THE SEARCH FOR THE INAUGURAL DEAN OF THE WHITWORTH COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of Whitworth University announces the search for the inaugural Dean of the Whitworth College of Arts and Sciences. With the endorsement of the faculty and university board of trustees, Whitworth University has established the College of Arts and Sciences to bring focus and vitality to the liberal arts mission of the university and to equip the college with the leadership needed to achieve the goals outlined in the university’s strategic plan.

An Education of Mind and Heart

Mission Statement

Whitworth University is a private, residential, liberal-arts institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Whitworth’s mission is to provide its diverse student body an education of mind and heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity. This mission is carried out by a community of Christian scholars committed to excellent teaching and to the integration of faith and learning.

Core Values

Since 1890, Whitworth University has held fast to its founding mission to provide its students an education of mind and heart characterized by rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and the integration of Christian faith and learning. Anchored in the Reformed tradition, and enriched throughout its history by strong evangelical and ecumenical currents, Whitworth’s mission is carried out by a diverse community of dedicated Christian scholars and staff members who are called to a variety of vocations to serve and support students. Whitworth believes the best learning occurs in the context of relationship – inside and outside of the classroom – where professors and staff members alike invest in the lives of students. Whitworth is committed to modeling the highest standards of integrity and fairness and to being a trusted and valued member of the community. As a Christian liberal-arts university, Whitworth:

- Provides an education of mind and heart that equips our diverse student body to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity;
- Prepares undergraduate and graduate students with an interdisciplinary education firmly rooted in the liberal arts and sciences;
Develops students' understanding of personal responsibility, justice, and love of neighbor in a global and inclusive university community, working for reconciliation and healing in a broken world; and
Builds a community of Christian scholars characterized by shared commitments to Christ, academic excellence, freedom of inquiry, and respect for difference.

A Decade of Growth and Achievement

Whitworth University launches the search for the new dean in a position of strength following a decade of significant growth and achievement. Whitworth has been ranked every year since 2001 in the top 10 of U.S. News & World Reports' rankings of best universities and is ranked #2 in the best values among regional universities in the Western U.S. Whitworth also has been ranked consistently by Kiplinger's as one of the top 50 private university values in the U.S. and has been recognized for excellence by Forbes, The Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction, and the Center for Student Opportunity.

Demand for a Whitworth education has grown significantly over the past decade; freshman applications have increased by 440 percent to 7,024 – nearly 12 applications for every available spot in the 2011 freshman class. During the same period, full-time traditional enrollment increased by 38 percent to 2,167 students, and, buoyed by growth in graduate and continuing studies programs, total enrollment grew nearly 37 percent to 2,886 students. Freshman-sophomore retention and graduation rates reached record highs well above national averages. Enrollment growth made it possible to expand facilities, academic and student life programs, and faculty and staff. With the completion of the 63,000-square-foot Robinson Science Hall, more than $90 million in campus improvements have been completed since 2000, significantly enhancing the grounds and the quality of academic and residential facilities.

Whitworth has hired 58 percent of its current faculty during the past decade, infusing new energy and expertise into the university's academic programs and its distinctive approach to faith-learning integration. Likewise, the university has built upon its historic strengths in student leadership development, co-curricular programs and study abroad; its first international center opened in Costa Rica in 2010. Whitworth has been recognized nationally for its excellence in a number of areas. Over the past few years, the university was named a top producer of Fulbright scholars, The Whitworthian was honored as the top non-daily student newspaper in the country by the Society of Professional Journalists, the university was selected to receive the Award for Advancing Racial Harmony by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities for its distinctive Act VI scholars program, and the Pirates had seven NCAA teams finish in the top 20 nationally while winning the award for the best athletics program in the Northwest Conference for the fourth year in a row.

Whitworth in 2021: The University Vision

In the spring of 2011 Whitworth University concluded its community-wide strategic planning process under the leadership of its new president, Beck A. Taylor. Upon unanimous ratification by the board of trustees, the university articulated the following vision for the year 2021:
Whitworth University will deepen its commitments to academic excellence and the integration of Christian faith and learning, equipping graduates to respond to God’s call on their lives with intellectual competence, moral courage and deep compassion. Expanded student opportunities for experiential learning, intercultural engagement and postgraduate preparation will elevate Whitworth’s standing as one of the finest Christian liberal arts universities in the country.

