

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH *Leadership Profile*

Wichita State University is seeking a president who will take the urban-based research university to the next level, in an ever-changing educational landscape.

Our next leader will provide a comprehensive vision to advance our university, building on achievements in recent years that have elevated Wichita State's profile as a university committed to providing an accessible, affordable and impactful education, fostering a talent pipeline, and growing and diversifying the economy.





ABOUT WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Over the past eight years, Wichita State has achieved a remarkable physical and institutional transformation. Its main campus has grown by 120 acres with the development of the WSU Innovation Campus. At 15,500, enrollment has remained constant through geographic, online and curriculum expansion.

Founded in 1895 and celebrating its 125th anniversary, Wichita State is one of six state universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR). It is Kansas' only urban-based research university.

VISION – To be one of the nation's most innovative public research universities, known for providing impactful student experiences and driving prosperity for the people and communities we serve.

MISSION – To be an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good.

Wichita State offers 70 bachelor's degree programs, one associate degree, 12 doctoral degrees, 48 master's degrees, a Specialist in Education degree and 62 credit-bearing certificates in eight colleges:

- College of Applied Studies
- College of Engineering
- Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Health Professions
- Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College
- College of Innovation and Design
- W. Frank Barton School of Business

Wichita State serves students and community members through multiple campuses across the metro area, including: Main, West, South, Metropolitan Complex, Haysville, Old Town, Shocker Studios – and WSU Online.

Additionally, to help address the core workforce needs of the state while creating a seamless pipeline to higher education, Wichita State established an alliance with Wichita Area Technical



College, now known as WSU Tech. WSU Tech offers more than 100 programs of study, including in aviation, health care, manufacturing, design and business.

WSU is the most racially and ethnically diverse campus in Kansas. About 78 percent of its students are from Kansas, and the remainder are from every state in the U.S. and 111 countries. About 45 percent of all degree-seeking undergraduates at Wichita State last fall came from families in which neither parent completed a four-year college degree.

Wichita State has over 500 full-time faculty, with over 80 percent of the faculty having earned the highest degree in their field. Academic programs also draw on the professional expertise of adjuncts and guest lecturers from Wichita-based businesses and organizations of all kinds.

Main campus has three fully furnished housing facilities – Shocker Hall, The Flats and The Suites. The latter two are located on the Innovation Campus, adjacent to the Steve Clark YMCA and Student Wellness Center, opened in 2020.

ABOUT WICHITA

The greater Wichita metro area of more than 645,000 is undergoing a period of renaissance of civic pride, construction, renovation, and community engagement, paralleling the growth of the Wichita State campus.

The Wichita area is the state's medical, financial, education, manufacturing, communications, cultural and entertainment hub. It is the "Air Capital of the World," with major aerospace manufacturers and numerous support industries anchoring the city's industrial base.

Wichita is known for short commute times, with the campus located within 10 minutes of downtown and 20 minutes of the airport and all local businesses and entertainment venues.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS INCLUDE:

- Spirit AeroSystems, the state's largest employer
- Textron Aviation (Cessna and Beechcraft)
- Koch Industries
- Cargill Protein Group
- Ascension Via Christi
- McConnell Air Force Base
- Wesley Healthcare
- Airbus Americas Engineering • Bombardier Learjet
- NetApp
- Evergy
- Excel Industries Inc.
- Johnson Controls





RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FORWARD THINKING STRATEGIES:

■ Development of the **WSU Innovation Campus**, a 120-acre community of diverse industry partners; technology and labs for applied learning and research; amenity-rich campus housing; wellness resources; a state-of-the-art community makerspace; restaurants and retail. Among our Innovation Campus partners: Airbus, Spirit AeroSystems, Textron (Cessna and Beechcraft), Dassault Systems, Deloitte, NetApp, FirePoint (U.S. Army), Meritrust Credit Union, Wesley Healthcare, Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence, and the Wichita/Sedgwick County Law Enforcement Training Facility.

■ In 2018, the university **exceeded \$100 million in annual R&D** support for the first time. Wichita State ranks **first in the nation in industry funding for aerospace R&D** and fourth in total aerospace engineering research dollars. Aerospace testing and research generates a significant amount of the university's R&D funding and serves aviation, the largest local industry.

