



R.H. PERRY & ASSOCIATES
SEARCH COUNSEL TO HIGHER EDUCATION

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EXECUTIVE SEARCH PROFILE

The University of Akron

DIRECTOR MYERS SCHOOL OF ART

THE OPPORTUNITY

To lead an outstanding school devoted to design and fine arts to the next level of academic and creative excellence. To institute a collaborative strategic planning and budgeting process that results in clear priorities and important fundraising opportunities.

THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Akron was founded in 1870. It evolved into a municipal institution owned by the city of Akron, Ohio, and later to a state university. Today, the University serves more than 24,000 students from 40 states and 76 foreign countries. Some 350 associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and J.D. degree programs are offered. *U.S. News & World Report* has recognized the University among the top five national institutions in science and engineering. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits the University. A large number of specialized accreditations are held as well. Carnegie classifies the institution as Research/Doctoral Extensive. Its current president, Dr. Luis M. Proenza, has recently completed the first phase of a capital campaign entitled the "New Landscape for Learning." Nine new buildings and 14 major renovations have been accomplished on the 218-acre campus in Akron. Dr. Elizabeth J. Stroble, senior vice president, provost, and chief operating officer, ably assists the president.



THE CITY OF AKRON

This vibrant city has transformed itself from the tire capital to the polymer science and engineering capital of the world. The University is part of the exciting northeast corridor comprising Akron and Cleveland. Such vibrant cultural institutions as the Akron Art Museum, Cleveland Museum of Art, Akron Symphony, and Cleveland Orchestra have garnered national acclaim. In 2007 the Akron Art Museum will reopen with a new addition designed by Coop Himmel(b)lau. An addition to The Cleveland Museum of Art by architect Rafael Vignoly is slated to open in 2011. For recreational pleasure the area offers a first-class MetroParks system and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Affordable and high quality housing is another of the area's important amenities. Other cities with significant art centers are only two to three hours away, including Columbus, Pittsburgh, and Toledo. New York and Chicago are easily accessible with direct one-hour flights from the Akron-Canton and Cleveland airports.

THE MYERS SCHOOL OF ART

“The mission of the Myers School of Art is to provide high quality education and leadership in the fine arts, art history, design, and art education. We seek to provide excellence in teaching, research, and community service, contributing to the visual culture of the region.”

Mary Schiller Myers, an alumna and national arts benefactor, gave a substantial endowment to the School in 1997. The earnings from the fund support an extensive visiting artist program, faculty and student research, travel, and a number of artistic and educational opportunities.

Currently the School offers only undergraduate programs. Liberal arts degrees are awarded in Art Education, Art History, and Studio Art. Professional degrees are given in Ceramics, Graphic Design, Metalsmithing, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture. The Myers School of Art is one of seven schools in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

The School is fully accredited through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

The Myers School of Art has more than 500 student majors, 23 full-time and 31 part-time faculty, exceptional facilities, and an annual budget of nearly \$2 million. Folk Hall, home of the Myers School of Art, is among the largest and most impressive art facilities in the region. Forty studio labs are devoted to ceramics, digital imaging, sculpture, professional and fine art photography, drawing, metalsmithing, printmaking, painting, illustration, and graphic design. State-of-the-art equipment and technology is available throughout.

Graduates of the School have recently received national and international awards and have been accepted for graduate studies at institutions such as Tyler School of Art, Rutgers University, Cranbrook Academy, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Myers Artist-in-Residency Program enables renowned artists to visit the School to share their diverse talents with the campus and community. Among the most recent: graphic designer Malcolm Gear, photographer Mark Steinmetz, sculptor Patrick Daugherty, and painter James Sienna.



THE MYERS SCHOOL OF ART (*Continued*)

The faculty takes special pride in individual attention to students while actively pursuing individual research and professional development. Also, there is an excellent climate of collegiality and cordial relations among the faculty.

BACKGROUND

Recently, the provost appointed an interim dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Dr. James M. Lynn, formerly associate dean, has been appointed to an 18-month term. Currently, the College consists of such disciplines as the performing and visual arts, communication, speech pathology and audiology, and social work.

For the past four years the Myers School of Art has been served by an interim director. The University and all other Ohio public institutions are dealing with financial cutbacks related to the state's economy. As evidence of the administration's support for the School, the provost has approved a search for a permanent director.

An academic director at the University is similar to a departmental chair, but with more responsibilities. A School Planning Committee with Division Chairs from each of the six areas serves to advise the director. The Director has support from a staff of ten which includes the Assistant Director, a Budget Administrator, an Administrative Assistant, an Art Event Coordinator, a Gallery Director, a Visual Resource Director, a Photo Service Lab Supervisor, a Graphic Design Technician, and two 3D Technicians.

