

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



WHITWORTH
UNIVERSITY

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Whitworth University, located in Spokane, Washington, invites applications and nominations for the Charles L. Boppell Dean of the School of Business. Whitworth is a nationally ranked, private liberal arts institution serving traditional-aged and adult undergraduates, graduate students and working professionals. The dean reports directly to the provost. Whitworth seeks a dean who will provide dynamic, proven leadership to anticipate business education of the future and continue to build Whitworth's reputation as one of the top Christian universities in the nation. The new dean's appointment will begin July 1, 2026.



ABOUT WHITWORTH

Founded in 1890, Whitworth University consistently ranks among the top colleges and universities in the West. With strong liberal arts undergraduate and graduate programs, Whitworth unites a robust commitment to Christian mission and service, academic rigor and care for students and others. A community of committed Christian faculty and staff carries out the university's mission "to provide its diverse student body an education of the mind and heart," equipping its graduates "to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity."

Whitworth enrolls over 2,000 undergraduate students in more than 100 majors. The University's commitment to its students is reflected in the 11-to-1 student to faculty ratio. Undergraduates come from 25 states and 37 countries (nearly 5 percent of the undergraduate population is international). Whitworth strives to enroll people of all backgrounds and has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award three times in recent years. In fall 2025 approximately 55 percent of undergraduate students are female and 31 percent are from Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color communities. Over one-third of undergraduates are first-generation college students or are Pell-eligible and, at Whitworth, 100 percent of first-year students receive financial aid. About 87 percent of bachelor's graduates finish within four years and 90+ percent of bachelor's graduates are employed or pursuing further education within nine months of graduation.

Whitworth University enrolls close to 373 students in two doctoral programs and 13 masters' degree programs, including three in the School of Business. The University also offers a variety of certifications and emphases to serve adults' career needs. Whitworth's Step-Up Program enables eligible senior undergraduates to earn credit toward a graduate degree. Graduate courses in business, education and fine arts offer the flexibility of online instruction.

Despite the financial turbulence affecting many private liberal arts colleges and universities, Whitworth is financially stable and well managed. With a total operating budget during this academic year of \$75M, Whitworth has

RECENT AWARDS & HONORS

- *U.S. News & World Report*, in its 2026 Best Colleges Rankings, named Whitworth University the No. 1 best value in the Northwest, No. 5 best value in the West, No. 11 best college for veterans and No. 15 best regional university.
- *Washington Monthly* named Whitworth one of the top 50 master's universities in the nation.
- The Princeton Review named Whitworth one of the 79 "Best in the West" college universities on the 2026 Best Colleges list.
- Whitworth was recognized as a Top-Ten Military Friendly® School as well as a Top Ten Military Spouse Friendly School for 2025-26 by Victory Media.
- Whitworth was named a 2026 Hidden Gem by College Raptor.
- Whitworth teams won three Northwest Conference championships in 2024-25 and claimed the McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy for overall athletic excellence. Whitworth has won the trophy 14 of the past 16 years and 15 times overall.
- Whitworth was a recipient of the 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.
- The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Whitworth as a Tree Campus USA® since 2018.

assets totaling nearly \$400 million and an endowment of approximately \$215 million.

The dean will benefit from the clear directions outlined in the university [strategic plan](#) created through a year-long collaborative process under the guidance of President Scott McQuilkin and the University Council. The five-year (2023-2028) plan is organized under four broad areas: Innovation & Learning, Human Flourishing, Financial Flourishing, and Story. Among the Innovation & Learning goals, the University is focused on strengthening collaborations across Whitworth's five academic units, developing non-credit bearing educational programs and growing online programs. Among other goals are promoting the wellbeing of students; enhancing inclusion and belonging; strengthening the collaboration across academic affairs and student life; developing new community partnerships; and growing its national and international standing as an unapologetically Christ-centered university.

Whitworth is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities, a status that was reaffirmed in 2018. The School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), with its last successful review was in fall of 2025.



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Whitworth's School of Business (WSB), with 15 faculty and 8 staff members, is a critically important division of the University. Of the 2,000 undergraduates currently enrolled at the University, 377 are majoring in business and economics areas. Of the 373 graduate/post-baccalaureate students, 92 are taking courses and earning degrees in business. WSB's faculty contribute to the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education arms of the University, making collaboration across the campus an essential part of the dean's responsibility and role. The School's faculty of dedicated teachers and scholars bring an average of 25 years of experience in the business world to their classrooms and mentoring of students.

The School's graduate degree programs are intended to meet the diverse needs of adults for a degree or specialized training. Most programs offer the flexibility of choosing online and in-person coursework; weekend intensives and overnight retreats add to the educational experience. WSB offers three masters' programs:

- Master of Business (MBA) can be earned through classes online or in-person meeting two evenings a week and through a nine-month accelerated, full-time program of study or over two years of part-time study. Students focus on one subject at a time with six-week modular courses. They may add concentrations with three additional courses in executive leadership, biblical stewardship, innovation and change management, strategic management, wealth management and comprehensive leadership.

