Purdue University
Deputy Athletics Director – Chief Operating Officer

About Purdue University

Purdue University is a public research university leading with excellence at scale. Ranked among top 10 public universities in the United States, Purdue discovers, disseminates and deploys knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than 106,000 students study at Purdue across multiple campuses, locations and modalities, including more than 57,000 at our main campus locations in West Lafayette and Indianapolis. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue's main campus has frozen tuition 14 years in a row. See how Purdue never stops in the persistent pursuit of the next giant leap — including its integrated, comprehensive Indianapolis urban expansion; the Mitch Daniels School of Business; Purdue Computes; and the One Health initiative — at https://www.purdue.edu/president/strategic-initiatives.

About Purdue Athletics

Purdue Athletics provides opportunities for student-athletes to compete, grow, and succeed while representing Purdue University at the highest level. As a member of the Big Ten Conference, Purdue Athletics oversees 18 varsity sports programs and is committed to developing champions in competition, the classroom, and the community. Through its dedication to athletic excellence, student-athlete development, and Boilermaker tradition, Purdue Athletics brings together students, alumni, fans, and supporters to build pride and strengthen the Purdue community.

About the Position

The Deputy Athletics Director – Chief Operating Officer (COO) will serve as a key member of Purdue Athletics' executive leadership team, providing strategic direction and oversight of the department's financial management, business operations, human resources, facilities, and event operations. Reporting to the Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, the COO will play a central role in advancing the department's financial sustainability, operational effectiveness, and long-term strategic priorities.

As a trusted advisor to the Director of Athletics, the COO will provide executive leadership in financial planning, resource allocation, business strategy, and organizational management, ensuring the department is positioned to navigate the evolving economic landscape of intercollegiate athletics. This individual will work collaboratively across the department and University to evaluate business opportunities, strengthen operational efficiencies, and align financial and operational decisions with institutional and competitive priorities.

The COO will also provide leadership and oversight of major departmental initiatives, including capital planning, facility development, and strategic investments, while serving as a sport administrator for assigned programs and providing support to the department's other sport administrators. In the absence of the Director of Athletics, the COO will serve as one of the department's designated decision-making authorities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Directs activities of the Athletics business office and human resources services, facilities and event operations.
- Ensure proper management, planning, controlling, coordinating, negotiating, budgeting, counseling, advising others, and resolving problems.
- Responsible for ensuring efficient Business & HR office functions including, but not limited to, budget planning, monitoring, forecasting, contract management, human resources administration, and compliance with employment policy and procedures.
- Provide strategic leadership in the development and execution of business strategies that enhance operational efficiency, support revenue generation, optimize resources, and strengthen the department's long-term sustainability.
- Partner with the Director of Athletics and senior leadership to evaluate emerging business opportunities, assess strategic investments, and align departmental resources with institutional priorities and competitive objectives.
- Lead efforts to evaluate and strengthen organizational structures, business processes, and operational systems to promote accountability, collaboration, and effective decision-making.
- Provide strategic oversight of departmental financial planning, budgeting, forecasting, and resource allocation, ensuring sound fiscal management in an evolving collegiate athletics landscape.

- Responsible for ensuring efficient facility and event operations office functions including, but not limited to, day to day facility oversight, long term planning & deferred maintenance schedules, capital projects, all department game day and outside event rental operations.
- Serve as a member of the executive team and a sport administrator for assigned sports.
- Establish and maintain outstanding relationships with campus constituents to develop a teamwork approach to all institutional control tasks.
- Provide oversight for complex and wide-reaching department initiatives including, but not limited to, the facility master plan, capital campaigns, and strategic plans.
- Serve in primary administrative role in educating campus constituents, and implementing satisfactory processes, to meet NCAA Division best practices and competitive standards.
- Serve on various University, conference, and NCAA committees as appointed by the Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and/or University leadership.
- Performs other duties as necessary and assigned by the VP for Athletics.

Qualifications and Skills:

- Bachelor's degree required; an advanced degree in business administration, finance, accounting, sports administration, or a related field preferred.
- Minimum of 10 years of senior leadership experience in higher education, intercollegiate athletics, or a complex public or private organization, with demonstrated success managing multiple constituencies and advancing organizational priorities.
- Demonstrated business acumen and strategic leadership experience, with the ability to evaluate complex challenges, identify opportunities for growth, and implement initiatives that strengthen organizational effectiveness and long-term sustainability.
- Experience leading complex business operations, managing financial resources, and developing strategies that promote operational efficiency, accountability, and sound decision-making.
- Proven ability to lead and develop high-performing teams, drive organizational change, and foster a collaborative, inclusive, and results-oriented culture.
- Exceptional interpersonal, communication, listening, and relationship-building skills, with the ability to establish strategic partnerships and effectively engage diverse internal and external stakeholders.
- Demonstrated integrity, sound judgment, strong negotiation skills, and the ability to make difficult decisions, navigate criticism, and seek constructive feedback in a fast-paced, competitive environment.
- Strong commitment to student-athlete welfare, diversity and inclusion, gender equity, Title IX compliance, and the principles and bylaws of the NCAA, with the ability to interpret and apply relevant University, Big Ten Conference, and NCAA policies and regulations.
- Prior collegiate student-athlete experience preferred.

Application Process

Purdue University invites nominations and applications or expressions of interest to be submitted to the search firm assisting the University. Applications must include a cover letter, resume or curriculum vitae, and list of references. For full consideration, application materials should be submitted to Parker Executive Search's **website**. Confidential review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made.

For additional information, please contact:

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Purdue is an EOE/AA employer. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities and veterans, are encouraged to apply.