CHALLENGES

Major challenges for the next director are:

- taking the School to even higher levels of excellence and achievement; increasing the Myers School of Art's visibility in the national and international arts communities; exploring the feasibility of offering one or more graduate programs;
- leading the faculty and staff in an exciting new strategic planning process that is inextricably linked to a multiple-year budget; identifying the key priorities for the future;
- supporting faculty development; using endowment and other external funds to promote new creative works and scholarly research by faculty and students; disseminating university-wide and to external stakeholders the "good news" of these efforts;



CHALLENGES (*Continued*)

- supporting the provost's initiatives in leadership, engagement, diversity, innovation, and assessment; finding creative ways of integrating these initiatives in the Myers School of Art; helping the school community to be an important player in the movement towards continuous planning and assessment in NCA's Higher Learning Commission's AQIP program;
- engaging in significant fund raising activities on behalf of the School; working with the president, provost, and institutional advancement staff in identifying and cultivating major donors; asking them for investments in the future of the School; encouraging others to be entrepreneurial in seeking grants and gifts;
- clearly representing the University administration's policies to the School; being a team member with the dean and the provost; promoting transparency in all activities involving the faculty and central administration; openly communicating progress, decisions, setbacks and future direction on an ongoing basis;
- planning for faculty replacements due to retirement during the next decade; making a strong case with the dean and provost on the need for timely replacements; identifying new programs and academic initiatives that can be implemented with new faculty hires;
- continuing to support an environment of student-centered education; helping to develop collaborative research and creative projects between students and faculty; and
- becoming a visible and valued leader in Northeast Ohio art communities; joining with others in promoting outside ventures that will benefit students and faculty.



QUALIFICATIONS

The provost, dean, and University community seek a new director who is a strong leader, a person who sees the big picture, a strategic thinker, and who:

- exhibits unquestioned integrity and is a role model for ethical behavior;
- understands the School's potential and has a vision for its future;
- possesses significant administrative experience at the level of dean, director, or chair at the college or university level; candidates with leadership experience in arts management, such as museum directors are welcome as well;
- documents an appropriate terminal degree (M.F.A. in design or fine arts, or the Ph.D. degree in Art History); has achieved the rank of associate or full-professor; is eligible for tenure at The University of Akron as a full professor;
- demonstrates a collaborative management style; seeks input before engaging in decision making;
- leads the faculty and staff by providing an excellent example and will act as an advocate for their needs in terms of development, teaching, research, and other responsibilities;
- wishes to become an important player in fund raising on behalf of the School; having institutional advancement and marketing experience is an added plus;
- demonstrates competency in curriculum planning/assessment, technology, strategic planning, budgeting, and human resources management;
- understands the fundamental aspects of academic life and is able to successfully advocate with the administration on behalf of faculty, staff, and students; and
- interacts with students and faculty, attends exhibitions, and serves as a mentor.



KEY INDICATORS
The University of Akron – Fall 2005

	<i>University at Large</i>	<i>Myers School of Art</i>
Investment in Plant, less depreciation	\$473.36 million	\$3.61 million
Plant Insured Value	\$932.36 million	\$7.58 million
Endowments:	\$ 183,80 million	\$3.03 million
Available Scholarships:		\$147,819
Budget (Unrestricted):	\$ 265,337,000	\$1.41 million
Tuition: (includes mandatory fees)	\$ 7,958 (Undergrad in-state); \$ 16,682 (Undergrad out-of-state)	Same
Student Enrollment:	Fall 2004: Undergrad – 19,209 Graduate - 4,031 Fall 2005: Undergrad – 18,723 Graduate - 3,913	Fall 2004: Undergrad – 549 Fall 2005: Undergrad – 504
Average ACT Score:	Fall 2004 ACT: Overall = 20.2 Direct admits = 25.1 Fall 2005 ACT: Overall = 20.4 Direct admits = 24.6	Fall 2004 ACT = 19 Fall 2005 ACT = 20.2
Living Alumni:	134,116	1,866
Average Faculty Compensation: (As of Fall 2005) * number of faculty at each rank	UA Faculty Distinguished Prof: \$104,302 Professor: \$ 83,418 Assoc. Prof.: \$ 59,956 Assist. Prof.: \$ 50,824	Art Faculty \$ 72,660 (1) * \$ 69,502 (6) \$ 50,769 (9) \$ 41,823 (7)
Student/Faculty Ratio:	19 : 1	13:1
Degrees:	2004-05 Undergraduate: 2271 Master's: 1012 Doctoral: 114 First Professional: 189	2004-05 Undergraduate: 74 Graduate: NA



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To be considered, candidates should e-mail, as MSWord attachments, a cover letter that addresses the challenges and qualifications listed above, a current résumé, and the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references to: **pauldoeg@aim.com**. Review of applications will begin March 27, 2006, and continue until the position is filled.

For Further Information Contact:

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POLICY

R. H. Perry & Associates is committed to the highest standards of professionalism in all dealings with candidates, sources, and references. We fully respect the need for confidentiality and assure interested parties that their background and interests will not be discussed without consent of the applicant prior to her or his becoming a candidate.

The University of Akron is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity and to the principles of affirmative action in accordance with state and federal laws.

**www.uakron.edu
www.uakron.edu/art**