



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Oakdale Christian Academy, a boarding school for grades 7-12 in Jackson, Kentucky, invites applications and nominations in search of its next President. Founded in 1921, Oakdale Christian Academy, boasts world-class facilities and strong academics, with a 100% college acceptance rate.

About Oakdale Christian Academy

An Acclaimed Academic and Boarding Program

Oakdale Christian Academy's academic program is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Oakdale is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) through Cognia. As a result of the Academy's strong academic environment, 100% of those students who apply to college are accepted. Graduates have become physicians, engineers, and leaders in their respective academic areas.

Oakdale Christian Academy was the first boarding school in the U.S. to receive boarding accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International. ACSI not only found the Academy facilities to be exceptional, but also noted its ability to provide each student with a personalized experience, fully integrating academic and boarding life to maximize student growth and achievement.

Expansion through World-Class Facilities and Land Purchase

New buildings and other major infrastructural improvements over the past 20 years have increased Oakdale Christian Academy's capacity for growth and serve to enhance recruitment efforts. During these years, the campus facilities have more than quadrupled in value. These improvements include the following:

- The Beacon Center, completed in 2005, serves as the primary academic building. In addition to classrooms and a science laboratory, it also includes a gymnasium where the Oakdale Wildcats compete for regional sport titles.
- The Inn, a 14,000 square foot dormitory for girls, which also includes several spaces for large gatherings of girls on campus, was completed in 2015.
- Odermann Hall, a newly expanded and renovated dormitory for boys, was completed in 2018.
- May Hall, completed in 2022, provides for a new cafeteria, along with conference room capacities.
- Butterfield Fitness Center is currently under construction, with anticipated completion in 2024.

In addition to the new buildings and improved facilities, Oakdale Christian Academy expanded its campus in 2021 with the purchase of 120-acres of land adjacent to its main campus. While some of the land provides a forest area great for hiking, the cleared portion alone nearly doubles the existing campus footprint.

All completed campus buildings and improvements, as well as the land expansion, have been fully funded, leaving Oakdale Christian Academy debt-free and in a strong financial position.

Leading Students to Lives of Learning, Serving Others, and Loving God

The Oakdale teaching, residential life, and support staff mentor and disciple students, guiding them through their daily life activities at Oakdale. Oakdale provides students with mentoring relationships with committed Christian adults who support, encourage, and help them overcome obstacles to their spiritual growth.

The Opportunity

Oakdale Christian Academy is seeking a proven leader to serve as president. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the president will be responsible for executing the policies and priorities of the board, and leading an Oakdale staff of 25 in fulfilling the mission of leading teenagers to lives of learning, serving others, and loving God.

The next president of Oakdale Christian Academy will enter a community grateful for God's provision in leading it to recent success, eager to write its next chapter, but aware of the challenges in preserving its mission while remaining financially viable. Oakdale has earned a strong reputation for providing access to students from various backgrounds, for its deep sense of community, and its record of student success.

In recent years, the Academy has experienced remarkable success in building partnerships with donors who have provided significant financial support. The next president will build on this foundation of recent successes and articulate a next-generation vision for Oakdale Christian Academy.

Key Priorities and Responsibilities

The next president will provide overall leadership and management of the school by implementing the following key priorities and responsibilities:

Administrative Leadership

- Animate the foundational Wesleyan-Arminian identities for the Academy as points of reference for decision-making in an increasingly complex Christian boarding education environment.
- Ensure that Oakdale continues to reflect the mission of leading teenagers to lives of learning, serving others and loving God.
- Engage the campus community in articulating a strategic vision for meeting the needs of students and the community today and tomorrow in a way that is distinctive, relevant, and

grounded in the theology and values of its Free Methodist and broader evangelical community.

- Coordinate with the board and staff to ensure that institutional activities align with the Academy's mission and strategic plan.
- Oversee the planning, organization and conduct of the affairs of the school.
- Monitor the operations of the school, ensuring it meets the expectations of external evaluators, accreditors, and auditors.

Residential - Student Life Program

- Improve the quality and affordability of the student experience to support the ongoing mission.
- Demonstrate an ability to relate personally to an international and multicultural student body.
- Maintain a commitment to a family-like environment as an important hallmark of the Academy community and an important aspect of its discipleship and mentorship programs.

