

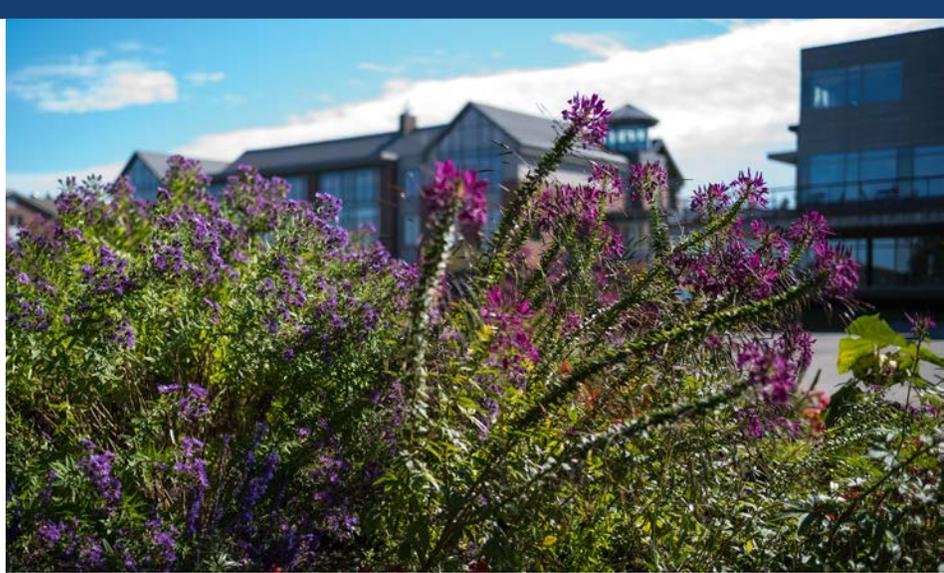
UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

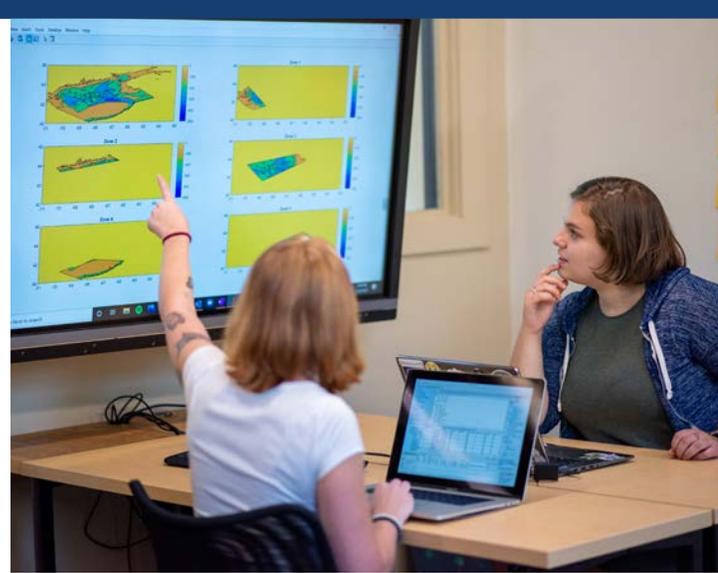
# Director, School of *Psychology and Brain Sciences*

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|------------------------|---|
| POSITION               | Director, School of Psychology and Brain Sciences   |
| ORGANIZATION           | University of New England   |
| LOCATION               | Biddeford Maine   |
| COMPENSATION           | The University of New England offers an attractive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with the successful candidate's background and experience. |
| REPORTING RELATIONSHIP | The Director reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.   |
| WEBSITES               | <a href="http://www.une.edu">www.une.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.une.edu/cas">www.une.edu/cas</a>  |



