



TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Opportunity Profile

Entrepreneur in
Residence





The Institution

For 175 years, Taylor University has been one of the most Christ-centered, student-focused universities in the world. A new presidential administration has catalyzed a season of significant energy and excitement on campus. The University recently completed a yearlong strategic-planning process that drew thousands of supporters deeper into their relationship with the University, a process we believe will move the University from excellence to eminence in a host of areas. This is an exciting time to be at Taylor.

Founded in 1846, Taylor is recognized as an institution that prizes student learning, celebrates intentional community, leads in the work of faith-learning integration and stands as the oldest non-denominational school within the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). Each member of Taylor's dedicated faculty and staff is devoted to the intellectual and spiritual formation of students—in classrooms and residence halls, on the athletic turf and performance stage, and around the world.

The culture of Taylor is one of high collegiality, deep care for one another, and shared Christian commitment. Again this year, Taylor was named the #1 university in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report, and for 25 consecutive years, Taylor has been ranked as one of the top three universities in the Midwest and one of America's Top Colleges according to Forbes.

In addition, Taylor has been named a "Christian College of Distinction" with four notable strengths: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities, and successful outcomes.

In addition to their deep commitment to Christ, Taylor students distinguish themselves by academic passion, spiritual commitment, and active engagement on campus. Two satellites built by Taylor students were launched into space in early 2021. And in the fields of finance and investment management, a team of Taylor students won QGAME – a national competition among business students who manage portions of their institution's endowment. Recently, ten Taylor student athletes were named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, ranking Taylor first in the NAIA and fifth in the nation across all collegiate levels.

Taylor students are part of a larger ecosystem of broad institutional support and loyalty. In fact, virtually all (97%) current parents would support their child's choice to attend Taylor again, which is higher than many peer institutions. The percentage of Taylor alumni contributing financially to the University every year is double the national average, and Taylor is ranked number one in the Midwest in freshman retention by U.S. News and World Report.



Taylor Distinctives

- According to the most recent HERI faculty survey, Taylor faculty are significantly more likely to report that they help students develop personal values and moral character and prepare them for both graduate education and employment after graduation compared to other highly-selective, religious institutions.
- Taylor is a national leader in study abroad and global engagement opportunities. Taylor is ranked third in the country this year with an astounding 109% participation rate in global experiences.
- Taylor students also report high levels of satisfaction. When comparing Taylor undergraduates to undergraduates at other CCCU institutions, our students are significantly more likely to report having a personally meaningful relationship with God, a willingness to hold fast to their Christian convictions (even in the face of opposition), to report that their relationship with God impacts their day-to-day activities, and that their relationship with God contributes to a sense of wellbeing.
- Even more impressive, a significantly larger proportion of Taylor's students than those at other Christian institutions report that the University challenges them to approach issues from a Christian perspective and to critically evaluate their behavior in terms of Christian values. They also report significantly higher amounts of feeling valued by the institution and that they are part of the community. Moreover, in each of these measures, Taylor students report stronger, more positive sentiments at the end of their four years on campus compared to when they began as freshmen.
- Taylor students rate their leadership development opportunities significantly higher than their peers at comparison institutions. Two-thirds of Taylor seniors report participating in leadership development training (compared to 41% at other religious institutions). They also are significantly more likely to say that they have "effectively led a group to a common purpose" (44% vs. 31% at peer institutions).
- Finally, graduating Taylor students are far more likely than CCCU peers to report that the University helped them learn how to speak and write clearly and effectively and to think critically and analytically. In sum, a Taylor education accomplishes its goals.

