SENIOR LEADER BIOGRAPHY
President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Elizabeth Cannon

Elizabeth Cannon was appointed the eighth president and vice-chancellor of the University of Calgary on July 1, 2010. As the leader of one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities, she is a passionate advocate for the importance of higher education in driving discovery and innovation, finding solutions for the world’s greatest challenges, and developing talented young people who will become future leaders.

In her first year as president, Elizabeth launched the most extensive consultation process ever undertaken at the University of Calgary, the goal of which was to develop a road map for the future based on a shared vision of what the university could be to the city, the country and the world. The resulting strategy outlines a bold vision of a truly great international university, situated in Canada’s most enterprising city.

Prior to her appointment as president, Elizabeth was dean of the Schulich School of Engineering at the University of Calgary. She propelled the school into the top ranks of engineering schools and led the development of enriched student leadership programs, interdisciplinary research programs, and a community-endorsed five-year strategic plan. She also leveraged her extensive network of stakeholders in business, industry and the community to expand external funding for student activities. Today, graduates of the Schulich School of Engineering are sought after by business, industry and governments in Canada and around the world.

A renowned expert in geomatics engineering, Elizabeth’s research has been on the frontier of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) since 1984 in both industrial and academic environments, and she has commercialized technology to over 200 agencies worldwide. From 1997 to 2002, she held the NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering during which she provided leadership in encouraging young women to consider science and engineering careers.

Elizabeth is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society of Canada, a director of the Enbridge Income Fund Holdings, and was a director of the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The recipient of numerous prestigious awards, in 2006 she was named by the Women’s Executive Network as one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women. She holds a BSc in mathematics from Acadia University as well as a BSc, MSc and PhD in geomatics engineering from the University of Calgary.