

SEARCH PROFILE:

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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Nebraska Wesleyan University seeks nominations and applications for the position of Vice President for Finance and Administration. As the University's chief financial officer, this is an outstanding opportunity to serve a highly regarded independent institution with strong finances and to partner with a dynamic president in a vibrant university city recognized for affordability and quality-of-life.

The VPFA is a key member of the president's leadership team, the Administrative Council, with a broad portfolio of responsibilities that impact the entire institution, including finances and budget, facilities, campus security, human resources and information technology. As a key member of the President's senior leadership team, the VPFA plays a vital role in advancing Nebraska Wesleyan's mission to provide a transformative, personalized education that prepares students for lives of learning, service, leadership and success. The VPFA collaborates closely with the President, the Administrative Council and the Board of Governors in annual budgeting and long-term financial planning. This position is instrumental in executing the University's multi-year strategic plan, particularly with strategic financial investments in campus facilities, academic programs, personnel, and student experiences.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced and creative professional to help shape the future of Nebraska Wesleyan University.



NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a thriving, comprehensive, liberal arts-based institution with approximately 1,600 traditional and graduate students. Its academic programs are rooted in an enduring commitment to excellence; a belief in the power of personal attention; and a strong tradition of shared governance. Chartered by Methodists in 1887, Nebraska Wesleyan has an ongoing, beneficial relationship today with the United Methodist Church.

Nebraska Wesleyan offers five baccalaureate degrees—Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing—and five master's degrees—Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, a joint MSN/MBA, Master of Social Work and Master of Athletic Training.

Students choose from over 130 majors, minors, and pre-professional programs. The general education Archway Curriculum ensures that every student has an experience-rich education through internships, research projects, service learning or study abroad. The curriculum integrates learning across disciplinary boundaries, enhances learning through non-classroom experiences, and weaves skill development throughout the academic program. Nebraska Wesleyan's curriculum has been nationally recognized as a progressive model of liberal arts learning for the 21st century.

Nebraska Wesleyan's full-time faculty numbers around 100; 92% percent of the faculty hold a terminal degree in their field. With a student-faculty ratio of 13:1 and an average class size of 14, the University is known for a rigorous and nurturing learning environment, enhanced by the faculty's deserved reputation for exceptionally effective teaching and mentoring.

Nebraska Wesleyan has received recognition in *U.S. News & World Report*, which has placed NWU in the Regional Universities-Midwest category and has also been recognized favorably by *The Princeton Review*, *Forbes*, *Colleges of Distinction*, *Washington Monthly*, and *Money Magazine*, as well as being named a military-friendly school.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Nebraska Wesleyan has consistently maintained a strong financial position because of conservative financial leadership and steady enrollment. As an independent, nonprofit university, revenues from students (tuition, room, board and fees) account for 85% of the \$40 million operating budget. Nebraska Wesleyan has a low and manageable debt burden totaling \$8 million and consistent break-even or slightly positive annual operating results. Nebraska Wesleyan's U.S. Department of Education's Financial Responsibility Test – Composite Financial Index (CFI) score is 3.0 for 2023-24, the maximum score possible. (A score between 1.5 to 3.0 is an institution that is considered financially responsible.) NWU's CFI score has been within this range for over two decades. The University's auditors have issued an unqualified opinion of the annual audited financial statements with no findings in the most recent audit report.

Net assets of Nebraska Wesleyan are strong at \$161 million, and the endowment has grown from \$56 million to \$83 million over the past decade.

In November 2024, the administration proposed to the Board of Governors a set of bold investments to help grow enrollment and revenue. These initiatives include enhanced marketing through a premier higher education marketing and branding agency; hiring nine full-time assistant coaches to help grow athletic rosters and increase retention among student athletes; and support of a capital campaign for a new academic building through investing in the Advancement Department.

The University's ongoing strategic plan includes two significant building projects. Centennial Hall, NWU's largest residence hall, is tentatively scheduled for a major renovation to begin May 2026. In January 2025, the Board of Governors approved the start of a capital campaign to fund a new Nursing, Health Science & Wellness Building. The 58,000 square-foot, two-story building will house the Nursing Department, Health & Human Performance Department and Student Health & Counseling Services. The University recently dedicated its premier, turfed baseball and softball stadiums, located at the new Sandhills Global Youth Complex. These new championship fields are among the best in the region.



THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Vice President for Finance and Administration oversees and supervises the administrative division --including financial management and reporting, human resources, computer services, physical plant, grounds, and security functions, as well as certain administrative services. The VPFA coordinates the budget development process and monitors compliance with all university budgets. Additional responsibilities are the university's risk insurance coverage, campus security system and all renovation and building projects. As a member of the President's Administrative Council, the VPFA assists the President in overall management of the University's physical, financial and human resources.