Academic Excellence, Dedicated to Truth



With more than 125 degree programs for study at the undergraduate level, Taylor also instills broad understanding and knowledge through its respected Foundational Core curriculum. Throughout the educational journey, the University encourages students to ask hard questions, to apply themselves to the tasks at hand, and to embrace their callings. In addition to the 130-plus fulltime instructional faculty, Taylor's unique academic environment includes student development professionals with advanced degrees and administrators who also hold faculty rank. In the aggregate, this contributes to a much richer context for intellectual formation and intentional academic community on the Taylor campus. It also produces a learning environment marked by distinctive excellence, as exemplified by the following accolades:

- Taylor ranks second among Indiana schools (including Notre Dame and Purdue) and second nationally among CCCU schools (including Westmont, Wheaton, and Calvin) for average incoming students' SAT score.
- Taylor is ranked third nationally among baccalaureate schools for the number of students who participate in study and service abroad opportunities.
- Virtually all members of the Class of 2021 (99%) secured a full-time or part-time job, post-graduate internship, or graduate school placement within six months following graduation.

You can read more about Taylor's academic accolades and awards in the [Taylor University Profile](#).

A Vibrant Community United in Faith

Taylor is an institution that takes Christian faith seriously. All students, faculty, and staff have professed belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This, in turn, builds a vibrant campus community where shared values and commitments strengthen faith and intellectual development.

Unlike many Christian universities, Taylor doesn't monitor chapel attendance, yet Taylor students fill the seats at chapel services every week. Students hold each other accountable in their commitment to grow spiritually. Upperclassmen, who live on the same residence hall floors as first-year students, forge their own mentoring-like relationships with new students and encourage them to attend chapel, participate in small groups, and engage in floor/wing worship nights.

Our student body of about 1,900 possesses a tremendous amount of creativity that is channeled through various campus initiatives. Students have applied their gifts to on-campus music groups, Bible studies, campus events, themed athletic activities, and much more over the years. Rich traditions—running the gamut from lip-syncing/dance contests to bike races where the rider changes but the bike never stops—keep students engaged in Taylor's distinctive campus culture.

Situated between Indianapolis and Fort Wayne on 952 acres, Taylor's bucolic campus is surrounded by cornfields, open air, and big skies. The Crossroads of America is not just a state motto; it is a fact of life. We want and encourage our employees to get involved in the lives of our students. Investing in the whole-person aspect of students' lives can be a lot of fun and very meaningful for everyone. Attending the annual Silent Night basketball game is just one way to participate in Taylor's unique campus culture. To learn more about this storied tradition at Taylor, check out the [ESPN Silent Night Feature](#). Finally, a high percentage of Taylor faculty and staff live close to campus; because of this, many employees take advantage of the opportunity to form close-knit relationships with students in mentoring and discipling relationships that last for life.



Mission Statement and Foundational Documents

Taylor’s mission is to develop servant-leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love, grace and truth to a world in need.

We accomplish this mission by striving to be:

- **Whole Person Focused:** We involve students in learning experiences imbued with a vital Christian interpretation of truth and life which foster their intellectual, emotional, physical, vocational, social, and spiritual development.
- **Biblically Anchored and Liberal Arts Grounded:** We offer a liberal arts, professional, and life-long education based upon the conviction all truth has its source in God and His Word.
- **Christ-Centered:** Our Christian faith should permeate all learning—leading to a consistent life of worship, servant leadership, stewardship, and world outreach.
- **Faith and Learning Integrated:** We strive to create specific experiences where the integrative focus of a Christian liberal arts education is clarified, personalized, and applied.
- **World Engaging:** We contribute to the advancement of human knowledge and understanding and serve the evangelical Christian church and the larger, public community for the glory of God.
- **Servant Leader Motivated:** We foster a biblical model of relationships acknowledging both unity and diversity of the followers of Christ within a covenant community, which can be evidenced in a continuing lifestyle of service to and concern for others.

Foundational Documents

A series of Foundational Documents make clear the University’s interpretation and biblical understanding of a host of issues that relate to studying, living, and working together in a Christ-centered community. Senior leader candidates should be able to wholeheartedly affirm and endorse each of these documents annually. They are the following and can be located online [here](#).

