ABOUT THE SCHOOL

On April 5, 1956, a visionary group of business leaders recognizing the need for a Christian college in the Chicagoland area proclaimed “Now is the time to organize.” They then faced the questions of how, where, and when to begin. The answer: “If we begin with Christ and continue with Christ, we have the assurance that we will be blessed.” The founders intended to establish Trinity Christian College as a Reformed Christian witness in the Chicago area - but they also envisioned an even deeper mission for the new college. Trinity exists to be a place from which God can call followers who will do, not simply believe, people who will not just be Christians, but who will live out their Christianity boldly.

The first board of trustees was elected in 1959, and the college purchased the Navajo Hills Golf Course in suburban Palos Heights, Illinois, for development of the campus. After remodeling the former clubhouse and pro shop, the then two-year college opened that fall with a class of 37 students taught by five faculty members. In 1966, the board initiated the process for the College to become a four-year, degree-granting institution. The first baccalaureate degrees were awarded in May 1971.

Trinity welcomes and serves students from a wide range of denominations and traditions. The College’s roots, however, are found in Reformed Christianity, a historical and theological connection that is both foundational and pervasive today. “Our heritage is the historic Christian faith as it was reshaped in the Reformation, and our fundamental basis of governance and instruction is the infallible Word of God as interpreted by the Reformed standards.”

The original curriculum of Trinity focused substantially on philosophy, history, English, and theology. While the core curricular requirements of Trinity have evolved over the years, a continuing focus on the liberal arts has been maintained. Moreover, areas of specialization have expanded to include over 70 programs and majors, including the professional areas of business, education, nursing, and criminal justice as well as graduate programs in counseling psychology and special education. From the beginning and continuing today, students learn from dedicated professors who integrate a Christian worldview into their pedagogy and the curriculum.

The Adult Studies Accelerated Program was added in 1999 and offers degrees in business, education, and special education. In addition to classes on the main Trinity campus, the program also has centers in downtown Chicago and Dyer, Indiana. The
satellite locations reflect not only the College’s physical growth, but also an expanding awareness of the role and responsibilities the College assumes in its service to the larger Chicago community and the world.

THE MISSION

The mission of Trinity Christian College is to provide biblically informed liberal arts education in the Reformed tradition. The Reformed world view affirms the biblical truths that creation is the work of God, that the world has fallen into sin, and that redemption is possible only through the gracious work of Christ. From these beliefs arise the convictions that those who teach and learn are called to be coworkers with Christ in subjecting all cultural activities to the reign of God, and that genuine education must involve the whole person as a thinking, feeling, and believing creature.

In all programs, including the liberal arts and sciences, professional and preprofessional preparation, Trinity strives to offer the highest quality of instruction to prepare students for excellence in further study and careers beyond Trinity. The college seeks to graduate students who are well equipped to bring the discipline of rigorous academic work into their chosen vocations and the practice of Christ-like service toward others into their personal and public lives. All programs are grounded on a core of foundational studies that addresses the enduring issues and questions of human experience and teaches students to explore and apply the implications of a Reformed world-and-life view to all areas of learning, living, and working. Students are encouraged to evaluate their lives in relationship to God, to others, and to all of creation. Since they view vocation as a divine calling, Trinity offers traditional liberal arts and sciences as well as a variety of professional majors. In addition, all traditional programs include experiential application in off-campus field education or internships. Students are actively encouraged to take advantage of the cultural and professional opportunities of the Chicago area thereby gaining a better understanding of contemporary urban issues.

Trinity’s principal student population is comprised of those of traditional college age, with a large proportion living on campus. A secondary population is served by programs designed for non-traditional adult learners and graduate students. Although desiring to grow numerically, Trinity also seeks growth in academic quality and not simply growth for its own sake.
In keeping with a philosophy of education that is based on these principles, all members of the academic community -- faculty, staff, and students -- endeavor to provide an educational environment of Christian integrity and love that enhances and supports the entire learning experience. Trinity seeks to build a community of faculty members who strive to grow continuously in their faith and Christian perspective on learning, who demonstrate effective teaching skills, who commit themselves to foster the total development of students as individuals, and who practice scholarship as a contribution to the education of a larger constituency.

At Trinity Christian College, the very name celebrates the triune nature of God—one being, three persons, submitting to one another in love. Thus the college's commitment to diversity is ultimately grounded in God. Because its mission in Christian higher education is not limited by ethnic or cultural differences, Trinity consciously seeks to develop a multi-racial, multi-national and multi-denominational community. Accordingly, the college affirms its commitment to work toward greater diversity not only in regard to racial, ethnic, and cultural demographics but also in regard to acceptance, appreciation, honor, and equality within our campus climate. In fulfilling its mission and in preparing people to live in a radically diverse world, Trinity Christian College actively seeks to recruit and include a variety of people in all aspects of life together: the board of trustees, the administration, the faculty and staff, and the student body.