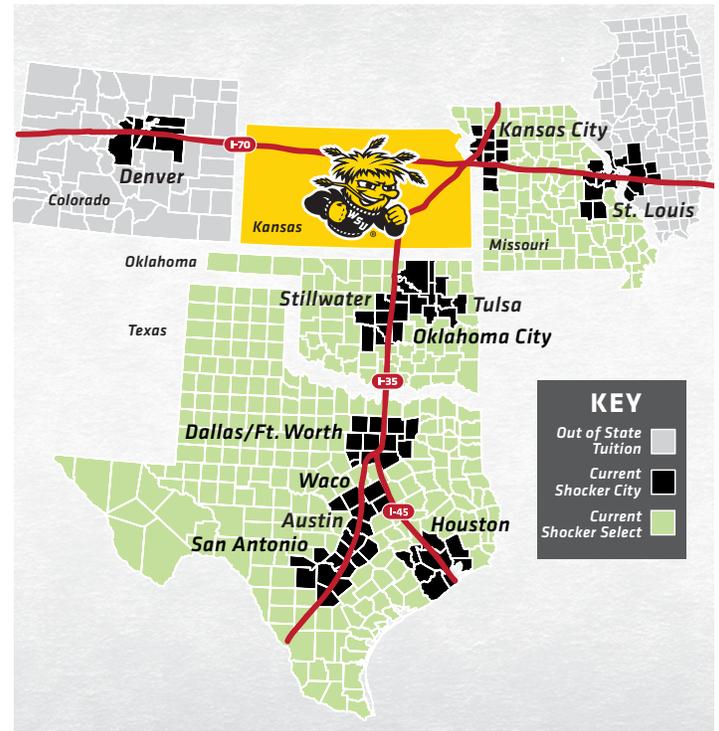
■ The WSU Foundation's seven-year Shock the World Campaign, completed in 2020, raised \$307.8 million compared to a campaign goal of \$250 million. Highlights include \$31 million raised for a new \$60 million home for the W. Frank Barton School of Business; \$13 million to build a Student-Athlete Center and renovate Charles Koch Arena; and a 40 percent increase in scholarship payouts. The WSU Foundation has steadily built its endowment/managed assets to \$350.1 million, far more than most of its peer organizations.

■ **Affiliation with Kansas' largest technical college**, rebranded as WSU Tech. With an enrollment of 4,600 students, WSU Tech offers an affordable and convenient pathway to a degree at Wichita State.

■ Membership in the American Athletic Conference, which includes other city-based research universities in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Tulsa, Orlando, Tampa and Memphis.

■ Implemented a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) program, a university-wide commitment to better serve students, enhance the WSU experience, grow enrollment and retention, and promote Wichita State.

■ Developed innovative, new programming to increase enrollment and address workforce needs. These include a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Media Arts, for careers in animation, audio production, filmmaking and game design, and a Master of Innovation Design, which merges arts, science and technology to develop design-thinking skills.



■ Expanded its outreach along the I-35 and I-70 corridors to attract an even more diverse group of students. As part of this outreach, the Shocker City Partnership grants resident tuition rates to students from specific metropolitan areas of Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, making the cost of attending WSU significantly less than out-of-state tuition.

■ Reached new audiences, especially among working adults, with micro-credentialing, badges, online and market-based courses.

■ Created the National Institute for Digital Transformation to develop research and applied learning opportunities in a broad range of economic sectors, including technology, health, manufacturing and defense. NIDT will emulate the model established by WSU's world-class National Institute for Aviation Research.

■ Established the School of Computing in WSU's College of Engineering to expand and fortify the university's commitment to producing a digital-skilled workforce needed by industry. Similarly, the College's new master's degree in data science is another key element in its effort to support digital transformation.

■ Created the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG), a university partnership with local industry and governments to grow key clusters in the south-central Kansas economy.