- Master of Business Leadership (MBL) is the only leadership program available through an AACSB-accredited business school in the region; it combines business acumen and leadership development in an interdisciplinary context. The degree takes one year full-time and can be completed online or in-person and through courses customized to students' experience and career goals.
- The School's newest graduate degree, the Master of Science in Financial Planning (MSFP), educates students to serve individuals, families and companies as they prepare for a lifetime of financial well-being.

The University offers dual graduate programs that prepare health science graduates to understand the business of health care. Those earning a doctorate in physical therapy or occupational therapy may simultaneously earn an MBA or an MBL.

WSB also hosts two certificate programs related to executive leadership, one for women, and an Institute of Leadership, engaging participants in a three-part series of offsite weekend retreats located in scenic locations along the West Coast.

The undergraduate program, offered through the Department of Business and Economics, reflects a strong emphasis on values and ethics within a rigorous academic program. Undergraduates benefit from the faculty's close connections with business and professional communities across the nation and abroad, providing

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (CONT.)

internship, mentoring and service-learning opportunities to prepare students for meaningful and successful careers. Undergraduate majors include accounting, business management, economics, finance and marketing. Eligible seniors may enroll in graduate level business courses through the Step-Up program. Each year about 3-6 students from both undergraduate and continuing studies programs enroll, often continuing to complete their graduate degree at Whitworth. The dean has an opportunity to grow this number.

The School benefits from the Business Advisory Board (BAB), currently composed of 20 professionals from industries such as accounting, financial planning, law, biotechnology, real estate and education, among many more. The BAB meets with the dean two times a year and serves as a sounding board for new ideas and brings outside perspectives to the University. In addition to the BAB, three other advisory boards/councils contribute their expertise: a 14-member Finance Advisory Council (FAC) that advises on the School's finance curriculum, a 12-member Leadership Advisory Board that helps support the WSB's Institute of Leadership and a 15-member Financial Planning Advisory Board that specifically supports the Schools' Master of Science in Financial Planning (MSFP) degree.

HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT, FALL 2025

Degree Programs:

• Master of Business Administration	33
• Master of Business Leadership	16
• Master of Science-Financial Planning	21

Post-Baccalaureate Certificates 22

Declared Undergraduate Majors:

• Accounting	73
• Economics	27
• Finance	86
• Marketing	90
• Management	151



LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The campus leadership exemplifies the loyalty and commitment that Whitworth elicits in those connected with the institution. President Scott McQuilkin '84 assumed the presidency in 2022 following a long career at the University, starting as the head baseball coach and serving as director of athletics, vice president for institutional advancement and professor of kinesiology. Provost and Executive Vice President John Pell, who has served this post since May of 2024, joined Whitworth as an assistant professor of English, rising to dean of the College of Arts & Sciences in 2022. Along the way, he directed the University Writing Program and rose through the academic ranks to full professor.

The dean of the School of Business serves as a member of the Deans' Council, one of the provost's senior committees. Chaired by the Provost, the Deans' Council is an experienced, high-functioning group that collaborates well in serving the University's mission and goals.

Whitworth faculty, including WSB faculty, are governed through the faculty assembly which meets once a month throughout the academic year.

THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

The Whitworth University campus is filled with open green spaces and first-rate educational facilities in one of the most scenic regions of the United States. On a 200-acre campus in Spokane, Washington, the University's red-brick buildings are surrounded by magnificent tall pines and deciduous trees. In the last 10 years close to \$90 million has been expended for 11 campus improvement projects including the Cowles Music Center, Dana & David Dornsife Health Sciences Building and PACCAR Engineering Building. All new construction projects since 2010 are LEED certified, reflecting Whitworth's commitment to sustainability.

The School of Business is housed in Weyerhaeuser Hall, one of the primary classroom buildings on the campus. Weyerhaeuser also contains faculty offices, conference rooms, a 250-seat teaching theatre and the high-tech Bennett Family Student Investment Center.

Spokane is the second-largest city in Washington with metropolitan population of over 600,000. Spokane International Airport offers direct flights to 20 destinations throughout the country. The city has a vibrant downtown area with a renowned symphony, thriving arts community and a riverfront park. Residents enjoy the region's mountains, lakes and rivers and its four seasons offer a wealth of recreational activities such as mountain biking, climbing, swimming, boating, snowmobiling, skiing and hiking on its numerous trails. Spokane is located within 4-5 hours of three major national parks (Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Glacier) and the Canadian Rockies.

Spokane has excellent healthcare facilities and other top educational institutions close by. Besides several outstanding public school districts, educational options include highly ranked private schools, faith-based schools, and those with specialized programs in STEM and an entrepreneurial curriculum.



