SEARCH OVERVIEW
Over the past five years, Wichita State University has achieved a remarkable physical and institutional transformation, guided by the vision of its recently deceased president, Dr. John Bardo.

Its main campus has grown by 120 acres. Enrollment has grown through geographic, online and curricular expansion. And community impact and visibility has increased through new locations and a GED-to-PhD affiliation with the largest technical college in Kansas, rebranded as WSU Tech.

WSU’s reputation is growing as one of the top innovative universities in the nation, bolstered by academic and research programs, the high profile of men’s basketball and new membership in the American Athletic Conference, which includes other urban-serving research universities in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Tulsa, Orlando, Tampa and Memphis.
In FY19, the university exceeded $100 million in annual R&D support for the first time. On-campus research and applied learning partners include Airbus, with 280 resident engineers; Dassault Systemes, with its world-class 3D Experience Lab employing students and full-time researchers; and Spirit AeroSystems, the state’s largest employer. All have come to WSU because of its applied learning and research commitment.

WSU is a trusted partner with some of the world’s leading companies and, as a result, offers unmatched student applied learning and career gateway experiences. Because of these strong community and industry connections, WSU is a public university with significant private investments, including a Foundation fundraising campaign that has far surpassed its ambitious $250 million goal. Plans for the next Foundation campaign await the vision of the university’s next president.

Our presence on the Innovation Campus will help us enhance products and business processes to create value for our customers. The campus provides an environment that fosters the transition of innovative ideas into real-world uses and values for the company.

—John O’Leary, VP Airbus Americas Engineering

AIRBUS
Some industry and government partners are based in public-private partnership buildings; others in the university’s groundbreaking Experiential Engineering Building, that includes 25 College of Engineering applied learning and research laboratories and an 18,000-square-foot community makerspace. The university and city have a strong record of entrepreneurship, and WSU Ventures is based in the building to foster new intellectual property leading to scalable business ideas.

Since 1985, the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) has attracted engineers and industry experts from around the globe, while giving students an outlet for future success. More than 200 students are employed by NIAR. This world-class R&D organization is a leader in the advancement of the next generation of aerospace—specializing in new technologies such as carbon-fiber composite fabrication and virtual reality for aerospace applications.

Grants and gifts are driving the creation of new facilities, including the Advanced Virtual-Engineering and Testing Labs, opening soon, that will include both physical and virtual crash-test facilities for military and industrial testing. This will join a long list of world-class facilities associated with WSU’s National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR).

This year-over-year upward trajectory ranks WSU among the top 50 in engineering research dollars. The latest NSF ranking places Wichita State as #1 in industry-funded aerospace R&D and #4 in total aerospace engineering research dollars, ahead of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Purdue University. WSU’s pioneering aerospace certification testing and research generates a significant amount of the university’s R&D funding and serves aviation, the largest local industry.

A $50 million home for the Barton School of Business is the next academic building to begin construction. It will join buildings near completion including the new NIAR crash lab, the fourth privately financed partnership building for applied research and the new campus YMCA and Student Wellness Center.

Wichita Police officers and Sedgwick County sheriff’s deputies train on campus in the new Law Enforcement Training Center, which is also home to WSU’s School of Criminal Justice, one of the first such academic programs in the nation. City-county-university cooperation is also seen in the annual mill levy that provides local taxpayer support to WSU.

About Wichita State University
Founded in 1895, Wichita State University is one of six state universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents. It is Kansas’ only urban-serving research university. WSU offers 70 bachelor’s degree programs, an associate’s degree, 12 doctoral degrees, 48 master’s degrees, a Specialist in Education degree and 62 credit-bearing certificates in seven colleges and one institute:

College of Applied Studies (formerly College of Education)
- Produces highly qualified educators, athletic trainers, exercise scientists and sport-management professionals.
- Students gain applied-learning experiences in the state’s largest school district, USD 259, with major- and minor-league organizations across the country—and with companies such as Walt Disney World.
- The Teacher Apprentice Program (TAP) is an online program that has enabled more than 450 paraprofessionals to enter the teaching profession to date—helping to address the nationwide teacher shortage.

College of Engineering
- WSU was one of the first educational institutions in the nation to offer a degree in aerospace engineering—way back in 1928.
- Students have access to the largest engineering co-op and internship program in the state, gaining real-world experience—and careers—with NASA, NetApp, Spirit AeroSystems, Toyota, Airbus, GE Aviation and others.
- The new, $32 million Experiential Engineering Building on WSU’s Innovation Campus provides access to additional applied-learning opportunities and advanced technology—and a place for students, professors and industry professionals to collaborate.
**College of Fine Arts**
- Developed new, innovative programming to increase enrollment, such as the Bachelor of Applied Arts in Media Arts—for careers in animation, audio production, filmmaking or game design.
- Students train with legends, such as opera superstars Sam Ramey and Alan Held.
- Around 85 percent of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra is comprised of WSU students, faculty and staff.