## POSITION OVERVIEW

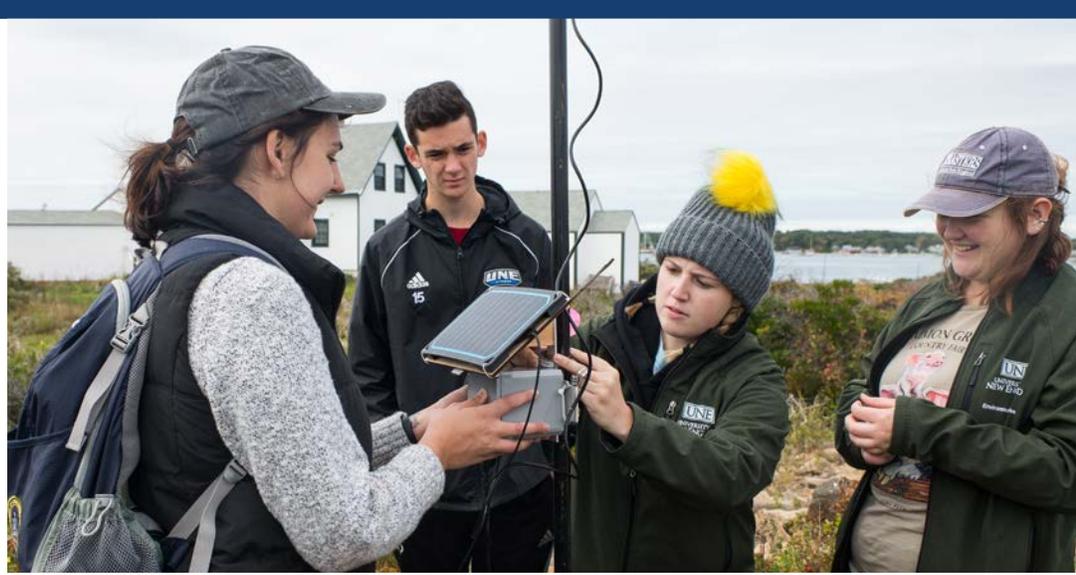
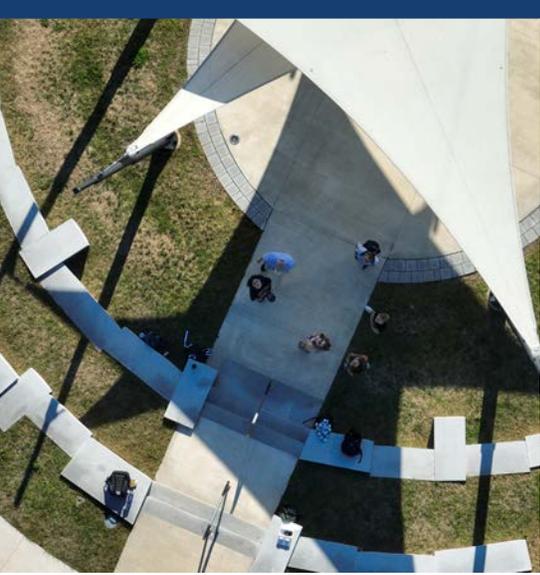
The University of New England is seeking a dynamic and visionary inaugural Director of the School of Psychology and Brain Sciences (SPBS) within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). SPBS is currently home to majors and minors in Animal Behavior, Neuroscience, and Psychology, as well as minors in Art Therapy, Gerontology, and Mental Health Rehabilitation. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for a forward-thinking leader to redefine the School's future through strategic visioning and innovative program development, including promoting interdisciplinary opportunities. The Director will be instrumental in crafting and implementing innovative curricula, enhancing the diversity and reach of academic programs, and driving growth in student enrollment. A top priority will be to ensure that the School's programs are not only aligned with current workforce demands but also at the forefront of industry trends, especially in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI). In addition to program development, the Director will lead efforts to recruit and mentor outstanding faculty, cultivate a collaborative and inclusive academic culture, and champion faculty excellence in teaching, research, and service. This role offers a comprehensive 12-month administrative appointment paired with a 9-month faculty position at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor. The successful candidate should start at UNE no later than July 2026.



## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director will be responsible for articulating and implementing a vision focused on growth, academic excellence, and innovation, grounded in data, sound judgment, and a strong commitment to stakeholder success. The Director will supervise and mentor all faculty and professional staff within the School and lead strategic initiatives related to program development, recruitment, academic advising, retention, and assessment. They will also teach courses aligned with their expertise and are expected to maintain an active research agenda that significantly contributes to their field, including disseminating peer-reviewed scholarly work and pursuing external funding as appropriate. As the chief academic and administrative officer of the School, the Director will work to advance the missions of the School, College, and University. They will promote excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, and service while advocating for the interests of faculty, professional staff, and students.