Sixty-two languages are spoken among the populace of Spokane, including the indigenous Salish languages, which the region is working to preserve. Spokane's NAACP Chapter, Hispanic Business/Professional Association, Latino Hope Foundation, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center, World Relief and other organizations support the growing multicultural population of the area.



THE POSITION: CHARLES L. BOPPELL DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Whitworth University seeks a creative dean who is an accomplished innovator and strong relation-centered leader. The incumbent will assume the title of the Charles L. Boppell Dean of the School of Business, a position endowed by the Boppell family in honor of Charles “Chuck” Boppell ‘65, a successful entrepreneur and long-time member of the Board of Trustees. The Boppell family has attended Whitworth for generations and the endowed deanship is just one example of their generosity and impact.

The salary range for this position is \$190,000-\$225,000.

The next dean will be joining a nimble University during a time of change and eager for an experienced collaborator to move the agenda forward. The dean reports to the provost and will partner with an experienced, dedicated staff including the assistant to the dean, program coordinator, associate director of internships and external relations, faculty administrator and director of Whitworth Online business programs, and four associate directors of graduate studies who support the various graduate, certificate and leadership programs. The dean will benefit from a faculty of rigorous scholars and devoted teachers who are eager to support the dean in advancing the School today and creating an even stronger School in the future.



LEADERSHIP AGENDA

Whitworth expects its next dean to:

- Position Whitworth to address the needs of business professionals today and to keep up with rapidly changing market demands in the future; lead the University and its faculty in identifying the skills and knowledge valued by employers, including the impact of AI; successfully implement needed changes to produce graduates valued by the employment markets they will enter.
- Building upon Whitworth's educational offerings, the dean will evaluate the educational needs of the local and regional community and how Whitworth might fill gaps with its undergraduate curriculum, graduate degree programs, certificates and other forms of professional education.
- Develop and shepherd partnerships with the regional business community and the larger world of business and industry, enhancing Whitworth's reputation and benefiting both the partner organizations and the University.
- Enhance students' career preparation through the curriculum and co-curriculum and by expanding connections to alumni and partner organizations.
- Be an effective fund-raiser and steward of existing and newly developed relationships.
- Collaborate across the campus to achieve Whitworth's strategic goals and honor its liberal arts mission.
- Be a person with demonstrated Christian faith who will help to integrate the values embodied by the University's mission to provide "an education of the mind and the heart" into the offerings within the Whitworth School of Business.

DESIRED QUALITIES AND EXPERIENCES

Whitworth is looking for a dean who will exhibit the following qualities:

- Dynamic, creative, strategic and innovative leadership, one who enjoys turning challenges into opportunities and works collaboratively across the institution to achieve common goals.
- Evidence of sustained and expanding leadership and management roles, including in budget management.
- Strong team-leader with a proven record of developing human resources on a path to success.
- Servant-leader, informed by the Christian faith, who with integrity and care will hold oneself and others accountable.
- Experience supporting and developing students, faculty and staff from varying backgrounds, helping them achieve success.
- Strong commitment to the value of a liberal arts education and its utility to all disciplines.
- Demonstrated success in developing and implementing educational programs for a wide range of learners, from students to professionals.
- Experience with assessment and accreditation; experience with AACSB requirements desired but not required.
- Prior success in business and industry.
- Scholarship and teaching commensurate with the earned rank of professor; candidates not currently in an academic position must demonstrate substantial knowledge of higher education challenges today and possess the ability to lead in a liberal arts university.



APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Academic Search is assisting Whitworth University in this search. The search will remain open until the position is filled. For full consideration by the Search Committee, candidates should submit all application materials by **January 25, 2026**.

Applications. Applicants should send three separate documents (in PDF format) to: WhitworthDean@academicsearch.org: (1) a detailed cover letter, addressed to the Search Committee, expressing interest in this position and addressing how you meet the qualifications as outlined in this profile, (2) a current resume/curriculum vitae, and (3) a statement of Christian faith, further clarification provided here: [faith statement](#). A list of references is not needed until later in the process. To learn more about this opportunity, potential applicants are welcome to schedule a conversation with the Senior Consultant for this search, Dr. Sharon Herzberger by requesting a call through WhitworthDean@academicsearch.org.

Nominations. Nominations are not required to be considered for this position. However, we welcome nominations from leaders who know of outstanding candidates. Nominations should be sent to WhitworthDean@academicsearch.org. Please include the nominee's full name, position, institution/organization, and email address. Academic Search will notify people of their nomination, provide details about the position, and encourage them to apply. Academic Search will not disclose the nominator.

Whitworth complies with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws that are applicable to religious nonprofit institutions and does not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, sex, or disability. With our Christ-centered commitment to building a diverse and inclusive community, the university encourages applications from populations underrepresented at Whitworth including members of racial/ethnic communities, women, and persons with disabilities.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Whitworth University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

