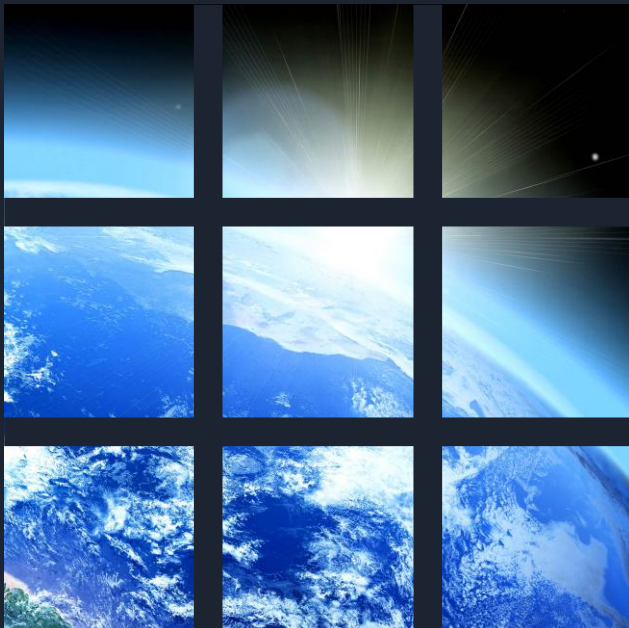


# Position Brief for

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

For the position of Dean, College of Aviation

August 20, 2025



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# About Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is where passion for flight meets the pursuit of excellence. It's no mystery why the university is globally recognized as the premier institution for aviation and aerospace education.

Embry-Riddle consistently ranks in the top five for aerospace engineering programs and has been named the nation's top provider of online bachelor's programs and the best college for veterans by U.S. News & World Report. With campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida, Prescott, Arizona, and a robust Worldwide Campus, Embry-Riddle serves approximately 31,000 students and educates more aspiring aerospace engineers than any other U.S. university.

The University's story takes off on December 17, 1925—exactly 22 years after the Wright brothers' first flight—when T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle launched the Embry-Riddle Company at Lunken Airport in Cincinnati, Ohio. By the following spring, they opened the Embry-Riddle Flying School and later relocated to Miami, Florida, training the aviators of a new era.



A pivotal moment came in 1965, when President Jack R. Hunt moved the campus to Daytona Beach, Florida. Just five years later, we achieved university status and became Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University—a name now synonymous with innovation and excellence.

A leader in innovation and industry impact, Embry-Riddle received the 2025 Richard Crane Award from the Flight Safety Foundation for its decades-long leadership in aviation safety and advancement of industry standards. The university's Boeing Center for Aviation and Aerospace Safety was honored at the 2025 Aviation Week Laureate Awards for its pioneering research and global influence. Student flight teams repeatedly capture national championships, and Embry-Riddle's Air Force ROTC detachments are the largest university-based Air Force commissioning source in the nation after the Air Force Academy.

Media coverage frequently spotlights Embry-Riddle's faculty and students, from innovative research on turbulence and drone analytics to the debut of student-produced aerospace documentaries. News outlets, industry publications, and sector leaders regularly turn to the university's experts for insights, further cementing its reputation as an industry thought leader.



A legacy of notable alumni also sets Embry-Riddle apart. Graduates include Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. (Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force), Jared Isaacman (SpaceX astronaut and entrepreneur), astronauts Daniel Burbank, Benjamin Alvin Drew, Nicole Stott, and Terry Virts, as well as pioneering pilots like Capt. Patrice Washington (first Black woman captain for a major U.S. airline), adventurous aviators, innovators, federal leaders, accomplished skydiver Cheryl Stearns, and business trailblazers throughout the aerospace, defense, and technology sectors.

Embry-Riddle's tradition of awards and honors is matched by its supportive, hands-on learning culture and a vast, global alumni network. This dynamic, forward-looking community continues to set the pace for the future of flight, space, and beyond—empowering students to become leaders in a rapidly changing industry.

