

# SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN FOR THE WELLSTAR COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE DR. BETTY L. SIEGEL DISTINGUISHED CHAIR  
IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS



**KENNESAW STATE**  
UNIVERSITY





## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Kennesaw State University (KSU) is seeking a visionary, collaborative, and strategic leader to assume the role of Dean for the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services (WCHHS) and the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Distinguished Chair in Health and Wellness.

Wellstar College was created for the purpose of transforming lives through its commitment and focus on the community's health, physical fitness, and human service needs. Comprised of three departments and a school plus the Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth, the College empowers students, faculty, and staff to thrive by fostering resilience, building confidence, and nurturing a commitment to lifelong learning that addresses the diverse needs of all learners. The Wellstar College of Health and Human Services offers a targeted and applied education as is demonstrated through the success of our graduates in the job market.

This exceptional opportunity invites a distinguished educator, scholar, and accomplished academic leader to contribute significantly to the College's ongoing success and expansion. Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ivan Pulinkala, the Dean will serve as the chief executive and academic officer for the College, responsible

for driving academic excellence through strategic, operational, and financial leadership, with a strong emphasis on student success and engagement.

The Dean will lead highly qualified faculty, dedicated staff, and an intellectually curious student body comprising approximately 6,852 undergraduate and 466 graduate students, supported by 407 faculty (140 full-time, 267 part-time), and 51 full-time and part-time staff.

The Dean will articulate and execute a compelling vision for the future trajectory of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services, leveraging remarkable leadership skills to continue expanding the College's influence and prominence.

Working closely with College Leadership, the Academic Deans' Council, and the Provost, the Dean will spearhead a strategy focused on elevating academic distinction, fostering student success, and deepening engagement. Furthermore, the Dean will enhance the College's research profile and secure its financial future through strategic development, innovative programmatic growth, and impactful partnerships across the University and beyond.

The Dean is expected to take office on July 1, 2026.



# KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

For over 60 years, Kennesaw State University has been recognized for its entrepreneurial spirit and strong sense of community. As a leader in innovative teaching and learning, KSU offers over 190 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees and certificates. With 11 colleges, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia and one of Georgia's largest universities serving over 50,000 students.

With high-impact research initiatives and NCAA Division I athletics, Kennesaw State University attracts students from across the region and around the world. As a member of the University System of Georgia and a Carnegie-designated R2 doctoral research institution, KSU is committed to becoming a world-class academic leader by broadening its academic and research missions and expanding its impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

Kennesaw State University is more than just a place to learn and work—KSU's vibrant culture, meaningful career opportunities, mission-driven values, and comprehensive benefits make KSU an employer of choice. Guided by core institutional values—respect, integrity, collaboration, inclusivity, and accountability—and aligned with the University System of Georgia's commitment to accountability, excellence, integrity, and respect, KSU is a student-centered, research-driven institution with a bold vision for the future.

In Fall 2024, the University launched a new strategic plan to guide its next chapter of growth and impact. To learn more, visit: [KSU Strategic Plan](#). For general information about the University, visit <https://kennesaw.edu/>.

## THE LOCATION

Kennesaw State University is located on two suburban campuses in Kennesaw and Marietta, approximately 30 minutes northwest of downtown Atlanta. The metro-Atlanta region is distinguished by its rich historical heritage and continues to grow as a dynamic hub of

culture, innovation, and opportunity. Due to KSU's unique location, faculty, staff, and students benefit from the advantages of both a suburban campus environment and direct access to the professional and cultural resources of a major urban center.





## ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

### DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE AND SPORT MANAGEMENT

The Department of Exercise and Sport Management has 1,722 students and 39 faculty (28 full-time and 11 part-time). The Department offers a B.S. in Exercise Science, a B.S. in Sport Management, a M.S. in Exercise Science and a M.S. in Prosthetics and Orthotics as well as a minor in Nutritional Science. Plans are currently underway for a new Center for Research on Human Sport Performance and Wellbeing.

<https://kennesaw.edu/wellstar/academics/exercise-science-sport-management/>

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education has 3,373 students and 49 faculty (20 full-time and 29 part-time). The Department offers three undergraduate programs in Health and Physical Activity Leadership, Integrated Health Science, and Public Health. The Department also offers minors in Coaching and Public Health.

<https://kennesaw.edu/wellstar/academics/health-promotion-physical-education/>

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Social Work and Human Services has 929 students and 48 faculty (15 full-time and 33 part-time). The Department has diverse academic pathways that include an undergraduate in Human Services and a Master of Social Work in addition to specialized programs of study and two minors (Child Advocacy Studies and Nonprofit Management and Social Innovation).

