PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Position Specification

Purdue University
Bob Bowen Head, Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering

Russell Reynolds ASSOCIATES

Executive Summary

Purdue University's Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering (LSCCE) is seeking a dynamic, innovative, collaborative head for the next phase of the School.

LSCCE is one of the largest such programs in the nation, with 749 undergraduate and 397 graduate students, for a total of 1,146; of the graduate students, 174 are PhD-seeking. LSCCE also has 53 full-time, tenure-line faculty members. The School's programs are ranked among the best in the United States. Its Undergraduate Program is ranked 3rd, Graduate Program ranked 5th, and Online Master's Program ranked 2nd by the *U.S. News & World Report*.

Candidates for the position of LSCCE Head must hold a PhD in Civil/Construction Engineering or a closely related discipline and meet the qualifications for appointment at the full professor level with tenure based on a substantial record of independent and peer-reviewed research, scholarly work, teaching, and professional service. Candidates must possess a distinguished record of accomplishments portraying an understanding of the current needs and future directions of the civil and construction engineering professions.

The Opportunity

The College of Engineering at Purdue University is seeking the next Bob Bowen Head of the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering. LSCCE has advanced tremendously over the past 12 years and now is one of the largest CCE programs in the country with all of its rankings in the top 5 in the nation. In summer 2024, the School of Civil Engineering and the Division of Construction Engineering merged, and the next phase of LSCCE will be driven by an entrepreneurial approach to achieve national preeminence in key areas and to grow undergraduate and professional MS/online programs. Purdue's new integrated campus in Indianapolis offers tremendous opportunities for undergraduate program growth, greenfield professional MS programs and industry partnerships for LSCCE. The Construction Engineering program is celebrating its 50th anniversary in the 26-27 academic year with opportunities for increasing industry engagement and philanthropic fundraising. Opportunities for growing discretionary revenues for the School include scaling up professional and online MS programs, industry partnerships, sponsored research, and significant philanthropic fundraising as part of the College and University's current "Victories and Heroes" campaign.

The LSCCE Head will leverage the capabilities of the Lyles School, College of Engineering, and Purdue University to address the following key priorities:

- Provide visionary and strategic leadership that capitalizes on opportunities that are distinct to LSCCE and considers Purdue's growth areas and areas of integration and collaboration with industry;
- Fully integrate civil and construction engineering by operationalizing the merger, streamlining processes, and examining current staffing;
- Drive demand for both civil and construction engineering majors and increase enrollment;
- Foster innovation in undergraduate and graduate education;
- Recruit, develop, and retain talented faculty and staff;
- Promote research excellence and further enable the research enterprise by increasing expenditures and diversifying sources of grant funding;
- Expand the impact of LSCCE through encouraging technology transfer and entrepreneurship via patents and start-ups from LSCCE research;
- Support the growth and diversification of financial resources through programmatic growth, fundraising, and corporate and alumni engagement;
- Expand LSCCE offerings to Purdue University's Indianapolis campus;
- Develop an updated School-wide strategy to align with Purdue Engineering's Vision 2030; and
- Articulate LSCCE's story and elevate the School's visibility and global profile.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will bring a modern vision for LSCCE, strong strategic thinking skills, an entrepreneurial mindset, and a passion for pre-eminence and excellence. Competitive candidates will bring a highly respected research background with a record of funding, along with a genuine commitment to both undergraduate and graduate education as well as experience mentoring early career faculty and graduate students. The Head will possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills; will be astute in administration and resource management; and will possess a talent for developing strong stakeholder relations, particularly with other units within the College of Engineering and across the University, as well as with alumni/alumnae and industry partners. LSCCE seeks a student-centered and service-oriented leader with unassailable personal and professional integrity who exudes pride in the profession and appreciates the University's land-grant mission.

Nomination and Application Procedure

Inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Interested candidates should submit in electronic form (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF files preferred), a curriculum vitae and letter of interest to Purdue.LSCCE@russellreynolds.com. The letter of interest should address the candidate's interest in the position, relevant experience, leadership, teaching/mentoring, and research contributions.

Though all materials received will be reviewed thoroughly, please submit materials by February 23, 2026 for priority consideration.

