

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

PACIFIC NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF ART

Where is PNCA President Don Tuski going?

Don has accepted the position as president of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Mich., effective July 1, 2019. This is a fantastic opportunity for Don to further his career in higher arts education, as well as to return home to Michigan. He will be closer to his siblings, as well as to his children. Don has many connections to Michigan and Detroit, having previously served as president of Olivet College (also his alma mater), and earning an MA and PhD in anthropology from Michigan State University. PNCA is thrilled for Don as he starts this next chapter of his career.

What does this mean for PNCA?

Thanks in part to Don's leadership, particularly his focus on enrollment growth and continued execution of the school's strategic plan, enrollment has grown by nearly 100 students; the school welcomed the largest first-year class in its 110-year history last fall at nearly an 18 percent increase over two years; graduate student and transfer numbers are up; and recruitment efforts were expanded to reach 600 high schools, in Oregon and nationally. Don, along with his PNCA Management Team, also made operational improvements to achieve significant cost savings.

What is PNCA doing to contribute to Portland's arts education community?

The PNCA Board of Governors continues its commitment to Portland's arts education community under new board leadership. The college recently welcomed the Master of Fine Arts in creative writing program from Marylhurst, developed a teach-out program for former students of the Oregon College of Art and Craft, and has added new programs in design and technology.

Who will serve as the interim president of PNCA?

Our Board of Governors has begun to initiate the process to name an interim president, and find a new president. Our shared governance model will be an important part of that process and will ensure input from faculty, staff and students. PNCA's future is bright, and while transitions are difficult, we have unwavering commitment to PNCA's mission to empowering students to reimagine what art and design can do in the world.

What does the recruitment process look like to find a new president?

We will be hiring a search firm to help us coordinate the recruitment of a new president who can lead the school forward and who is a match with our community. The Board of Governors will establish an inclusive Search Committee that will include members of faculty, staff and students.

Does your search include local candidates?

Yes, our search for a new president will consider local individuals as well as national leaders. We are committed to finding the best candidate for PNCA's next president.

Do you have any prospective candidates identified?

Portland has transformed itself into a recognized art and design center in the region, and we anticipate there will be many highly qualified individuals who apply for the position. It's important that we not rush our decision. We are committed to finding a new president who best embodies what PNCA represents.

What should students, faculty and staff expect from this transition?

Everything will be business as usual. We are thrilled to welcome our incoming class later this year and we will continue expanding our program offerings. The Board of Governors takes their responsibility to find a new president seriously, and has already begun to diligently lay out this process.

What is the timing for all of this?

We are launching a Transition Planning Group early the week of April 29 to begin to lay out a thoughtful and detailed process. We will be looking for applicants from across the country, as well as right here in our backyard. It will be a thorough search process, as it's important for us to find not only a president who can help continue PNCA's growth, but who fits best among our students, faculty, staff, administration, donors and the larger Portland community.

Is there any relation between this announcement and the recent closures of the Art Institute of Portland, Marylhurst and Oregon College of Art and Craft?

No, these are unrelated. Now more than ever it's important to support the arts community in the region, and PNCA continues to grow, breaking an all-time record for first-year student enrollment last fall.

How can I find out more?

We want to keep people updated throughout the process, so we plan to regularly communicate with students, staff, faculty, administration, alumni, donors and the public as more information is available. That information will be posted on our website, as well as shared through email. If you have additional questions, please direct those to communications@pnca.edu.