<https://kennesaw.edu/wellstar/academics/social-work-human-services/>

### WELLSTAR SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Wellstar School of Nursing (WSN) has 1,264 students and 271 faculty (77 full-time and 194 part-time). WSN has one of the nation's largest in person Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs that delivers exceptional education experiences that prepare workforce ready professionals. In addition to undergraduate education, WSN offers two Master's of Science in Nursing programs, a Family Nurse Practitioner, a Leadership in Nursing with an Educator track, a Nursing Administration track, and a Psychiatric Mental Health Post Master's Nurse Practitioner certificate.

<https://www.kennesaw.edu/wellstar/academics/nursing/>

### ACADEMY FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND SOCIAL GROWTH

*The Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth has 30 students. The Academy offers a fully inclusive post-secondary college education and experience to students with different intellectual or developmental abilities who do not meet higher-education requirements for admission as a degree-seeking student. The Academy is comprised of two certificate programs that work in conjunction: the Academic, Social, and Career Enrichment (ASCE) program and the Advanced Leadership and Career Development (ALCD) Program.*

<https://kennesaw.edu/wellstar/academics/academy/>





## LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The Dean of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services provides strategic leadership and academic, administrative, and financial oversight of the College. This impactful role encompasses strategic planning, instruction and research support, advocating for resources, astute budget preparation and management, faculty and staff support, curriculum development, external collaborations, donor development, and fundraising.

Serving as the College's chief executive and academic officer, the Dean will ensure its enduring vitality and success by actively engaging with the wider community to champion excellence in health and human services education and practice. The Dean manages a \$24.3 million operating budget and will be expected to cultivate fundraising relationships, inspire talented faculty to pioneer new academic programs and expand research endeavors, thereby fostering the College's holistic growth.

The incoming Dean will guide a college distinguished by its committed faculty, staff, and students toward achieving full potential and national prominence. This leader will navigate a complex landscape of opportunities and challenges, positioning WCHHS as a premier destination for health and human services education while addressing critical workforce needs in Georgia and beyond.

### **ARTICULATE AND IMPLEMENT A BOLD STRATEGIC VISION**

The next Dean will inherit a college with significant momentum and potential, presenting an opportunity to craft and execute an innovative vision for WCHHS. This vision must be both aspirational and actionable, positioning the College as a national leader in both health and human services education and research while addressing the evolving needs of students and professional communities.

The Dean will work collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that builds upon the College's existing strengths while identifying new frontiers for growth and innovation. This includes evaluating current program portfolios, identifying emerging fields and interdisciplinary opportunities, and creating pathways for academic and research excellence that align with KSU's R2 research designation and the University's broader strategic goals.

Central to this vision is the need to differentiate WCHHS in an increasingly competitive landscape. The Dean will articulate what makes the College unique—its strong community partnerships, its emphasis on practical application, and its innovative programs like the Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth. This leader will serve as the College's chief storyteller and advocate, compelling internal and external audiences with a clear narrative about WCHHS's distinctive value proposition and future trajectory.

The strategic vision must also address the critical need for continued workforce development in health and human services fields, particularly in Georgia and the Southeast. The Dean will analyze labor market trends, healthcare system evolution, and emerging societal needs to ensure program relevance and graduate employability. This includes exploring opportunities in telehealth, community health, aging services, behavioral health, and other high-demand areas.

### **CHAMPION ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION**

Academic excellence forms the cornerstone of the Dean's leadership agenda. This encompasses not only maintaining high standards across all programs but also fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in curriculum design, pedagogy, and student learning outcomes.

## LEADERSHIP AGENDA (CONT)

The Dean will lead efforts to enhance the College's academic reputation through strategic program development, including the potential launch of new undergraduate and graduate programs that address emerging market needs. This may include exploring doctoral offerings, online and hybrid delivery modalities, and specialized certificate programs that serve working professionals and non-traditional students.

Innovation in teaching and learning will be a priority, with the Dean supporting faculty in adopting cutting-edge pedagogical approaches, technology integration, and experiential learning opportunities. This includes expanding clinical placements, internship programs, community partnerships, and service-learning initiatives that provide students with real-world experience while serving community needs.

The Dean will also champion interdisciplinary collaboration, both within the College and across KSU, recognizing that today's health and human services challenges require integrated approaches. This may involve developing joint programs, shared research initiatives, and collaborative learning experiences that prepare students for the complexity of contemporary professional practice.