Student Recruitment - Enrollment

- Lead efforts to increase enrollment and strengthen the operating model of an increasingly tuition-dependent institution that is also supported by donors to meet ambitious funding needs.
- Work with the campus and the Board of Trustees to sharpen the value proposition for prospective students, strengthening the Academy's position in a competitive environment.

Academic Program

- Ensure the quality of the academic program through securing prepared faculty, providing current technology, and cooperating with external accrediting agencies.

Human Resources

- Develop person-to-person relationships that strengthen the sense of community, transparency and shared purpose felt by staff, students, and alumni.
- Provide for and overseeing recruitment of staff.
- Inspire staff for growth in the critical area of human resources.
- Supervise the team of administrators with vision and purpose.

Development – Fundraising

- Lead philanthropic efforts to ensure growth.
- Actively engage alumni and friends to philanthropically support the Academy.
- Conduct high-level fund-raising.
- Secure financial resources to meet the budget.

Finance

- Assure the Academy's financial strength and sustainability by exercising control over the financial affairs of the institution.

- Balance the competing demands of affordability for students and families and the need to generate sufficient net tuition revenue in order to sustain the high-quality educational experience for which the Academy is known.

Campus Infrastructure

- Continue to build infrastructure to support the strategic vision.
- Maintain campus facilities which are esthetically and functionally conducive to student success.
- Provide for technology infrastructure to support the Academy's operations, enhance residential and academic experience, and advance student learning and success.

External Relations

- Promote Oakdale Christian Academy's mission, history, and core values within and throughout the community.
- Enthusiastically serve as ambassador for the Academy in the broader community, promoting its unique nature and the value of its transformational learning experiences.
- Strengthen relationships between the Academy and the communities of Breathitt County, the Free Methodist Church denomination, the broader evangelical community, and alumni.
- Represent the school in the constituency of individual supporters, alumni, churches, businesses and foundations.
- Serve as a liaison between the school, board, and pastor of the campus Free Methodist Church.

Board of Trustees

- Ensure that the aim and directives of the board of trustees are executed.
- Report to the board on the enrollment, financial, spiritual and academic life of the school.

Qualities and Qualifications

The next president at Oakdale Christian Academy will have a vibrant Christian faith, demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, demonstrate a track record of successful organizational leadership, and express a willingness to embrace and advance the Oakdale ministry. In specific, the ideal candidate will possess the qualities, experiences, skills, and characteristics below, and will be able to demonstrate past successes in achieving them:

1. Experience in leading a complex organization.
2. A proven track record of successful fundraising.
3. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
4. Ability to create an environment conducive to staff recruitment and retention.
5. Experience in handling matters of institutional finance and financial exigency.
6. Superior problem-solving skills, using creative and collaborative means to achieve satisfactory solutions within a complex organization.
7. Adherence to educational excellence, having a minimum of a 4-year college degree, with a graduate degree preferred.

8. Commitment to providing robust enrollment initiatives that maintain organizational vitality.
9. Strategic thinking, planning and action that is forward-looking, visionary, transformative, and innovative in pursuing the mission and strategic goals.
10. Understanding and appreciation of a Christian boarding education in light of the tenets of the Free Methodist Church-USA. Membership in the Oakdale Free Methodist Church is expected, as well as regular participation in the local, conference, and national Free Methodist Church-USA.
11. Demonstrated personal faith, along with great character and integrity.

Applications and Nominations

The search is being conducted by Presidential Search Committee. Applications, nominations and expressions of interest may be submitted electronically and in confidence to the search committee chair, Charlie Fiskeaux (charlifiskeaux@gmail.com).

Application materials should include, in two separate attachments: 1) a letter of application addressing the qualifications and leadership characteristics listed in this position profile and 2) a current curriculum vita (CV) showing relevant work responsibilities and accomplishments.

References will be requested for candidates who advance to the initial interviews. When submitting a nomination, please include the nominee's full name, title, institution, and email address. Application will be accepted until the position is filled. The successful applicant will be expected to begin their service no later than June 1, 2024.

LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMER

As a religious educational institution operating under the auspices of The Free Methodist Church, Oakdale Christian Academy is permitted and reserves the right to prefer employees on the basis of religion (42 U.S.C., Sections 2000e-1 and 2000e-2).

The above job description is meant to describe the general nature and level of work being performed; it is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required for the position. The selected candidate will be required to follow other job-related instructions and to perform other job-related duties requested by the board of trustees in compliance with Federal and State Laws.