UNE and CAS are poised for further growth, and the Director will play a crucial role by ensuring the vibrancy of existing programs, thoughtfully adding new programs, and promoting interdisciplinary approaches between programs in the School and with programs housed elsewhere in the College and University. The Director should possess the vision and skills to develop and align courses and programs that complement UNE's existing strengths, and to further build signature experiences that differentiate the School and College from other institutions. Additionally, the Director should have sufficient fluency in AI to embed this rapidly evolving skill set into curricula to support student learning and career readiness.



## QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D. in a discipline represented in the School. We welcome applications from candidates whose interdisciplinary research has the potential to foster collaboration across the School, College, and University. The ideal candidate has administrative experience in higher education at the assistant/associate department chair level or higher. Curriculum development and assessment experience are expected, as is the ability to mentor students and faculty. The successful applicant will have a teaching and scholarly record that warrants appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor at UNE.



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY AND BRAIN SCIENCES

The University of New England's School of Psychology and Brain Sciences (SPBS) is a dynamic and collaborative academic community preparing students for personal and career success. SPBS serves as a hub for innovation and dialogue, shaping graduates who are ready to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond. Established through a significant transformation in 2025, the School prizes disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking, experiential and applied learning, and robust, ongoing mentoring of students. In addition to housing three majors and six minors, the School contributes to the recently revised Nor'easter Core Curriculum.

The School is dedicated to cultivating intellectual curiosity, durable skills, and sustained scientific inquiry into the biological, psychological, and behavioral processes that shape living organisms and the human experience. Owing to the academic rigor and supportive culture, the School's graduates are able to successfully pursue professional opportunities of their choosing upon graduation. SPBS is home to an award-winning faculty that regularly mentor students outside of the classroom and involves them in high-impact practices, including research. Across the University, 46% of UNE undergraduates work with faculty on research projects, more than double the national average.

SPBS includes 13 full-time faculty with active, impactful, and sustained research on a range of topics, including the study of emotional disorders and their evidence-based treatments, the self and relationships, human cognition, behavioral neuroscience, applied animal behavior, and behavioral ecology.



## ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS)

CAS is the largest and most comprehensive academic unit in the University, exemplifying UNE's commitment to providing a transformative education. Located in Biddeford, the College consists of eight schools and two centers: the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of Biological Sciences, the School of Criminology, Society, and Politics, the School of Mathematics and Data Science, the School of Education, the School of Marine and Environmental Programs, the School of Molecular and Physical Sciences, the School of Psychology and Brain Sciences as well as the Girard Marine Science Center and the Center for Global Humanities. With over 33 majors, 35 minors, and two master's programs spanning the humanities, arts, education, natural sciences, social sciences, and interdisciplinary studies, the College is a first-choice destination for students, faculty, and professional staff. With a remarkably diverse and balanced curriculum that includes robust applied and experiential options, UNE students graduate prepared for professional and personal success.

CAS offers a vibrant and supportive environment for faculty who are passionate about research, teaching, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Faculty in CAS engage in scholarship across many disciplines including physical and life sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, and the arts. CAS faculty benefit from a collegial atmosphere, peer mentoring, and a commitment to teaching excellence, as well as support from the Office of Research and Innovation, which assists with funding, training, and infrastructure needs. Facilities include specialized labs in the Alford Center for Arts and Sciences, Morgane Hall, the Girard Marine Science Center, and the Pickus Center for Biomedical Research, offering state-of-the-art resources for both faculty and student research. Additionally, major renovations to the Harold Alford Center for Arts and Sciences are ongoing and will bring new spaces designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and innovation.

Experiential learning is a hallmark of UNE's educational model, with undergraduates encouraged to enhance their classroom knowledge through research projects, internships, creative pursuits, and global study opportunities. No matter their discipline, students collaborate one-on-one with faculty mentors to create new knowledge and present original work. Interdisciplinary collaboration across programs is embraced. This immersive approach prepares CAS graduates for success in dynamic careers and top graduate programs upon earning their UNE degrees.