ROLE OF THE WICHITA STATE PRESIDENT

The President, as Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for the overall management and oversight of the university's vision, strategy, and operations. Reporting directly to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), the President works closely with KBOR in implementing Board-directed initiatives, programs, and policies. The President delegates and monitors administrative and operational functions to an executive leadership team reporting to the President.

The President is not only the leader of the campus community, but also the visible representative of WSU in the local community, organizations of higher education, and the touchstone for alumni, parents, and friends of the university. Ultimately, the President is the face and voice of WSU and its mission, raising its profile in the community, state, and nation to enhance recruitment, and continue the strong financial support necessary to sustain it.

Wichita State is not just hiring a president; it is hiring a reflection of its commitment to the community.

The next President of Wichita State University will:

- Work effectively with the Kansas Board of Regents to implement initiatives, programs and policies.
- Work at a high strategic level with the president's executive team and administrative leaders, providing an example of leadership, accountability, and shared governance.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the concept of a student-centered institution, with a strong student orientation and a dedication to preparing students for success in a global environment.

- Ensure that the institution acquires the necessary public and private resources for successful achievement of the university's goals and objectives, engaging in fundraising activities that increase the university's financial position and engaging with an active alumni base.
- Foster growth in student enrollment and student retention rates.
- Serve as a catalyst for innovation across the university with a multidisciplinary team approach.
- Ensure that the university provides a high-quality faculty and educational curriculum for the benefit of its students.
- Support a diverse faculty, staff and student population, and encourage cultural diversity throughout the institution's curriculum, activities and community involvement.
- Advance and expand upon virtual/online and applied learning opportunities to ensure leading-edge technology and excellence in instruction, curriculum, consistency, and follow up with online students, and growing online graduate study offerings.
- Promote the role of collegiate athletics and its contribution to the life of a major public university and its community.
- Manage a financially complex institution, ensuring proper administration of the financial affairs of the university.



PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

- 1. STRONG CHARACTER.** An individual with the highest personal integrity, ethics, and an executive presence demonstrating a strong moral compass, with kindness, humility, and a sense of humor.
- 2. PROVEN LEADER.** An effective team builder with the ability to lead and manage a large, complex campus in a metropolitan setting, effective at delegation, and working at a high strategic level with accountability and purpose.
- 3. VISIONARY.** A forward thinking visionary who understands the competitive advantages of applied learning at an urban serving research university, and challenges the status quo with innovation and change that will advance Wichita State University for years to come.
- 4. FUNDRAISER.** A commitment to fundraising with experience in developing trust and cultivating long-term relationships with potential donors and community partners to ensure strong financial support for the University.
- 5. COMMUNICATOR.** An inspiring communicator with the skill and intuition necessary to listen, understand and unify multiple perspectives.
- 6. ECONOMIC DRIVER.** Appreciating the impact that the University has on the economy of the region. An integrator of the University with the community.
- 7. VISIBLE PRESENCE.** An engaging and visible presence on campus and in the community; approachable by students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University.
- 8. PASSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.** Knowledgeable about key issues affecting public universities, including enrollment, retention strategies and innovations in education; willing to take risks as a change agent.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Sally Mason and Garry W. Owens—both representing AGB Search—will be assisting the Wichita State University Presidential Search Committee. Should prospective nominators or potential candidates have questions, they are encouraged to contact Dr. Mason (sally.mason@agbsearch.com), or Dr. Owens (garry.owens@agbsearch.com) directly by email prior to submitting materials.

Applicants are encouraged to submit materials electronically by the target date of March 8, 2021 to WSUPresident@agbsearch.com and should include: 1) a letter of interest describing relevant experience; and, 2) a current curriculum vitae. All candidate names will remain confidential.



Wichita State University (WSU) does not discriminate in its employment practices, or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of age (40 years or older), ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. WSU also prohibits retaliation against any person making a complaint of discrimination or against any person involved or participating in the investigation of any such allegation. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, other federal law, and WSU policy. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding WSU's non-discrimination policies: the Institutional Equity and Compliance Director (Telephone: (316) 978-3205), Title IX Coordinator (Telephone: (316) 978-5177), or Equal Opportunity Coordinator (Telephone: (316) 978-3186), each located at Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, Human Resources Building.