## THE COLLEGE OF AVIATION

With nearly a century of leadership and innovation, Embry-Riddle's Prescott, Arizona campus offers a distinctive blend of tradition, cutting-edge technology, and hands-on learning for students and faculty passionate about shaping the future of flight and global aerospace.

The College of Aviation at Prescott distinguishes itself through:

- A modern fleet of industry-standard aircraft (Cessna 172 Skyhawks and Diamond DA42 NGs) and advanced simulators.
- The unique Robertson Aircraft Accident Investigation Lab—the only scenario-based crash investigation facility of its kind outside the National Transportation Safety Board.
- Unparalleled learning environments, including an advanced Weather Center, Air Traffic Control Lab, major simulation centers, and the Aerospace Experimentation and Fabrication Building (AXFAB).
- Nationally ranked programs in aeronautics, air traffic management, aviation business administration, applied meteorology, and more.
- A powerful network of over 150,000 alumni and career outcomes spanning the aviation, space, and security sectors.

The campus culture is collaborative and forward-looking, with faculty deeply engaged in industry partnerships, student mentorship, and leading research that impacts the global aviation landscape.



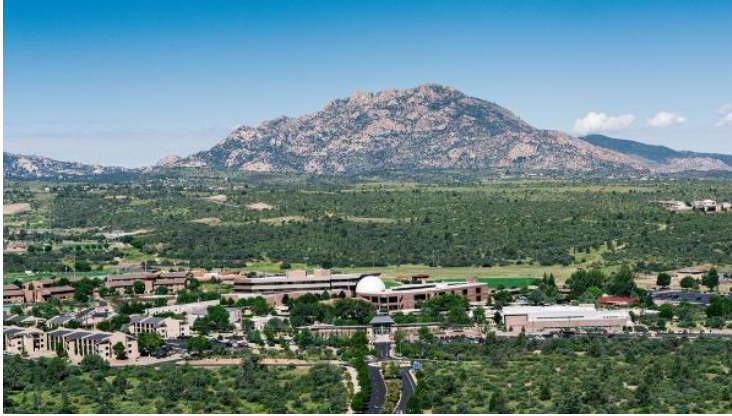
# The Position

Reporting to the Chancellor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Prescott, the Dean serves as the chief administrative, academic, and budgetary officer for the College of Aviation. The Dean will maintain dynamic and collaborative relationships with academic leaders across all the campuses of the university. The Dean serves, orchestrates, and executes the strategic vision of the College. The Dean serves as a role model of integrity and professionalism for the College's faculty and is accessible to students.

The Dean will be the chief academic, strategic, and community leader for the College of Aviation, serving as the architect of its next era of excellence. Reporting directly to the Chancellor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Prescott campus, the Dean will:

- Champion innovation in academic programs and research, including integrating emerging disciplines such as uncrewed aerial systems, aviation cybersecurity, and advanced air mobility.
- Inspire and lead a diverse team: overseeing ~40 full-time faculty, ~20 part-time faculty, nearly 180 flight instructors, and more than 60 staff.
- Advance the College's reputation and impact by fostering a culture of excellence, equity, and global engagement.
- Serve as a compelling spokesperson and advocate with alumni, industry partners, government agencies, and prospective students.
- Drive growth in student achievement, faculty development, and industry-connected research programs.
- Shape curriculum and operational strategy to respond to rapid changes in aerospace technology and regulatory environments.
- Ensure compliance with industry and accreditation standards, including the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI).
- Promote shared governance and nurture a professionally diverse, collaborative academic community





## The Opportunity

This is not just a deanship—this is a chance to be an architect of the future of flight, to shape a legacy at the cutting edge of aerospace, and to join a close-knit community dedicated to excellence and innovation.