Mirroring the rest of the University, CAS is a welcoming community with a deep and abiding commitment to learning, personal development, and socio-economic mobility. The College recognizes that education is holistic, that students, professional staff, and faculty must develop a sense of belonging and purpose to make the most of their UNE experience. CAS professional staff and faculty are mission-driven and work in support of one another and our students. The College's innovative teaching methods balance traditional and modern pedagogies, incorporating field work, labs, independent research, and global learning experiences. CAS graduates are intellectually curious, globally aware leaders, and collaborators with the creativity, ethical grounding, and passion to drive positive change.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### About the University of New England

With roots dating to 1831, the University has evolved to become the largest independent university in Maine and one of the fastest growing private universities in the Northeast. UNE has established itself as a leading comprehensive university with particular strengths in the health sciences and marine sciences and a wide range of academic programs offered both onsite and online to just over 11,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. UNE is guided by the core values of student-centeredness, community and belonging, relentless inquiry, interdisciplinary collaboration, learning everywhere, progressive change, and stewardship of our planet.

UNE's more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, professional, and online degree programs are offered through seven colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Dental Medicine, Westbrook College of Health Professions, College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Professional Studies, and Honors College. UNE is home to Maine's only medical school and only physician assistant program and to northern New England's only dental school. UNE's robust research agenda garners more NIH funding in biomedical research than any other college or university in Maine. UNE is located on two beautiful campuses in Maine – the coastal Biddeford Campus and suburban Portland Campus for the Health Sciences – and also has a unique study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco. UNE is regionally accredited by the New England Commission on Higher Education.

During a tumultuous time for higher education, UNE has bucked the trends, emerging from a global pandemic with robust enrollment numbers, a bold plan to move its medical college from Biddeford to Portland, and a host of new academic programs and student support initiatives designed to meet the workplace needs of an ever-changing economy. While many other institutions were content to merely keep their doors open during the pandemic, UNE's dedicated faculty and professional staff were determined to seize every opportunity during a time of much change and realignment for the industry. And guided by the recently refreshed Our World, Our Future strategic plan, UNE has done just that. As a result, the University's credit rating was upgraded in 2023 to A2 from Moody's Investor Services and A+ (with positive outlook) from Fitch Ratings.



UNE emphasizes welcoming, belonging, and meeting the needs of first-generation students while consciously immersing students in an environment that prioritizes viewpoint diversity. Indeed, one of UNE's distinguishing characteristics is its commitment to fostering a robust marketplace of ideas so that students may develop the respect for opposing viewpoints and intellectual curiosity needed to be productive participants in our increasingly polarized society. The University invites guest speakers to campus whose ideas span various ideological spectra and, through an array of interrelated programs, exposes students to multiple views on important topics, both inside and outside the classroom.

Perennially included on "best colleges lists" by *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, *Forbes*, and others, UNE prides itself on its excellent student outcomes. It has recently been ranked first in Maine for value added by *Brookings* and first in Maine for job placement by *Zippia*. Meanwhile, UNE students enjoy an exceptionally low student-loan-default-rate of just 0.6% compared to 2.3% nationally. UNE's clinical programs also boast exceptional board pass rates, while the aspiring doctors in UNE's College of Osteopathic Medicine earn a residency choice match rate that is among the 10 best in the country. For more information about these and other accolades, visit [www.une.edu/about/glance](http://www.une.edu/about/glance).

UNE is a great place to work. The University boasts both a tight-knit community and access to a wide array of degree programs, research opportunities, and cultural events. UNE offers a generous, comprehensive benefits package to eligible employees and their dependents. The package includes varied health and dental plans; a retirement plan that includes up to an 8% match; extensive paid leave, including holidays, vacation, sick, and personal time; and educational benefits for both employees and dependent children. Please visit the Human Resources Benefits site – [www.une.edu/hr/benefits](http://www.une.edu/hr/benefits) – for additional information regarding UNE's fantastic benefits package.



### About UNE President James D. Herbert

James D. Herbert is the sixth president of the University of New England, serving since July 2017.

Under President Herbert's leadership, UNE has redoubled its commitment to collaborative, team-based clinical education; launched a slate of new undergraduate and graduate academic programs (both on-campus and online); expanded marine and health professions programs; and launched a business college.