- 1) Statement of Faith
- 2) Life Together Covenant
- 3) Sanctity of Life Statement
- 4) Multicultural Philosophy Statement
- 5) Statement on Human Sexuality



The Opportunity

After a year-long strategic planning process involving a wide spectrum of Taylor's constituents—including students, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, trustees, administrators, donors, and friends—we are moving Taylor from excellence to eminence among our peers over the next five years. Our new strategic plan, [Taylor Thrives](#), is the distillation of thousands of hours of prayer, discussion, and revision and represents the very best thinking the extended Taylor family has to offer. The six priority pillars and 125 individual objectives detailed in it will position Taylor's campus, community, and mission to not only survive, but thrive in the years ahead.

Taylor has long been known as an institution that is committed to academic excellence and student engagement. The Entrepreneur in Residence will play a key role in adding to that tradition by leading experiential learning opportunities in innovation and entrepreneurship across disciplines. Taylor Thrives demonstrates the University's ongoing commitment to entrepreneurial communities through goals related to launching a new center, establishing a summer entrepreneurship camp, as well as multiple partnership opportunities.

The Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) is a unique and dynamic 12-month contract, faculty-status position that bridges the worlds of academia and entrepreneurship. This individual will serve as a mentor, advisor, and resource for students, faculty, staff, and members of the community interested in exploring entrepreneurship, innovation, and business creation. The Entrepreneur in Residence will bring their expertise and real-world experience to inspire and guide Taylor's entrepreneurial communities, foster an entrepreneurial mindset, and help stakeholders transform their ideas into successful ventures.

The Entrepreneur in Residence will play a pivotal role in shaping the entrepreneurial culture of Taylor University, empowering students to make a positive impact through redemptive entrepreneurship while embracing their Christian values. This position offers a unique opportunity to combine academic knowledge with practical expertise, engage with a variety of stakeholders to foster innovation and regional economic growth, and preparing students to become Kingdom-class innovators for a lifetime of creative flourishing.



Essential Responsibilities for the EIR

Mentoring and Advising

- Provide one-on-one mentorship to students interested in innovation and entrepreneurship, offering guidance, feedback, and support throughout the venture creation process.
- Assist students in identifying and evaluating business opportunities, refining business models, and developing effective strategies for growth and sustainability.
- Help students navigate challenges and obstacles, providing insights based on personal experience and industry best practices.
- Facilitate connections with relevant industry professionals, potential investors, and business partners to enhance networking opportunities for students.

Entrepreneurship Education

- Collaborate with faculty to develop and deliver entrepreneurship-focused courses, workshops, and seminars, integrating real-world examples and case studies into the curriculum.
- Conduct interactive sessions to teach students essential skills and knowledge related to ideation, market analysis, business planning, fundraising, and effective communication.
- Organize and participate in panel discussions, guest lectures, and events featuring successful entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts to inspire and educate the university community.
- Teach two innovation and entrepreneurship courses Fall and Spring term (50% teaching load)

Financial Sustainability Development

- Develop and implement fundraising strategies to secure capital for startups and entrepreneurial projects within the organization.
- Identify suitable funding sources, including venture capital firms, angel investors, corporate sponsors, government grants, and philanthropic foundations.

Start-up Catalyst

- Provide guidance and resources to help student entrepreneurs develop their ideas into viable businesses, including access to mentor networks, funding opportunities, and industry connections.
- Organize pitch competitions, hackathons, and other entrepreneurial events to showcase and celebrate student and community ventures, fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem on campus.
- Supervise and travel with qualified students to compete in business plan competitions

Community Engagement

- Act as a visible and accessible advocate for entrepreneurship within the university community, promoting the value of entrepreneurial thinking and the importance of innovation.
- Collaborate with relevant departments, centers, and organizations within and outside the university to create partnerships and initiatives that promote entrepreneurship.
- Engage with local business communities, industry leaders, and alumni to establish meaningful connections and explore potential collaboration opportunities that benefit the university and its students.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

In order to perform the above functions, the incumbent must be a person of intellectual rigor, virtue and personal Christian faith. The Entrepreneur in Residence must possess the following knowledge, skills and abilities, or demonstrate that the major responsibilities of the job can be accomplished, with or without reasonable accommodation, using some combination of skills and abilities.

