

Virginia Theological Seminary and General Theological Seminary

Search for Dean and President

Isaacson, Miller Team



Ernest A. Brooks III – Partner + Practice Leader

An experienced executive search consultant and co-lead of Isaacson, Miller’s social justice and advocacy practice area, Ernest is highly-regarded for his engaged, responsive, and collaborative approach. He builds lasting relationships of trust with clients and candidates who appreciate his strategic insights, creative problem solving, and commitment to mission and values alignment throughout the search process. Ernest has effectively recruited chief executive, c-suite, and senior functional leaders for organizations across the social sector including higher education, faith-related organizations, philanthropy, and collective impact networks, organizations, and associations.

Prior to joining Isaacson, Miller, Ernest served as President and CEO of a philanthropy-supported national professional development network for young people exploring careers in faith-related vocations. Ernest previously served as Special Assistant to the CEO of The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, was a Higher Education Fellow for Graduate Diversity Initiatives at the University of Chicago, and Assistant Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. Earlier in his career, Ernest served as a developer and director of youth leadership and education advocacy programs.

A passionate advocate for the importance of high-quality social-sector leadership, Ernest has served on governance and advisory boards for a number of national and local organizations including Interfaith Community Initiatives, Southern Initiative Algebra Project, Rural School and Community Trust, Forum for Theological Exploration, and Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society.

202.552.5526

ebrooks@imsearch.com



Liz Braun– Managing Associate

Liz Braun is a Managing Associate at Isaacson, Miller, with a particular focus on searches in our Higher Education Practice. She has worked on successful leadership searches for a variety of faith-based institutions and organizations, including the McCormick Theological Seminary, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Louisville Institute, and the Center for Congregations.

Liz brings over 25 years of experience in higher education administration. Most recently Liz spent eight years as Dean of Students at Swarthmore College and prior to that she spent seven years as Dean of Students at Mount Holyoke College. She also held roles in residential life at Mount Holyoke College and Bowdoin College. In each of these roles Liz has focused on strategic planning and implementation; change management with a focus on preserving core mission and values while also embracing innovation and possibility; and cultivating diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environments.

Liz holds a BA in English from the University of Mary Washington, an MA in English literature from Boston University, and a PhD from University of Massachusetts, Amherst in cultural anthropology.

413.563.7848

lbrown@imsearch.com



Annah Wells– Senior Associate

Annah Wells joined Isaacson, Miller as an Associate in 2022. Before joining the firm, she focused on rural outreach and recruitment at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics—a public, residential high school. Previously, she worked in undergraduate admissions at Columbia University and Rice University, recruiting students interested in STEM and promoting access for students from rural areas. Earlier in her career, Annah led educational initiatives for young learners and managed projects addressing food insecurity.

Since joining the firm, Annah has successfully recruited leaders across various sectors spanning K-12 and higher education, arts and culture organizations, healthcare, and nonprofits. Her comprehensive approach and dedication to understanding the unique needs of each search have made her a trusted partner. Annah’s commitment to education has been a consistent theme throughout her career, and her work reflects a deeply held belief in the power of education and community support to transform lives.

202.552.5571

awells@imsearch.com



Henry Nickerson – Search Coordinator

Henry Nickerson joined Isaacson, Miller in 2023 as a Search Coordinator. Henry comes to the company with a background in customer service and academic writing. Before IM, he was employed as a tour guide and theater tech in Boston. Prior to that, Henry worked as a University Writing Consultant while attending Salve Regina University.

617.665.7920

hnickerson@imsearch.com