As Dean you will shape the future of aviation, through leading one of the world's most respected aviation colleges at a pivotal time for the industry, as technologies like AI, automation, green aviation, and urban air mobility transform the field. You will have access to unmatched resources, with an ability to command state-of-the-art facilities and a hands-on ecosystem where experimentation is encouraged and student success soars.

At Prescott, you can enjoy both entrepreneurial freedom and institutional strength to build new partnerships, launch innovative programs, and drive real-world impact on a global scale. You will directly influence the next generation of aviation leaders, connect with global alumni, and set the national agenda for aviation education and policy.

Prescott, Arizona offers a stunning setting, a supportive campus atmosphere, and a high quality of life for you and your family. Prescott, Arizona, has been named the **#1 Aviation Community in the United States** by *[Flying Magazine](#)*. The [Prescott Campus](#) is of course a central facet of the vibrant aviation infrastructure in the local community.

If you are a bold, visionary leader with a passion for advancing aerospace education, this position offers an unparalleled platform to propel your career—and the future of aviation—higher.





# The Candidate

The successful Dean of the College of Aviation will be a visionary and results-driven leader with the proven ability to navigate a complex, fast-evolving global industry. They will bring a rare combination of academic credibility, operational acumen, and inspirational leadership.

Key skills, qualities, and attributes include:

- **Strategic Leadership & Vision** – Demonstrated ability to develop and execute forward-looking academic and research strategies that anticipate changes in aviation, aerospace, and related sectors.
- **Academic & Industry Credibility** – Recognized expertise in aviation, aerospace, or a closely related field, supported by a strong record of scholarship, industry leadership, or both.
- **Innovation Mindset** – Track record of integrating emerging technologies and methodologies (e.g., uncrewed aerial systems, AI in aviation, sustainability, advanced air mobility) into curricula, research, and operations.
- **Operational Excellence** – Skilled in overseeing complex budgets (including revenue-generating operations like flight training) and optimizing resources without compromising quality.
- **People Leadership** – Proven experience inspiring high-performing, multidisciplinary teams, promoting faculty development, and fostering an inclusive, collaborative, and achievement-oriented culture.
- **External Engagement** – Ability to cultivate partnerships with industry leaders, government agencies, alumni, and donors; skilled in serving as a compelling public spokesperson for the college.
- **Change Leadership** – Adept at leading organizations through periods of growth, technological change, and evolving regulatory landscapes.
- **Student-Centered Approach** – Deep commitment to student success, engagement, and real-world readiness.
- **Interpersonal & Communication Excellence** – Exceptional public speaking, storytelling, and persuasive communication skills that can energize and align diverse stakeholders.
- **Ethics & Integrity** – Highly principled leader who values transparency, accountability, and shared governance.

The next Dean will not only manage a complex academic enterprise. They will inspire it, elevate it, and position it at the forefront of global aviation education.



## ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have unrestricted authorization to work in the United States.

## LOCATION & REMUNERATION

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's College of Aviation is located in Prescott, Arizona. A competitive, attractive compensation and benefits package will be offered to the selected candidate.

We appreciate all expressions of interest, referrals, or nominations for this role. Please feel free to forward referrals, or a comprehensive CV, along with a cover letter.

PLEASE SUBMIT TO: [erau.pcaviationdean@odgers.com](mailto:erau.pcaviationdean@odgers.com)

Or, to arrange for a confidential conversation, please contact:

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# About Odgers

Odgers was founded in 1965. We offer integrated executive search and leadership advisory services through our 59 offices in 33 countries. During our 60-year history we have developed functional and sector expertise and built a global network of relationships. We are deeply rooted in our local markets, which we combine with global perspective and reach, enabling us to serve clients across six continents.

What we do matters; our work impacts peoples' lives and drives our clients' success. It is a privilege to help build the world's best leadership teams, a trusted role we never take for granted.

This ethos underpins our commitment to our clients and candidates and motivates our colleagues to strive for excellence in all we do.