**College of Health Professions**
- Features the only physician assistant program in the state and the only bachelor of dental hygiene program at a Kansas Regents university.
- Offers Kansas’ only accelerated nursing program from a state university, turning qualified students into qualified nurses in less than 18 months.
- Students gain applied-learning experience at more than 1,100 sites in Kansas and beyond—from large hospitals and private practices to local schools and neighborhood clinics.

**Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College**
- Home to the state’s only Honors Baccalaureate degree.
- Combines smaller, seminar-style classes; exclusive financial support for internships and study abroad; specialized advising and mentoring; and independent and collaborative research opportunities.
- Currently expanding its student success area in Shocker Hall, to better serve the needs of its rapidly growing number of Shocker Honors students.

**Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**
- The oldest and largest college at WSU—offering the widest range of degree options.
- Fairmount College students have gained applied-learning experience through co-ops and internships with diverse organizations ranging from broadcast network affiliates and the YMCA to state-and-local government and nonprofits.
- WSU’s biological field station on the Ninnescah river features 330 acres of native prairie, wetlands and woodland.

**W. Frank Barton School of Business**
- Offers the widest selection of business degrees in Kansas, including the state’s only entrepreneurship major.
- Holds dual accreditation, through AACSB International, in business and accounting—placing it among the most distinguished business schools worldwide.

- Students gain applied-learning experience locally, nationally and internationally, with employers ranging from Microsoft and Koch Industries to the Mayo Clinic and the White House.

**Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation**
- Offers one of the only face-to-face programs of its type in the United States.
- The Master of Innovation Design degree merges arts, science and technology curricula to create opportunities for student-faculty collaboration across WSU’s colleges. This individualized program develops students’ abilities to design creative solutions, communicate effectively, practice entrepreneurship and develop prototypes.
- The Undergraduate Leadership Certificate builds advanced analytical skills to amplify any major.

**WSU provides quality education and resources** to students and community members through its multiple campuses across the metro area, including: Main, West, South, Metropolitan Complex, Haysville, Old Town, Shocker Studios—and WSU Online.

The unique collaboration with WSU Tech (formerly Wichita Area Technical College) expands the university’s presence in the community—increasing its ability to provide quality, accessible education while better responding to the workforce needs of industry throughout the region.
**The university has nearly 600 full-time faculty**, with 86 percent 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.

**WSU is the most racially and ethnically diverse campus in Kansas.** Of approximately 15,000 students, 78 percent are from Kansas, and the remainder are from every state in the U.S. and 111 countries.

**The university was named a 2019 Social Mobility Innovator** in a ranking of 1,400 U.S. colleges, based on its success in recruiting and retaining low-income students. Approximately 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.

**Applied Learning**

**Thanks to its location in Kansas’ largest city,** Wichita State has built a reputation for providing unmatched applied-learning and research opportunities for Shockers in every major.

**WSU’s focus on applied learning is a differentiator.** Graduates have often worked in their chosen industry during their time on campus so they enter the workforce better prepared. Or, they have the knowledge to start their own business.

**Graduate Education**

**WSU’s Graduate School annually awards more than 700 master’s degrees and 100 doctoral degrees.** More than 30 percent of full-time graduate students hold assistantships, generating more than $4 million each year.

Grad students have opportunities to present their research through events like the Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects Symposium and the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka.

Further, graduate school faculty, staff and students are great contributors to the increasing amount of research funding the university attracts.

**Research**

**With yearly funding topping $104 million in 2018—a new record—research at Wichita State ranges from bioscience, chemistry and engineering to mathematics, physics and ancient civilization.** The bulk of applied research is aviation-related and funded by industry and the federal government.

In addition to robust research conducted within its academic departments, WSU is also home to more than 30 research centers and institutes, many of which work closely with local, regional and national entities to accelerate discovery and innovation and bring new products to the marketplace.

**Businesses, local government, industry and nonprofits benefit from WSU resources such as:**
- Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center
- Small Business Development Center
- Center for Management Development
- Center for Entrepreneurship
- Community Engagement Institute
- Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs
- Center for Combating Human Trafficking

**Innovation Campus**

Today, the university has accelerated its commitment to applied learning, research, entrepreneurship and community development. As students and industry partners get their hands on new technology, and engage in new collaborations, it sparks new possibilities.

**This commitment is embodied in WSU’s Innovation Campus**—a conversion of a 120-acre golf course into a rapidly developing, interconnected 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; retail; and a variety of events open to everyone.
FORWARD-THINKING STRATEGIES
In addition to the Innovation Campus, the university has also embraced a number of successful strategies to address many of the current and future needs of its stakeholders—from student recruitment and retention to workforce development and regional economic growth.

