

# WCU

## WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Invites Applications and Nominations for the Position of:

### Vice President for Student Affairs

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## The Opportunity

West Chester University seeks an innovative, knowledgeable, and collaborative leader to serve as its next Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). Reporting to the President, the Vice President for Student Affairs serves as the chief student affairs officer and provides strategic leadership for co-curricular learning and the overall student experience. While reporting directly to the President, the VPSA will work collaboratively with the university's Executive Vice President who serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the university.

## The Role of the Vice President for Student Affairs

The VPSA is responsible for ensuring coordination across the organization in support of student health and wellness, safety, and student engagement in the university community.

This position currently supervises: three authority-line reports: the Assistant Vice President of Health and Wellness, who supervises the CARE Team, Student Assistance, Student Health Services, Campus Recreation, the Counseling Center, and Wellness Promotion; the Associate Vice President/Dean of Students who supervises Conduct, Residence Life and Housing, Off-Campus and Commuter Services, and Dining Operations; the Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement, who supervises Student Leadership and Involvement, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Spirit and Traditions, Sykes Student Union, Student Activities; and Parent/Family Engagement and the Student Ombuds; and four support staff members who support the function of the [Division of Student Affairs](#).

The VPSA oversees a 43 million dollar budget (\$7.6 million Education & General funds, \$611,000 of which is operating funds; \$35 million auxiliaries, \$25 million of which is operating funds).

As a division, we are committed to the goals that directly align with completing the educational mission of the university.

The Division of Student Affairs is currently revising its Mission, Vision, and Goals statements, but the themes that have emerged in that drafting process include supporting a student from enrollment to graduation and beyond; promoting holistic growth through transformative experiences, inclusive excellence, and meaningful connections to support student success; and creating co-curricular opportunities, championing respectful discourse, celebrating difference, cultivating holistic well-being, equipping students to lead with integrity, and nurturing a sense of belonging, safety, and inclusion.



## Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

- › Master's degree related to student affairs and higher education (an earned doctorate is preferred);
- › Significant administrative leadership experience in student affairs;
- › Experience as a unit head in one or more of the functional areas typically located in student affairs;
- › Experience with supervision, budget management and resource development, strategic planning, and assessment and evaluation;
- › In-depth knowledge of theory and best practice in higher education and student affairs;
- › Proven commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging;
- › Passion for student success;
- › Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- › Comfortable developing relationships and working collaboratively within a shared governance environment at a public institution.



## About West Chester University

Located on 409 beautiful acres in historic and charming West Chester, 25 miles west of Philadelphia, and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware, West Chester University is home to 14,500+ undergraduate and 2,900+ graduate students. This diverse and welcoming student body studies in one of seven colleges: College of Arts and Humanities, College of Health Sciences, College of the Sciences and Mathematics, College of Business and Public Management, College of Education and Social Work, University College, and the Wells School of Music. WCU currently offers 118 baccalaureate, 103 master's, and 4 doctoral degree programs taught by 695 full-time and 298 part-time faculty.

In addition to the main campus in Chester County, West Chester University has a location in Center City, Philadelphia. This location offers bachelor's programs in social work and business management as well as a BSN for the registered nurse program. Three master's programs are offered in social work, public administration, and transformative education and social change.

West Chester University is committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness and to cultivating a campus environment that welcomes all. This commitment reflects the diversity theme of [West Chester University's Strategic Plan](#) and supports initiatives in the [Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#). Additionally, in 2021, WCU joined EAB's [Moon Shot for Equity Mission](#). This initiative is designed to support faculty, students, and staff in closing the equity gaps at the institution within the next 10 years.

WCU also serves its students and local community with speech/hearing, autism, and reading clinics; a planetarium; the library; and an extensive music library. The university provides unrivaled cultural opportunities to the residents of Chester County and beyond. The performing and visual arts programs are among the best in the country.

In the most recent update of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, which was posted for a public review period in December of 2021, West Chester University was reclassified from Master's Colleges & Universities – Larger Programs (M1) to Doctoral Universities – High Research Activity (R2). The university's new 2021 classification took place during Carnegie's most recent three-year cycle of evaluation. WCU is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its programs by 20 accrediting bodies. The university's professional education programs are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator

### Diversity (Fall 2022):

- › 73% White
- › 11.8% Black or African American
- › 6.9% Hispanic or Latino (fastest growing group)
- › Students come from 74 different countries and 29 states

### Students (Fall 2022):

- Enrollment: 17,275
- › 14,392 undergraduate students
- › 2,883 graduate students
- Undergraduates:
- › 40.7% male
- › 59.3% female
- › 22.3% students of color

### Accolades:

- › Designated a Military Friendly School by *Victory Media*, publisher of GI Jobs magazine
- › The average first-year student retention rate is 85%

Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Recognized education programs are accredited by an additional nine organizations.



West Chester University made the Top 10 on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2021 list of Top Public Regional Universities North, rising to #10 from #12 in 2020. It advanced up to #50 among Regional Universities North (both public and private institutions) from #55 in 2020 and is listed among the top 25 Best Colleges for Veterans (Regional Universities North). In 2020, *Money Magazine* ranked West Chester University as one of the Top 175 Best Value Colleges in America.

## The Borough of West Chester

West Chester University is in Chester County, PA which is ranked #1 Tech Hub in the state of Pennsylvania. West Chester is a borough and the county seat of Chester County and is located 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware. Chester County residents are ranked as the wealthiest, healthiest, and best educated in Pennsylvania. 94% of Chester County residents graduate from high school and 48% of all residents have a bachelor's degree or better.



## Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

West Chester University is a proud member of [Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education](#). The mission of the System is to increase educational attainment in the Commonwealth; to prepare students at the undergraduate and graduate levels for professional and personal success in their lives; and to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural development of Pennsylvania's communities, the Commonwealth, and the nation.



The universities combine to enroll the largest number of Pennsylvania residents among all four-year colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. The State System is currently redesigning itself to ensure the long-term sustainability of all universities so that each may continue to serve students, its region, and the Commonwealth.

# Nomination and Application Process

## Salary

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

## How to Apply

Greenwood Asher & Associates, LLC is assisting West Chester University in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to Greenwood/Asher and Associates. For a full application package, please provide a cover letter, CV, and list of five references. Submission of application materials as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment to confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

**Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:**

Julie Holley, Search Manager and Senior Executive Search Consultant

Email: [julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com](mailto:julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com)

Ann Bailey, Senior Executive Search Consultant

Email: [annbailey@greenwoodsearch.com](mailto:annbailey@greenwoodsearch.com)

*Developing and sustaining a diverse faculty and staff advances WCU's educational mission and strategic plan. West Chester University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

*All offers of employment are subject to and contingent upon satisfactory completion of all pre-employment background checks.*

*The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from West Chester University documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the source documents and factual situations govern.*