to grow its graduate degree programs and enrollment numbers. The College launched its first fully-online Master's degree program with the Master of Business Administration in 2013 and has since added the Master of Education, Master of Athletic Training, Master of Arts in Counseling, and Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership programs.

The College is also the home of Tri State Development, a collaborative effort to enhance the region through economic and community development focused on uniting 42 counties in Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa through strategic partnerships and initiatives. In 2023, Culver-Stockton College was nationally recognized with the Award of Excellence in the Engaged University category by the University Economic Development Association. The College's recently-approved strategic plan includes significant partnerships with academic programs to leverage the College's rural location and existing regional partnerships in ways that create signature opportunities for student engagement.

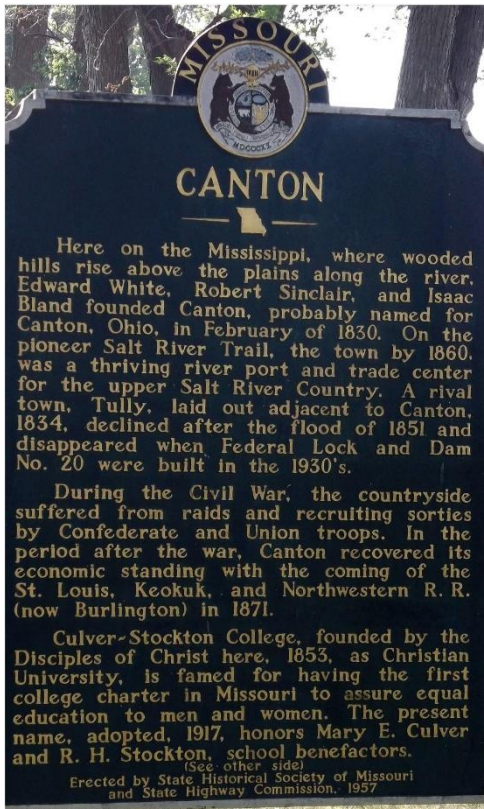
## LOCATION

The campus is a focal point of the closely-knit, quintessential "small-town America" city of Canton. Canton is on the "Avenue of the Saints" – a highway that connects St. Louis, MO., to St. Paul, MN. A low cost of living, low tax rates, excellent health care options, very strong public K-12 schools, established neighborhoods and green spaces, varied outdoor recreational opportunities, and theater are Canton highlights. In addition, excellent "town/gown" relations define the interplay between the campus and the town.

Founded as a true river community in 1830, Canton has a long and rich history tied to the Mississippi and is home to U.S. Corp of Engineers Lock & Dam #20. There is focused interest in building ecotourism in the region, with the Mississippi as its nucleus. There is a levee walk and wetlands area along the Canton riverfront. The 2,000-foot trail provides both recreation and educational possibilities related to the river and its habitat. The region is particularly well-regarded for its bird watching opportunities, with hundreds of bald eagles flocking to the riverside during the winter months.

Culver-Stockton benefits from the richness of resources located in nearby Quincy, IL. and the major metropolitan area of St. Louis. Quincy is a 20-minute drive from campus and home to a vibrant restaurant and shopping scene as well as an active regional airport and Amtrak train station. Both Quincy and nearby Hannibal, MO. have robust arts opportunities whether it be taking in a theatre production, enrolling in an art class, or enjoying a symphony performance. St. Louis is an easy two-hour drive from campus and offers stellar performing arts, an engaging museum and gallery culture, a renowned zoo, a rich culinary tradition and exciting professional sports. Other cities within a two-hour drive include Columbia and Jefferson City, MO., Springfield, IL., and Iowa City, IA.

All of the College's local and regional features yield an excellent quality of life and have clearly contributed to Culver-Stockton's ability to attract and retain exceptional students, faculty, and staff.



# Vice-President for Student Experience (VPSE)

*Culver-Stockton College (*www.culver.edu*)*, a residential, liberal arts college invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President for Student Experience (VPSE). Serving as the Chief Student Affairs Officer and Chief Retention Officer, the VPSE is a pivotal executive leader reporting directly to the President and serving as a member of the Senior Leadership Group (President's Cabinet).