Quality assurance and accreditation management will remain critical responsibilities, with the Dean ensuring that all programs meet or exceed professional standards and maintain necessary accreditations. This includes staying current with evolving accreditation requirements and leading continuous improvement efforts based on assessment data and stakeholder feedback.

### **STRENGTHEN RESEARCH ENTERPRISE AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY**

As KSU continues its evolution as an R2 research university, the Dean will play a pivotal role in elevating WCHHS's research profile and scholarly productivity. This requires both strategic vision and tactical execution to support faculty research endeavors while building the infrastructure necessary for sustained growth.

The Dean will develop and implement a comprehensive research strategy that aligns with the College's mission and KSU's institutional priorities. This includes identifying areas of research strength and potential, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration, both internal and external, and creating pathways for faculty to engage in high-impact research that addresses real-world challenges in health and human services.

Infrastructure development will be essential, including advocating for research space, equipment, and support services that enable faculty success. The Dean will work to establish or expand research centers and institutes that create focal points for scholarly activity and external collaboration. The Dean will champion efforts to increase external funding, supporting faculty in grant-writing activities and developing partnerships with funding agencies, foundations, and industry partners.

Student involvement in research and scholarly activity will be prioritized, with the Dean supporting undergraduate research programs, graduate research opportunities, and pathways for students to engage in faculty-led investigations. This not only enhances the educational experience but also builds the pipeline of future scholars and practitioners in health and human services fields.

The Dean will also support diverse forms of scholarship, recognizing that excellence in health and human services may be demonstrated through traditional research, practice-based inquiry, community-engaged scholarship, and innovative program development.

### **FORGE STRATEGIC EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS**

The success of health and human services education depends heavily on strong partnerships with healthcare systems, social service organizations, government agencies, community groups, and international entities. The Dean will strategically expand and deepen these relationships to create mutual benefits for students, faculty, and community partners.

Healthcare partnerships will be essential, particularly given the College's highly focused academic and research areas on human health and its systems. Community partnerships will extend the College's reach into addressing local health and social challenges as well as creating service-learning opportunities, research partnerships, and pathways for student employment upon graduation.

Regional and national professional organizations represent another critical partnership category for the Dean to engage actively with professional associations, accrediting bodies, and industry groups. Economic development partnerships will position the College as a contributor to regional workforce development and innovation. International partnerships may also present opportunities for student and faculty exchange, comparative research, and global perspective development.

## LEDEARSHIP AGENDA (CONT)

### **DRIVE INNOVATION IN STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Student success represents the ultimate measure of the College's effectiveness, and the Dean will implement comprehensive strategies to enhance student recruitment, retention, progression, and post-graduation outcomes. This requires both data-driven decision-making and innovative approaches to student support.

The Dean will analyze student success data to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. This includes examining enrollment patterns, retention rates, graduation rates, employment outcomes, and other metrics that indicate program effectiveness. Technology integration will be leveraged to enhance student engagement and success, including the use of early warning systems, personalized learning platforms, and other technological tools that support student learning and persistence.

Student engagement will be enhanced through expanded experiential learning opportunities, including internships, clinical placements, research experiences, and service-learning projects. The Dean will work to ensure that all students have access to high-impact educational practices that enhance learning and career preparation. Career services and alumni engagement will be strengthened to improve post-graduation outcomes and create ongoing relationships with graduates.

### **ADVANCE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Dean will ensure the College's financial health through strategic resource management, revenue diversification, and aggressive fundraising efforts. This requires both operational excellence and entrepreneurial vision to create new opportunities for financial support.

Budget management will be conducted with transparency and strategic focus, ensuring that resources are allocated in ways that maximize impact on student success, faculty excellence, and program quality. The Dean will implement data-driven budgeting processes that align spending with strategic priorities and demonstrate accountability to stakeholders.

Fundraising will represent a major component of the Dean's external engagement activities. This includes cultivating relationships with individual donors, foundations, corporations, and government agencies. The Dean will work closely with KSU's advancement team to develop and execute comprehensive fundraising strategies.

Grant-seeking will be supported and encouraged, both for research activities and program development. The Dean will help faculty and staff identify funding opportunities and provide support for proposal development and submission.

Cost management will be pursued through operational efficiencies, strategic partnerships, and innovative delivery methods that reduce costs while maintaining quality. This may include shared services arrangements, technology adoption, and process improvements that enhance productivity.

### **ENSURE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE**

The Dean will provide exemplary leadership in all aspects of College governance and administration, creating systems and processes that support transparency, accountability, and shared decision-making while ensuring operational effectiveness and maintaining academic integrity and mission alignment.