Wichita State has:
• 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.
• Expanded its outreach along the I-35 and I-70 corridors to attract an even more diverse group of students to campus—including increasing numbers of under-represented students.
• Increased its number of online offerings leading to year-over-year growth in online enrollment—including a fall 2019 enrollment increase of more than 35% from fall 2018 alone.
• Created a seamless pipeline into higher education, while working to address the core workforce needs of the state, through an affiliation with Wichita Area Technical College, which is now known as WSU Tech. WSU Tech is the state’s largest technical college offering more than 100 programs of study including aviation, health care, manufacturing, design and business.
• Reached new audiences, especially among working adults, with microcredentialing, badges, online and market-based courses.
• Increased the number of students living on campus through the construction of three fully furnished housing facilities—Shocker Hall, The Flats and The Suites.
• 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.
• Worked to make campus a destination for students, industry partners—and the community—through more events, activities and amenities for everyone to enjoy.

CAMPUS LIFE
WSU’s 330-acre main campus is home to time-honored traditions, action-packed athletics and countless ways for students to connect to the university, the community and to each other.
ATHLETICS AND RECREATION
WSU boasts 15 NCAA Division I teams, plus a wide range of intramurals, club sports and health/wellness resources. The university is now the newest member of the American Athletic Conference, placing it in competition with other prestigious universities like Southern Methodist, Memphis, Cincinnati, Houston and Connecticut.

- ESPN ranks Koch Arena among the top places to watch college basketball.
- Shocker Athletics has garnered two NCAA Final Fours (1965, 2013) and an NCAA National Championship in baseball (1989).
- Shocker Bowling is the most accomplished collegiate bowling program in the nation with a record 20 men’s and women’s national championships.
- Slated for completion in 2020, the donor-funded $10.4 million Student-Athlete Success Center will feature 36,000 square feet dedicated to the academic and athletic development of students in WSU’s sports programs. The project will also renovate parts of Charles Koch Arena to create more space for WSU’s basketball and volleyball programs.
- Currently under construction, Eck Stadium’s donor-funded $3 million upgrade will include strength-and-conditioning space, a locker room, media room, offices and a third-base dugout.
- A multi-million-dollar Health and Wellness Center, in partnership with the Greater Wichita YMCA, will open in January 2020 on Innovation Campus. The facility will consolidate WSU’s Student Health Services, Counseling and Prevention Services and YMCA fitness center and will serve students, faculty, staff, Innovation Campus partners and the community.

ABOUT WICHITA
The greater Wichita metro area of more than 645,000, especially Wichita’s downtown, is undergoing a renaissance of civic pride, construction, renovation and community engagement, paralleling the growth of the Wichita State campus. Much of this has been outlined in The Chung Report, which was established both as an online information source and catalyst for change.

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 more than 450 supplier networks anchoring the city’s industrial base.

From huge annual festivals and serene nature preserves to world-class dining and a thriving arts community, Wichita offers endless opportunities. The city has been listed by national websites as one of the top 10:
- Best cities for new college graduates
- Best places to live
- Surprising foodie cities
- Best value cities

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 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS:
- 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
- Westar Energy (becoming Evergy through a merger)
- Excel Industries Inc.
- Johnson Controls

ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS
- Sedgwick County Zoo (one of the country’s largest)
- 33 museums, with a nationally known museum district including the Wichita Art Museum, Botanica, Cowtown and Exploration Place
- Wichita State campus and downtown outdoor sculpture collections
- 80+ parks and recreation areas
- Venues: Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center; Intrust Bank Arena; Hartman Arena
- Sports: Shocker Athletics; AAA baseball in a new downtown minor league ballpark complex (coming soon); Wichita Thunder hockey; Wichita Force indoor football; FC Wichita soccer
- Wichita River Festival
- Final Friday art gallery crawl
- Tallgrass Film Festival
- Open Streets ICT
- McConnell Air Force Base Open House and Airshow
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. The President reports directly to the Kansas Board of Regents and works closely with the Board 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. The President is, ultimately, 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.