Whitworth 2021, the strategic plan for Whitworth University, articulates eight major goals for the university including the following passages from the plan which pertain directly to the establishment of the College of Arts and Sciences:

The Vision of the Whitworth College of Arts and Sciences
The establishment of the Whitworth College of Arts and Sciences brings energy and focus to the education of mind and heart characteristic of a Whitworth education. The college of arts and sciences is where the community of Christian scholars seeks to live out the paradoxical values of Christ-centeredness and fearless intellectual curiosity. The college bears primary responsibility for providing an education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and committed to the integration of faith and learning. In keeping with Whitworth’s educational principles, this education seeks to develop intellectual, relational, and professional skills and foster a faithful response to God, cultivate individual character, work for just relationships with others, and demonstrate responsible care for the creation. Over the next ten years, the Dean of Whitworth College will collaborate with faculty to realize these outcomes for students from across the university. The college consists of 122 faculty, supports the general education of students for the entire undergraduate program, and offers 41 majors in the following departments:

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<td>Math &amp; Computer Science</td>
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In addition to these departments, the College of Arts and Sciences is also home to Whitworth’s innovative interdisciplinary programs including, the U.S. Cultural Studies program, and the Women and Gender Studies program, and the Core program. Core courses are interdisciplinary, thematic courses designed to acquaint Whitworth students with the definitions and implications of Christian and non-Christian worldviews. All full-time matriculated day students are required to take Core 150 (Christian Worldview Perspectives), Core 250 (The Rationalist Worldview), and Core 350 (Applied Ethics, Public Policy and Worldviews) as part of the general graduation requirements.

Critical Elements of the Academic Vision

The following elements of the academic vision from the strategic plan will also inform the academic leadership agenda of the Whitworth College Dean of Arts and Sciences:
Traditional Undergraduate Programs

Demonstrating a commitment to comprehensive and sustainable excellence, Whitworth will stabilize its full-time, matriculated day enrollment at approximately 2,300 students. The living and learning environment on campus will be enriched by a student body that increasingly reflects the racial/ethnic diversity of the U.S. population, that includes 50 percent of its members from outside the state of Washington, and that welcomes at least 100 international students from among 30 or more countries. Continued growth in student demand, coupled with focused financial-aid strategies and new initiatives to attract high-achieving students, will enable the university to achieve admissions goals for academic quality (measured in part by an average SAT of 1850 and average GPA of 3.75) and demographic profile, and to enroll students who embrace and advance Whitworth's unique mind-and-heart mission.

Whitworth will offer a rigorous general education core, grounded in the liberal arts and explored through the lens of Christian faith, that provides an excellent foundation for approximately 50 academic majors located in the School of Education, School of Global Commerce and Management, School of Continuing Studies, and the newly formed College of Arts and Sciences. Where appropriate to address competitive or educational objectives, academic programs will achieve and/or sustain the highest level of accreditation in their disciplines. While strengthening intellectual vitality across the campus, the university will place special emphasis on supporting interdisciplinary programs and scholarship and on enhancing the quality and capacity of its academic programs. Excellence will be sustained and strengthened in programs that bring national recognition to the university, such as education, forensics (debate), intercollegiate athletics, journalism, music and theology.

Graduate Programs

Whitworth will be the university-of-choice in its market for graduate programs in business, education and theology. Sustained enrollment growth will be achieved through innovation in the scope and format of existing programs, and by strategic expansion into academic areas that advance Whitworth's mission and that demonstrate high market demand.

Continuing Studies Programs

Whitworth will elevate its position as the recognized leader for bachelor's degree programs serving non-traditional learners in the Inland Northwest. Continuing Studies will continue to increase its enrollment at an average rate of 5 percent or more per year. Planned growth will be achieved through expansion of program offerings and strategic development of off-site locations that meet market demand and fit well with Whitworth's educational mission.

Effective Teaching and Learning

Whitworth will deepen connections to the liberal arts across the curriculum and will strengthen students' understanding of a liberal arts education integrated with Christian faith and character development as uniquely designed to encourage lifelong learning, principled leadership, and meaningful service to society and one's profession. Informed by the latest developments in neuroscience and learning technology, Whitworth will implement a vision for teaching and learning in the 21st century that encourages robust intellectual engagement between and among students and faculty and that expands experiential learning opportunities such as internships, service learning, research, and study abroad. By 2021, Whitworth will rank among the top ten master’s-
level universities in the U.S. in study-abroad participation, with at least 70 percent of its traditional undergraduates participating in cross-cultural study experiences.

**Diversity in a Global Context**
The university will empower a mission-driven educational program that cultivates in students, faculty, staff, and trustees the capacity to work effectively across multiple dimensions of human diversity. Whitworth will achieve and sustain a level of excellence that emphasizes the deep truth, love and grace of the Gospel, contributing to an inclusive and diverse community and a thriving environment for learning, working, and living. Initially, special emphasis will be placed on issues of intercultural competency and equity related to gender, race and ethnicity. Whitworth will make steady progress toward achieving gender parity and reflecting the racial/ethnic diversity of the U.S. population among its employees. Our students also live in an increasingly interdependent world. They must be able to cross international boundaries and navigate politics, cultures, economics, religions and languages with skill and understanding if they are to serve and lead in an ever-evolving global community. Whitworth will equip its students with the knowledge, skills and insight they need to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly as global citizens.

**Spiritual Life**
Whitworth will equip all students to explore, discern and respond to God's call on their lives. In a continuing effort to support the spiritual health and development of all members of the campus community, the university will expand the number and variety of small groups available to students for faith exploration and growth, and will engage students, faculty and staff in formal and informal worship and in community service and outreach. As a function of its educational and theological identity, Whitworth will nurture a community of scholars and staff members from diverse Christian faith traditions and will welcome and respect all students, regardless of faith background, who seek to join our community.