During his tenure as president, UNE has also reorganized student support services to be more student-centric and expanded physical facilities on the Biddeford and Portland campuses, including new athletic facilities and a new home for Maine's only medical school. He has expanded UNE's connections with the regional business community and was recognized as a 2025 Business Leader of the Year by *Mainebiz*.

President Herbert has helped UNE to greatly improve its financial footing, as reflected by significant credit upgrades and the growth of the University's endowment. He has also significantly increased fundraising, including securing the largest gift in the University's history. These achievements are reflected in UNE's strategic plan, *Our World, Our Future*, which President Herbert implemented in 2018 and renewed in 2023.

As a champion of the academy as the ultimate marketplace of ideas, President Herbert founded a number of programs to encourage viewpoint diversity and civil, robust discourse on campus, including "The President's Forum," a moderated discussion series that facilitates discussion of timely topics to promote a deeper understanding of critical issues facing society.

Herbert arrived at UNE via Drexel University in Philadelphia, where he held several senior administrative positions, including interim provost and executive vice provost and dean of the Graduate College. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin and his M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His research interests include cognitive behavior therapy – including newer mindfulness and psychological acceptance-based models of behavior therapy, anxiety, mood, and eating disorders, remote internet-based treatment, and the promotion of evidence-based practice in mental health. He resides on UNE's Biddeford Campus with his wife, Lynn Brandsma, Ph.D., both of whom are highly engaged in campus life.



### About UNE Provost Gwendolyn Mahon

Provost Gwendolyn Mahon joined UNE in November 2022, bringing her passion for higher education and extensive leadership in the field to campus. As a first-generation college graduate, Provost Mahon is dedicated to helping others access the opportunities that higher education has provided her and has a keen understanding of the importance of a student-centered philosophy and a community-engaged approach in higher education.

During her time at UNE, Provost Mahon has implemented many programmatic changes to enhance various academic programs and grow the research enterprise. She has established 10 new degree programs and made several organizational changes to enhance visibility and spur the growth of key degree offerings. This includes the creation of the School of Education, School of Mathematics and Data Science, School of Public and Planetary Health, College of Business, and Honors College.

Prior to arriving at UNE, Provost Mahon spent 24 years at Rutgers University, where she filled multiple leadership roles, including dean of the Rutgers School of Health Professions. She holds a master's degree in medical genetics from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and a doctorate in biomedical science from Rutgers School of Graduate Studies. Her research is focused on molecular oncology, specifically signal transduction pathways involved in leukemogenesis and cell motility.



### About UNE College of Arts and Sciences Dean Wesley Renfro

Wesley Renfro, Ph.D., is the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New England. He brings a decade of leadership experience in higher education, most recently serving as senior associate dean for academic affairs and strategic initiatives at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. His background includes roles as associate dean at Quinnipiac University, director of core curriculum, and chair of the political science department at St. John Fisher University in Pittsford, New York. As an international relations scholar, Renfro specializes in American presidents and U.S. foreign policy, with numerous publications on empire, presidential decision making, and strategy. His tenure at Quinnipiac University was marked by significant academic innovation and strategic growth, including the creation of 12 accelerated/dual-degree programs, seven new majors, and multiple undergraduate and graduate certificates addressing emerging fields. Renfro holds a Ph.D. and a master's in political science from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy from Heidelberg University.



### About Life in Maine

The University of New England is located on two beautiful campuses in Maine — an oceanfront coastal campus in Biddeford and a vibrant health sciences campus in Portland, a city of great appeal and historic significance. With breathtaking scenery, a rich cultural environment, world-class dining, low crime rates, and classic New England charm, southern Maine provides an unparalleled quality of life. The quality of life is exemplified by safe towns and cities, top school systems, and a variety of highly accessible outdoor activities, from beaches to mountains. Whether one enjoys local shopping in Portland's Old Port, sampling unique breweries and distilleries in Biddeford, strolling the harbor-side trail on the Eastern Promenade, or hiking, sailing, skiing, or the arts, the area offers something for everyone. The Greater Portland region combines city living with small-town charm, frequently cited as one of the best cities in America to live and work.



## NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with initial reviews beginning on March 9.

### HOW TO APPLY

[University of New England Career Opportunities](#) | [Director, School of Psychology and Brain Sciences](#)



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