



VAN LUNEN CENTER

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

DIRECTOR SEARCH: OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

The search committee for the next Director of the Van Lunen Center requests your support in identifying and selecting the center's next leader. Please see the last page of this document to find out how.



About the Van Lunen Center

On October 3, 2007, the **Van Lunen Center** was established at Calvin College, now **Calvin University**, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to provide world-class executive management training for heads of schools based on the historic Christian faith. The Center was named for Richard D. Van Lunen, whose foundation initially gave charitable grants to Christian schools for new programs and building projects and then chose to focus on executive management skills. As a center of Calvin University, the Van Lunen Center leads within the context of the University's mission.

The Center began with a cohort of 22 Van Lunen Fellows in its first year. Today, over 450 heads of Christian schools have completed this distinctive executive management education program, and their leadership impacts millions of students in Christian schools worldwide. In July 2023, a second complementary initiative was launched to prepare Christian school administrators for their first head of school role. After an inaugural cohort of 20 participants, this Ascending Leaders Program has since served nearly 100 individuals. The program was created to prepare Christian school administrators for their first head of school role.

The Van Lunen Center continues to flourish and grow because of a strong foundation, generous donors, gifted faculty, and God's faithfulness.

Core Values of our Programs

- Distinctively Christian: We are committed to Christian principles for executive management education.
- Big Tent: We intentionally recruit Fellows and Ascending Leaders from differing Christian traditions and create an environment where Fellows and Ascending Leaders respect and learn from these traditions.
- Excellent: Excellence in instruction and continuing support for Christian school leaders is central to our mission.
- Diverse: We are diverse by design with respect to culture, ethnicity, gender, school size, Christian tradition, curriculum, and pedagogy.
- Collaborative: We partner with organizations that are committed to enhancing the future of Christian schools and work with a variety of school associations to that end.
- Applied: Fellows and Ascending Leaders implement ideas, skills, and projects in the context of their own schools. We are committed to on-the-ground applicability.

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The Opportunity

The Van Lunen Center seeks a visionary, collaborative, and administratively skilled Christian leader to serve as its Director. The Director serves as the principal officer of the Center, providing strategic leadership, operational management, and external representation for all Center programs.

The Director will initiate, manage, and promote the Center's work while maintaining strong partnerships with Christian schools, their supporting networks, and Calvin University. This role combines high-level program leadership, board liaison responsibilities, fundraising, and financial stewardship.

Position Title: Director, Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools

Institution: Calvin University (in partnership with the Van Lunen Foundation)

Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan (or as negotiated)

Appointment Type: Full Time (minimum 1.0 FTE), year-round, with or without faculty status

Reports To: Calvin University (with primary accountability to the Dean for the School of Education and the Van Lunen Center Governing Board)

The Director will lead the Van Lunen Center by focusing on:

- Strategic Leadership & Program Management
- Governance & Board Liaison
- External Representation & Partnerships
- Resource Development & Financial Accountability
- Reporting

A detailed job description is provided in the application form.





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Strengths and experiences needed for success in the role include:

- Deep commitment to the mission of Christian schooling and the development of effective school leaders.
- Demonstrated leadership experience in Christian education, preferably in school administration or leadership development.
- Informed regarding executive trends, opportunities, and challenges pertinent to Christian school executive leadership.
- Strong administrative, organizational, and program management skills.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and relationship-building abilities.
- Proven ability to collaborate effectively with boards, faculty, donors, and partner organizations.
- Experience with fundraising is highly desirable.
- Eligibility for faculty status at Calvin University (terminal degree preferred; candidates must meet Calvin University faculty qualifications).



The mission of the Van Lunen Center is to provide world-class executive management education essential to the future of schools based on the historic Christian faith.

Status & Compensation

- The Director will hold or be eligible for faculty status at Calvin University and compensation will be commensurate with existing faculty scale.
- If director does not hold faculty status, compensation will be based on director rank within Calvin University's human resource guidelines.
- The Director serves as an ex officio (non-voting) member of the Governing Board but may not serve as Board Chairperson.



Your Next Steps

1. PRAY

Please join the search committee, Van Lunen Center staff, faculty and board along with the Van Lunen Center community in asking God to guide the search process and bless those involved.



2. REFER / SUGGEST CANDIDATES

Please refer this document to a person or persons whom you believe could be a possible candidate or could help us connect to a possible candidate. In addition, please suggest candidates directly to the search committee by contacting the committee chair at brian.bolt@calvin.edu.

3. APPLY

Our goal is to identify the ideal fit for both the selected candidate and for the Van Lunen Center. If you feel your sense of calling and leadership experience may be a match to what you've seen in this profile, we invite you to apply. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, review of applications will begin on August 1, 2026. To receive full consideration, interested candidates are encouraged to apply before that date.

APPLY NOW 

**We request that applications be submitted before August 1, 2026.
We expect to identify the new Director by the end of 2026.**

If you have any questions about the position, application, or search process, please email the search committee chair at brian.bolt@calvin.edu. Contacts of any kind remain confidential to the committee. We thank you for your consideration of this important role and process.

Search Committee Members

BRIAN BOLT: Chair, Van Lunen Center Director Search Committee;
Dean, School of Education, Calvin University

WENDY HOFMAN: Board Chair, Van Lunen Center

Learn more about the work
of the Van Lunen Center:



www.vanlunencenter.org