Shared governance will be strengthened through clear communication channels. The Dean will work collaboratively with department chairs, faculty committees, and staff groups. Faculty and staff development will be prioritized, with the Dean creating opportunities for professional growth, leadership development, and career advancement.

Risk management and compliance will be maintained at the highest levels, with the Dean ensuring that all College activities comply with university policies, professional standards, and regulatory requirements.







## THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

The University is seeking an inspiring, intellectually curious, and entrepreneurial leader to guide the College toward a dynamic future. The new Dean will uphold the highest academic standards, possess a distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and service; and demonstrate strong management and leadership abilities, with a commitment to transparency and shared governance. Additionally, the Dean will have strong communication skills, entrepreneurial drive, and the ability to effectively represent the College to local, national, and international audiences. A proven track record of leadership experience within a university setting is essential for this role.

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Credentials to hold an appointment at the **rank of a tenured full professor** in a department within the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services
- SACSCOC qualifications to teach in WCHHS
- A terminal degree or the foreign equivalent
- Hold the rank of a tenured full professor at their current institution
- A distinguished record of achievement in scholarship, teaching, and service
- Documented success in academic leadership with significant administrative academic leadership as Dean, Associate Dean, Department Chair/School Director, Director, or other significant academic leadership position

### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

In addition to meeting the required qualifications, the successful candidate will exemplify many of the following preferred qualifications and characteristics:

- A flexible strategist with a record of successful leadership and the ability to develop and implement a bold vision for the future of the College

- Evidence of instructional and research effectiveness within an R2 doctoral university setting
- Cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary administrative experience including significant budgetary, personnel, and programmatic innovation and experimentation
- Evidence of building strong leadership teams to implement strategic initiatives across and within the College, and evidence of working collaboratively with stakeholders
- Demonstrated accomplishment in fostering excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching, learning and student success including retention and graduation rates
- Ability to foster external relations activities by cultivating relationships with alumni, individual donors, corporations, and other stakeholders while collaborating with local, statewide, national, and international professional communities
- Capability to work with enrollment management to strengthen student enrollment and recruitment
- Capability to identify, recruit and retain strong leadership and faculty
- Evidence of strong advocacy on behalf of students, chairs, faculty, and staff members
- Strong evidence of teaching, practice, and research represented within the Wellstar College
- Demonstrated experience overseeing large, complex budgets, fiscal matters, strategic planning, personnel management and program accreditation
- Strong communicator and commitment to openness, collaboration and shared decision-making
- A dynamic and visible leader who can catapult the college into its next phase of growth and development





## PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND APPLICATION

Kennesaw State University has retained Academic Search., a national executive search firm, to assist the Dean of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services Search Committee in its identification and review of candidates.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. While applications will be accepted until the position is filled, interested parties are encouraged to transmit their materials by December 1, 2025 for full consideration. Applications should include (as separate PDFs) (1) a current CV; (2) a thoughtful letter of interest addressing, as appropriate, the key responsibilities and qualifications outlined in this profile; and (3) contact information for five references.

Maya Ranchod Kirkhope, Vice President and Senior Consultant, and Rodney Clark, Senior Consultant, with Academic Search are assisting with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be sent electronically via email to the University's search consultants at [KennesawWCHHSDean@academicsearch.org](mailto:KennesawWCHHSDean@academicsearch.org).

For more information about Kennesaw State University, please visit <https://kennesaw.edu/>

For the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services, please visit <https://kennesaw.edu/wellstar/>

Kennesaw State University is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. The University is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment

of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment, pregnancy, and medical conditions related to pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran or military status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community.

For additional information on this policy or to file a complaint under the provisions of this policy, students, employees, applicants for employment or admission or other third parties should contact the Office of Institutional Equity at English Building, Suite 225. [eeo@kennesaw.edu](mailto:eeo@kennesaw.edu).

### USG Core Values Statement

*The University System of Georgia is comprised of our 26 institutions of higher education and learning, as well the System Office. Our USG Statement of Core Values are Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. These values serve as the foundation for all that we do as an organization, and each USG community member is responsible for demonstrating and upholding these standards. More details on the USG Statement of Core Values and Code of Conduct are available in USG Board Policy 8.2.18.1.2 and can be found on-line at [https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section8/C224/#p8.2.18\\_personnel\\_conduct](https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section8/C224/#p8.2.18_personnel_conduct)*

*Additionally, USG supports Freedom of Expression as stated in Board Policy 6.5 Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom found on-line at <https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2653>.*

# ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Kennesaw State 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.