The next President of Wichita State University will:
- Understand and lead dramatic and dynamic changes that will impact Wichita State University and the Wichita community for many years to come.
- Work with the Kansas Board of Regents and interact effectively with diverse constituencies, including the state legislature, major corporations and businesses, foundations, rural leaders, and residents from all parts of the state.
- 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.
- Position Wichita State to continue to compete in today’s market, while maintaining what’s unique to current culture.
- Continue advancing a culture of shared governance with faculty in collaboration with staff, built on trust and integrity.
- Continue to investigate and implement ways to expand on the benefits of the Innovation Campus for the university, business, the state and the nation.
- Foster growth in student enrollment, student retention rates, academic programs and elevation of the academic success of students.
- Work effectively to continue the support from city, county, state and federal governmental entities.
- Ensure that the university continues to be a leader in regional economic development and will help to establish, direct and maintain excellent community relations.
- Be innovative and serve as the 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.
- Understand and address the needs and challenges of first generation and nontraditional student populations—and appreciate what it means to be an urban public research university.
- Support a diverse faculty, staff and student population, and encourage cultural diversity throughout the institution’s curriculum, activities and community involvement.
- Understand and promote the value of the full array of the university’s academic, research, scholarly, and creative programs and initiatives.
- Promote the establishment of K-12 and community college partnerships.
- 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 association.
- Advance and expand upon virtual/online and distance-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.
- Develop, advance and fortify alliances with business, industry, government, academia and community groups.
- Position the university to continue its successes in academic program development, and national and international prominence.
- Promote the role of collegiate athletics and its contribution to the life of a major public university and its communities.
PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

- A forward-thinking visionary and positive risk taker with a strong sense of urgency to advance the university’s mission.
- An economic driver—appreciating the impact that the university has on the economic climate of the city, state and region. An integrator of the university with the community.
- A passionate advocate for higher education, knowledgeable about key issues affecting public universities, including enrollment and retention strategies and innovation in education.
- An astute listener who makes it a priority to know the faculty, staff, students, and needs of the students and institution.
- An inspiring communicator with the skill and intuition necessary to hear, understand and unify multiple perspectives of the complex issues facing students, campuses and public higher education.
- An engaging and visible presence on campus and in the community—approachable by students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, the local community, and other friends of the university.
- A motivator who leads by inspiring commitment to the institution and its objectives.
- A collaborative leader and team player who can bring together varied constituencies for a common vision and purpose. A supporter of shared governance and decision-making.
- 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.
- Willing to advance the university’s vision and mission while embracing transparency and accountability.
- A change agent and experienced manager of change, who is industrious and resourceful, with an understanding of where resources exist and how to access and leverage them.
- Willing to foster and promote creativity and innovation, and recognize failure as a part of the growth process.
- Effective at delegating and working at a high strategic level, engendering trust in the leaders surrounding the President to perform with excellence and accountability.
- Compelling and energetic, with a demonstrated history of strategizing, charting a course and engaging multiple stakeholders.
- Willing to engage in, and skilled at, fundraising; has knowledge of large capital campaigns.
- A strong leader with the business acumen to oversee and orchestrate a large complex enterprise, along with understanding of how business supports higher education.
- An individual who possesses the financial sophistication required to manage a financially complex institution, ensuring proper administration of the financial affairs of the university, including accounting, financial oversight and financial report preparation functions.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF WSU WILL POSSESS:

- Strong interpersonal skills, with an open communication style, both written and spoken.
- The ability to build deep and lasting relationships with donors and the philanthropic community, articulating the case for supporting WSU with enthusiasm.
- A record of successful leadership experience in a complex environment, such as a research university.
- Clear evidence of creative problem solving, innovation and successful entrepreneurial activities and initiatives.
- A record of successful resource generation through means such as private and foundation fundraising, enrollment growth and the creation of new programs.
- A track record of creating distinctiveness within an organization.
- An earned doctorate, a comparable terminal degree or an equivalent combination of education and professional experience.
**Key Attractors:**

- An active, growing community with a rich history and great sense of pride and diversity. A place where the people are friendly and welcoming, where cost of living is low and where you will find something for everyone.
- A vibrant, innovative city, strong in education, engineering, health care, aviation, agriculture and oil and gas. A city that is a university “city” not a college “town.” Simply meaning that there are opportunities beyond imagination waiting here.
- This is a career-defining opportunity to serve as Chief Executive Officer for a financially stable, forward-thinking, prominent higher education institution to help position the university for even greater levels of achievement and innovation.
- Grasp the opportunity to lead a distinctive university that follows its own path rather than modeling another institution.
- The culture of the university and the community is one of a hands-on, sleeves-rolled-up work ethic characterized by students, staff and faculty who are committed to quality, creativity, innovation and efficiency in all endeavors. Here students go above and beyond and graduate with amazing success, in close partnership with WSU leaders who do the same.
- Faculty are talented, collegial and cooperative, are personally invested in the institution and community, know their students by name, and create an environment where they have a definitive positive impact on the lives of students.
- Enjoy a caring community, a renowned urban public research university, excellent healthcare, education, amenities and entertainment options that reflect the values of a family focused community. This is a community that celebrates tradition while looking to the future. Family members of all ages will find the elements that contribute to a safe and enjoyable lifestyle.

**The search committee invites applications, nominations and expressions of interest.**

Should you wish to participate in the search as a candidate, please submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: presidentwsu@whelesssearch.com

For more information, or to discuss this position, contact:
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