Primary responsibilities:

- Oversees and supervises the administrative division including financial, student receivables, human resources, computer services, physical plant, grounds, and security functions. Approves and monitors budgets. Approves major purchases. Evaluates programs and makes recommendations for improvement. Develops and supervises implementation of new programs and functions.
- Communicates regularly and transparently with the President and Board of Governors.
- Assists the Board of Governors in determining policy as it relates to the administrative division. Makes proposals and recommendations, and supervises the implementation of policy.
- Serves as the University's official contractor. Negotiates all contracted services on behalf of the University, including food service, bookstore, physical plant renovation, and purchasing of major equipment and services.
- Liaison between University and endowment managers. Responsible for the University's investment of liquid and/or current funds.
- Selects, supervises, mentors and evaluates administrative division directors;
- Oversees all physical plant and grounds renovation and construction projects;
- Responsible for the University's risk insurance coverage. Monitors coverage amounts and premiums, acts as University's plan administrator;
- Helps lead the University's Threat Assessment Team.

THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CONT.)

Competitive candidates will have the following **preferred competencies and qualifications**:

- A commitment to intellectual and personal growth within the context of liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern consistent with Nebraska Wesleyan's mission and vision;
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication and interpersonal skills;
- Knowledge of accepted accounting rules and procedures, investment policies and legal aspects of accounting and financial functions;
- Experience with management of major facilities projects;
- Data savvy, strategically deft, with the ability to proactively analyze, interpret, and articulate information in a manner that educates, informs, and engages others.
- Excellent supervisory, management, and organizational development skills;
- Experience as an effective leader and energetic motivator of teams and people with a history of progressively increasing responsibilities and success in planning, supervising, and execution;



- Personal leadership qualities suitable to collaborating with a strong group of vice presidents and other campus partners.

A bachelor's degree in business, accounting or finance; CPA or equivalent experience; and at least seven years' experience in financial and institutional administrative experience is required for this position.

The Vice President for Finance and Administration reports to President Darrin Good. VPFA direct reports are the University's Controller, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Assistant Vice President and Director of Physical Plant and Chief Information Officer. A total of 59 employees serve under the VPFA's supervision.

Nebraska Wesleyan University offers a competitive salary and a [comprehensive benefits package](#).

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP: DR. DARRIN GOOD

Well-respected by both the campus and broader community, Dr. Darrin Good was appointed 17th President of Nebraska Wesleyan University effective July 1, 2019.

Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Good served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the faculty at Whittier College. At Whittier, Dr. Good was responsible for 20 academic departments with 130 full-time faculty and several offices supporting the academic mission of the institution.

Prior to Whittier College, Dr. Good served as the Associate Provost and Dean of Science and Education at Gustavus

Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota (2012-2015). Prior to that he was a biology professor at his alma mater, Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he assumed various administrative roles related to service learning, leadership, governance, and admissions. While at Augustana, Good was chosen by the graduating class six times to present the year's *Last Lecture Address*, among the school's highest teaching and mentoring honors.

Dr. Good earned his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology from Augustana College and his master's degree and Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kansas.

THE GOOD LIFE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The state's capital, Lincoln, Nebraska, is a vibrant and welcoming city known for its friendly community, affordable living, and thriving cultural scene. Lincoln boasts a dynamic economy, safe neighborhoods, and a reputation as one of the happiest and healthiest cities in the United States. With

the cost of living below the national average and highly ranked public schools, Lincoln is an ideal place to work and call home. More information on the Lincoln community can be found [here](#).



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to NWUVPFA@academicsearch.org. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting: Dr. Stuart Dorsey, Senior Consultant, Stuart.Dorsey@academicsearch.org.

All applications should consist of:

- A current CV/resume.
- A cover letter.
 - The cover letter should be responsive to the mission and vision of Nebraska Wesleyan University as well as the information in this profile.
 - Applicants should address how one or more of [NWU's Core Values](#) align with their personal values and characteristics and/or how they would contribute to them at NWU.
- A list of five professional references.
 - That includes contact information and a brief description explaining the working relationship of each to the applicant.
 - References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until the successful candidate has been selected. Academic Search, Inc. is supporting Nebraska Wesleyan in this search. Interested applicants should contact NWUVPFA@academicsearch.org for more information about the application timeline.

Nebraska Wesleyan University provides equal educational and employment opportunities to qualified persons in all areas of university operation without regard to religion or creed, age, genetic information, gender identity and expression, sexual identity and orientation, veteran status, disability, marital status, race, or national or ethnic origin, in compliance with state and federal laws, including but not limited to Title XII, Title IX, and the ADA. E-Verify, EOE.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Nebraska Wesleyan 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.