Purdue and the College of Engineering have a Concierge Program to assist new faculty and facilitate their relocation.

About the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering

Purdue University's Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering (LSCCE) is ranked in the top 5 in its undergraduate, graduate, and online programs by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more than a century, the School has been a world leader in research, education, and innovation.

LSCCE is one of the largest civil and construction engineering programs in the country with 397 graduate and 749 undergraduate students. The school has nine specialty areas in architectural engineering, construction engineering, environmental engineering, geomatics engineering, geotechnical engineering, hydraulic and hydrologic engineering, materials engineering, structural engineering, and transportation and infrastructure systems engineering. Along with the rest of the Purdue Engineering program, the Lyles School successfully completed its ABET review for both Civil and Construction Engineering in Fall 2025.

In addition to its state-of-the-art facilities that include more than 20 research and undergraduate teaching laboratories, LSCCE is also home to the 66,000 square-foot Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen Laboratory for Large-Scale Civil Engineering Research. Few other universities in the country have similar facilities, but none are as modern as Bowen Laboratory.

Another unique facility at Purdue CCE is the Steel Bridge Research, Inspection, Training, and Engineering (S-BRITE) Center. The S-BRITE Center engages faculty and engineers from around the country to explore partnership opportunities in training and research, utilizing some of Purdue's existing strengths in education and research. Bridge inspectors from across the U.S. come to the S-BRITE Center for bridge inspection training from our faculty and staff.

LSCCE faculty researchers are recognized as some of the top innovators in the world. In 2025 alone, the awards and accolades faculty have received include Professor Luna Lu's election to the National Academy of Inventors, Professor Robert Frosh's Charles S. Whitney Medal for advancement of engineering knowledge, Professor Ernest Blatchley's appointment as President of the International Ultraviolet Association, Professor Amit Varma's AISC Lifetime Achievement Award, and Professor Mirian Velay-Lizancos' Young Investigator Betancourt Medal from Spain's Royal Academy of Engineering.

Additional prestigious faculty recognitions include:

- Four American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Distinguished Members.
- Four American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Fellows.
- Two American Concrete Institute (ACI) Fellows.
- One National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Fellow.
- One National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Member.
- One National Academy of Construction Member.
- Seven NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Awards.
- Two Fulbright Scholars.
- Four ASCE Alfred Noble Prizes.
- Three ASCE Walter L Huber Civil Engineering Research Prizes.

LSCCE faculty and staff are also called in as experts for major world events and natural disasters. From assessing the damage in Turkey after the 2023 earthquake to responding and studying the fires and its lasting impacts in Hawaii and California, faculty, staff, and alumni are continually called upon for their leadership and expertise. Their impactful research and innovations include the creation of the country's first wireless charging road for electric vehicles and improving earthquake resilience to existing structures through retrofitting.

The School persistently pursues new ways to improve educational and experiential opportunities for students, such as the development of a new bridge engineering concentration — a first-of-its-kind concentration in the U.S. Study abroad opportunities are provided around the world, including Argentina, Australia, England, Germany, and India. And LSCCE works closely with its business partners to provide internships, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities.

Within six months of graduation, the hiring rate for civil engineering students is over 98 percent, and the hiring rate for construction engineering students is 100 percent.

LSCCE Facts and Figures

Rankings (USNWR, 2025)	Undergraduate: 3 Graduate: 5 Online: 2
Enrollment (Fall 2025)	Undergraduate: 749 Graduate: 397 (includes 174 PhD-seeking) Total: 1,146
Faculty (Fall 2025)	Tenured/Tenure Track (T/TT): 53 Professors of Practice: 4 Research Professors: 1 Total (T/TT, PEP, Research): 58
Time to Degree (AY 2025)	Bachelor's Degree: 3.92 Years Master's Degree: 1.74 Years Doctoral Degree: 5.52 Years
Graduation rate (AY 2025)	% Complete in 4 Years (undergraduate, graduated from CCE): 66.9%
Degrees Awarded (AY 2025)	Undergraduate: 246 Graduate: 138 Total: 384
Starting Salary	$71,952 (for undergraduate degrees)
Graduate Admissions (Fall 2025)	Applications: 801 Admit Rate: 43.3% Yield Rate: 23.6%
Student-to-Faculty Ratios (Fall 2025)	Undergraduate Student to Faculty (T/TT, PEP): 13.1 PhD Student to Faculty (T/TT, Research): 3.2