1. Must profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, support Taylor University's mission, and have the ability to express a vision for Christ-centered higher education.
2. Must wholeheartedly affirm and endorse Taylor University's Foundational Documents. These include the Statement of Faith, the Life Together Covenant, the Sanctity of Life Statement, the Multicultural Philosophy Statement, and the Statement on Human Sexuality.
3. A master's degree in a relevant field is required, and an earned doctorate is preferred.
4. Significant experience as a successful entrepreneur or in senior leadership positions within start-ups or innovative organizations.
5. Deep understanding of entrepreneurship, innovation, and business strategy, with a track record of launching and scaling ventures.
6. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to connect with students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders.
7. Strong mentoring and coaching abilities, with a passion for helping students develop their entrepreneurial skills and mindsets.
8. Demonstrated ability to network and build relationships with industry professionals, investors, and other key stakeholders.
9. Excellent listening, negotiation and interpersonal skills.



The Role

Under the direction of the Director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Entrepreneur in Residence provides strategic, operational, and innovative thinking to Center and across all disciplines within the University.

The EIR drives the growth of the entrepreneurial mindset within Taylor University and the community it serves. This position, which is a 12-month faculty status position advances Taylor's Christian mission, champions its commitment to faith and learning integration, and develops and enhances emerging and strong programs primarily within the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and among other departments across campus.





The Candidate

First and foremost, the Entrepreneur in Residence will be someone who has committed his or her life to Jesus Christ and daily submits to the Lordship of Christ. The selected candidate will have a record of active involvement in Christian ministry and local church life and can enthusiastically support the University's Foundational Documents. The candidate will reflect godly character, an excellent work ethic, an optimistic outlook, confident humility, and impeccable integrity. The ideal candidate will have a deep care for the whole-person development of students not just as learners but also as servant-leaders.

The ideal candidate will possess a masters degree, preferably an earned doctorate, in a relevant academic discipline as well as a high-caliber record as an innovative/entrepreneurial force in a related industry. A trajectory as a leader with increasing responsibilities and vision casting of start-up organizations and programs, a deep understanding of current issues in domestic and global entrepreneurship, and strong leadership and problem-solving skills is desirable. In addition, excellent communication skills, prudent fiscal management, and university-level teaching is preferred. The candidate should demonstrate strong verbal and writing skills as well as excellent abilities to organize materials, synthesize data, and provide guidance to students, faculty, staff and members of the community. The candidate should be a skilled listener and negotiator with strong interpersonal skills.

These qualities are not meant to be comprehensive but instead representative of the character of the ideal candidate for this role.

The EIR, like all Taylor faculty and staff, is expected to live in a vital relationship with Jesus Christ, and to be grounded in Biblical wisdom, a church community, and ongoing spiritual practices. The selected candidate will have a record of active involvement in Christian ministry and local church life and can enthusiastically champion the University's Foundational Documents. The candidate will reflect godly character, an excellent work ethic, an optimistic outlook, confident humility, and impeccable integrity. She or he must have the personal energy and resilience to lead with wisdom, grace, and love.

APPLY NOW

Applications and nominations will be accepted until an Entrepreneur in Residence is appointed. To apply, please submit an updated resume/CV along with a list of five (5) references and a cover letter that responds to the opportunity as presented in this profile. Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications will be treated with complete confidentiality. If, after prayerfully reviewing this Opportunity Profile, you believe this role fits you well, please submit your materials to provost@taylor.edu and put "Entrepreneur in Residence" in the subject line.

If you know would like to recommend someone for this opportunity, please send their name and contact information to Dr. Mick Bates, Director - Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, at InnovateNow@taylor.edu and include "Recommendation for "Entrepreneur in Residence" in the subject line.



TAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

1846 Main Street, Upland, IN 46989
(765) 998-5000