The VPSE is charged with the strategic visioning and operational oversight of a holistic student experience. This role is responsible for creating a transformational, safe, and supportive community where every student feels a profound sense of **belonging and purpose**. The VPSE serves as the primary architect of strategies designed to improve **student retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes**, ensuring that every student is connected to the resources necessary to thrive.

**LEADERSHIP & STRUCTURE**

The VPSE provides high-level mentorship and strategic direction to a team of dedicated professionals. Direct reports to the VPSE include each of the following:

- **Dean of Student Life** (Overseeing Counseling, Residence Life, Student Engagement)
- **Co-Directors of Dining Services**
- **Assistant Director for Student Success** (Overseeing Tutoring and Academic Support)
- **Director of Career and Internship Services**
- **Campus Grant Project Director**
- **College Chaplain**

This structure allows the VPSE to maintain a broad view of the student experience—from nutritional needs and spiritual growth to academic persistence and mental health—ensuring all departments are aligned with the College's retention goals.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES & OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Strategic Leadership & Student Retention**
  As the Chief Retention Officer, the VPSE will utilize data-informed strategies to identify and remove barriers to student persistence. The VPSE will lead a team dedicated to developing student self-efficacy, ensuring that every student—with a particular focus on first-generation and under-represented populations—has a clear roadmap that is supported from enrollment to graduation.
- **Cultivating a Culture of Belonging**
  The VPSE will be a visible leader on campus, moving beyond policy to create a living environment where all students feel "at home." The VPSE will work collaboratively to ensure the campus culture proactively supports a broad range of viewpoints and experiences, fostering an atmosphere where diverse perspectives are met with mutual respect and communal engagement.
- **Integration of Experiential Learning**
  Unique to the Culver-Stockton experience is the partnership between Student Life and Academic Affairs. The VPSE will ensure that the "beyond the classroom" experience mirrors the college's innovative curriculum, helping students build the social and professional capital needed to become transformational leaders.
- **Visible Advocacy & Student Support**
  The successful candidate will be an approachable fixture of campus life—present at events and accessible in the dining hall—a calm, decisive leader during times of student challenge or crisis. The VPSE will be a champion for the "whole student," ensuring that wellness and engagement are recognized as the foundations of academic persistence.

**QUALIFICATIONS & CHARACTERISTICS**

**Required Education & Experience:**

- **Master's Degree** in Student Development, Higher Education Administration, or a related field (required); **Ph.D. or Ed.D.** (strongly preferred).
- A significant record of progressive leadership in student affairs, with a proven track record of improving **retention and persistence rates**.
- Experience managing complex student issues with a balance of compassion and firm leadership.

**Professional Attributes:**

- **Retention Mindset:** Ability to use student data to drive engagement strategies and intervention programs.
- **Community Builder:** Exceptional listening skills with a knack for building consensus among individuals with diverse viewpoints.
- **Student-Centric:** A sincere interest in the success of students and a passion for helping them overcome obstacles to their education.

**Professional Characteristics:**

- Student-First
- Data-driven
- Experience working directly with students and parents
- Experience with student activities and Greek life
- Enthusiastic, patient, student-centered, knowledgeable about conflict resolutions, and tech savvy
- A strong manager, supportive of staff, and open to new ideas
- Transparent, collaborative, outgoing, strategic, and detail-oriented

# Deadline: April 17, 2026

## Culver - Stockton is being assisted by the partners of Hyatt–Fennell, Executive Search.

Nominations and application materials should be submitted to Cheryl Hyatt or Jann Weitzel at Culver@Hyatt-Fennell.com.

Applications should include the following, submitted in separate documents.: A cover letter, Current resume, and Contact information for five professional references (name, contact information, current role, and relationship with candidate)

Nominations should include the name of nominee and current contact information.

All applications and nominations will be considered highly confidential.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

CULVER STOCKTON COLLEGE

**For more information contact**
**Cheryl Hyatt or Jann Weitzel**
**724-242-0476**
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**www.Hyatt-Fennell.com**

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