Alumni	More than 11,000
Research Expenditures (FY 2025)	$21,752,213
Market Value of LSCCE Endowment	$127.5 million

About Purdue University's College of Engineering

As the largest-ever top 10 USNWR-ranked engineering college, Purdue Engineering is a national and global leader in world-changing research and out-of-this-world discovery. As reflected in Vision 2030, the College is accelerating its upward trajectory to maximize impact and become the most consequential engineering college in the nation. With 13,530 undergraduate students, 5,929 graduate students, and 490 faculty, Purdue Engineering is on track to become the largest producer of best-prepared and most diverse engineering talent in the nation. The College aims to lead the nation in research impact with initiatives in engineering and medicine, autonomous and connected systems, space engineering, manufacturing and operations, semiconductors, and energy transition and by leveraging Purdue University initiatives in artificial intelligence, national security and technology, computing, and the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business. Purdue Engineering strives to advance the state and nation through economic and workforce development. It is an engine of growth for innovation, contributing 71% of Purdue's record-breaking number of utility patents and helping to make it the top U.S. public university for utility patents in 2024.

Purdue Engineering Highlights

- USNWR #5 ranking in research/graduate engineering program in the nation
- Largest USNWR top 10 engineering undergraduate program in the U.S.
- #2 U.S. online master's engineering programs overall and #5 in such programs for veterans
- The "Cradle of Astronauts": 30 astronaut alumni
- 37 past and present NAE members
- 7 past and present recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, or Science
- 20 National Academy of Inventors fellows
- #2 program in the nation for the highest number of international students
- #2 producer of undergraduate female engineers nationwide
- Purdue University West Lafayette is ranked 7th among universities in the world and 4th in the nation by USPTO for utility patents. Engineering has received 1,100+ U.S. patents to date, and the college accounted for 71 percent of U.S. patents issued to the University in 2024.

The Home of 1st and #1

- 1st person on the moon: alumnus Neil Armstrong
- 1st female commercial astronaut: alumna Beth Moses
- 1st female NAE member: Purdue professor and "First Lady of Engineering" Lillian Gilbreth
- 1st female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean: faculty member Amelia Earhart
- 1st department (now school) dedicated to engineering education (2004)
- 1st U.S. university with a Women in Engineering Program
- 1st comprehensive, large-scale semiconductor degrees program in the U.S.
- 1st Mach 6 quiet wind tunnel in the world
- 1st fully-digitized nuclear reactor in the U.S.
- #1 U.S. online grad programs in EE, IE, ME, and Engineering Management
- #1 ABE grad program in the nation
- #2 for total doctoral degrees awarded by any U.S. public research university

About Purdue University

A land-grant university that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), 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 the 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.

Purdue University Fast Facts

- 200+ Undergraduate majors
- 160+ Graduate programs
- 14.7:1 Student-to-faculty ratio
- 57,310 Total enrollment (Fall 2025, West Lafayette and Indianapolis locations)
- 43,067 Undergraduate enrollment (Fall 2025)
- 14,243 Graduate/professional enrollment (Fall 2025)
- 9,270 Total international students (Fall 2025)
- 3,974 International undergraduate students (Fall 2025)
- 5,296 International graduate and professional students (Fall 2025)
- 2,326 Students who Study Abroad
- 121 Countries represented in student population (Fall 2025)
- 450,000+ Alumni around the globe (including 105,000+ Purdue Engineers)

Purdue University Rankings

- #1 Most Recognized Public University in the U.S. (American Caldwell, 2025)
- #9 among public universities in the U.S. (QS World University Rankings, June 2025)
- #3 Public University for Internships and Co-Ops (USNWR, September 2025)
- Top 10 Most Innovative Public University in the U.S. 8 Years Running (USNWR, September 2025)
- #4 Public University for Career Success in the U.S. (LinkedIn News, 2025)
- #4 University in the U.S. for Patents (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2024)
- Top 10 Public Universities That Employers Love (Forbes, 2025)

A background check will be required for employment in this position

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

Contact

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