Trinity Christian College President

Community is an essential unifying concept at Trinity Christian College. Thus, it is important to find a presidential leader who values and enjoys being part of the campus community, but also works to broaden that sense of community by connecting Trinity to its immediate surroundings in Palos Heights, the greater Chicago area, and to the world beyond. The president must be a person who welcomes diversity as a vital aspect of community, but does so within a context that is mission-driven. A central aspect of that mission is to provide excellence in a Christian liberal arts education as a demonstration of the worship of God and the sustaining love for one another. This pursuit of excellence must be evidenced in the president's promotion of a stellar academic community, which will include a strong advocacy of high academic standards in the classroom and across the curriculum with equally high expectations and support of faculty scholarship and professional growth.
As Trinity moves into the second half of its 1st century, the college is in need of a clear identity that allows Trinity to be differentiated and known for its unique contributions to Christian higher education in general and to the urban area of Chicago specifically. Trinity has developed a beautiful campus setting and established many successful academic programs, but they are now in need of clear vision for the future with a strategic plan for furthering its mission.

Presidential Characteristics

For these reasons, they are seeking a leader who:

- Expresses a deep Christian faith, evidenced in a life of service, a respect for all Christian traditions and a personal commitment to the Reformed tradition that is a key element of Trinity’s identity,
- Is inventive and imaginative, a visionary who can connect ideas with people who will be impassioned to implement them,
- Enjoys and encourages a dynamic and innovative growth environment, setting and accomplishing meaningful, measurable goals,
- Communicates effectively, inspiring audiences large and small, persuasively and passionately expressing Trinity’s mission to all constituents,
- Loves people, is approachable, respectful and sincerely interested in faculty, students and staff,
- Values and strives for excellence in all aspects of campus endeavor, building enthusiastic support within the campus community for positive change,
- Models and cultivates a love of learning,
- Is a strong advocate for academic rigor in the classroom and sets high standards for faculty scholarship and development,
- Understands the economic environment of higher education and holds self and others accountable to sound business practices,
- Has a family that is supportive of the busy schedule and the life and responsibilities of a college president,
- Lives with a call to lead,
- Possesses a terminal degree (strongly preferred).
Presidential Responsibilities

- Build upon Trinity’s faith mission and improve the alignment of all college initiatives with its mission,
- Assist the Trinity community in articulating its identity by clarifying a mission of distinction and determining the legacy of the college,
- Establish a shared vision of Trinity’s future, building trust and buy-in among all constituents,
- Align strategic plans with Trinity’s commitment to its mission as a Christian liberal arts institution,
- Raise funds by building relationships and communicating effectively with donors and foundations,
- Make good decisions related to programming with a commitment to Trinity’s mission and financial well-being,
- Engage in the community and the culture by being present and involved in a variety of campus activities,
- Collaborate and encourage relationships with faculty, staff and administration by inspiring, communicating, and connecting,
- Advocate and adhere to the four postures that characterize and inform all aspects of Trinity’s shared life:

  responsive to God by directing scholarly, communal, and public activities toward worship,
  formational by recognizing that we are formed by the Spirit as bearers of God’s image,
  hospitable by welcoming one another with Christ-like self-giving love,
  connected by intentionally exploring the integral connection between God’s redemptive work and every person and context within God’s world.

- Develop a strong voice of support both regionally and nationally for the ideological and philosophical nuance of Trinity Christian College’s faculty and the important work that is being done to further enhance Trinity’s academic reputation,
- Expand relationships with regional colleges and the surrounding communities as well as more deliberate connections to urban Chicago,
- Embrace diversity in student populations and increase diversity among faculty and staff,
- Establish an environment of excellence in all aspects of the campus,
➢ Hire, retain and mentor a strong staff and administrative cabinet,
➢ Make wise decisions based on an understanding of sound business principles and an awareness of the landscape in Christian higher education,
➢ Continually address the tension that exists between quality and affordability as it relates to tuition costs and budget planning.

Applications and Nominations

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but those received by January 8, 2015 will be given full consideration. Inquiries, applications, and nominations for the position should be directed to CarterBaldwin Executive Search. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to:

TCCPresident@carterbaldwin.com

OR:

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For more information about the University, please visit their web site at www.trnty.edu