

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT
[NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY](#)

Lincoln, Nebraska



The Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with Nebraska Wesleyan University in the search for a Vice President for Advancement.

The Vice President for Advancement will play a leadership role in the transformation of Nebraska Wesleyan University's culture of philanthropy through the implementation of a strategic fundraising program, including a comprehensive resources campaign. The Vice President will design and lead development programs that strengthen Nebraska Wesleyan's resource base while engaging alumni, parents, friends, corporate and foundation leaders, church partners, and community leaders. The Vice President will manage all development offices including the Archway Fund (annual giving), planned and capital giving, externally funded grants, stewardship, research, and development support services. The Vice President will partner with the President and the Board of Governors to establish productive relationships with leadership donors and volunteers. Furthermore, the Vice President will design, implement, and launch a comprehensive campaign that will secure support for Nebraska Wesleyan's strategic priorities and serve as an opportunity to set new standards and expectations for the philanthropic culture of the University—preparing and training a generation of volunteer leaders; broadening the leadership donor base; integrating all components of the advancement program; expanding the engagement of alumni and friends; upgrading the professional donor-research capability; and improving database management, reporting, and other development services.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a thriving, growing comprehensive, liberal arts-based institution with approximately 1,600 traditional, adult, and graduate students. Its academic programs are rooted in an enduring commitment to excellence; a belief in the power of personal attention, teaching, and learning; and a strong tradition of shared governance. It has a long history of producing remarkable results with modest resources. 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 four master's degrees—Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, a joint MSN/MBA, and Master of Social Work and will launch a Master of Athletic Training in 2025. Traditional students generate 86.6 percent of tuition revenue and essentially all auxiliary revenue. Adult and graduate students account for 5.2% of tuition revenue.

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. The Archway Curriculum has been nationally heralded within higher education as a progressive model of liberal learning for the 21st century.

The full-time faculty numbers approximately 110; ninety-two percent of the faculty hold the terminal degree appropriate to their field. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1 and an average class size of 16, the University is known for a rigorous and nurturing learning environment, enhanced by the faculty's deserved reputation for exceptionally effective teaching and mentoring.

NWU's emphasis on experience yields extraordinary student outcomes: two Rhodes scholars, 60 Fulbright awards, six Truman scholars, and eight Goldwater scholars. Two-thirds of all NWU graduates go on to graduate or professional school within five years of graduation. NWU celebrates an 85 percent medical school placement rate and a 91 percent dental school placement rate, and an even higher teacher placement rate. The theatre program has 100 majors and offers a new main-stage production opening every two to three weeks during the academic year. NWU's commitment to academic excellence and personal attention to students is consistently reflected in the strength and accomplishments of its gifted faculty, including three who have been named the Carnegie Foundation "Teacher of the Year" in Nebraska.

The University is guided by its new [multi-year strategic plan](#), which launched in fall 2021. The plan affirms an unchanging commitment to deliver an outstanding, student-centered, transformative education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences. At the same time, the plan underscores the necessity of investment in new and enhanced facilities, the latest technology, and the faculty and staff whose skills and dedication make student success possible.

Nebraska Wesleyan has received favorable recognition in *U.S. News & World Report*, which has placed NWU in the Regional Universities-Midwest category since 2016, following its recent growth as a comprehensive university. NWU is in the top 15 percent of colleges and universities named to this category, ranking 22nd among 157 institutions. Nebraska Wesleyan 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.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Vice President for Advancement will report to the President, Dr. Darrin Good and serve on the University's executive leadership team, the Administrative Council. The Vice President will oversee a growing advancement team of approximately 20 professionals.

FROM PRESIDENT GOOD

The search for the next Vice President for Advancement comes at an inflection point in our history at Nebraska Wesleyan University. In spring 2021, the Board of Governors approved the framework for our new strategic plan that focuses on four core themes: Academic Innovation, Engaged Belonging, Transformational Relationships, and Elevated Facilities and Resources. For the past year, our faculty and staff have worked diligently to imagine, develop, and breathe life into nearly 15 initiatives that serve as a roadmap of our future. Now it is time to plan and execute our next comprehensive campaign that will turn our most compelling initiatives—which require an infusion of resources—into reality and further elevate our excellence.

I seek a dynamic thought leader and strategist; someone who truly understands the full breadth of work necessary to maximize the University's strengths and catapult us forward toward continued success. I seek someone who understands best practices and can lead, inspire, and integrate the people and efforts of our

University Advancement Office. I seek a true partner with whom I will enthusiastically devote my time and energy to cultivating friends and funding for Nebraska Wesleyan.

Those who work closest to me describe me as an energetic, positive, competitive extrovert with a deep love of the mission of NWU. In addition, the next Vice President for Advancement will find collaborative partners in our talented executive leadership team—the Administrative Council—and will find fiscally-responsible and well-engaged partners in our Board of Governors.

In 2019, I began my work here just as the University concluded its most successful fundraising campaign, “Bold Designs.” This \$67.5 million comprehensive campaign raised funds to build our new Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science and well as funded updates to our performing arts auditorium, new endowed and annual scholarships, and funding for faculty development and athletic coaches. I arrived at a time of great momentum. I’m excited to build upon that momentum with a new Vice President for Advancement and together leverage new support to sustain our future.

Having resided in five states and relocating to Lincoln, Nebraska, from Los Angeles, California, my wife, Diana and I can honestly attest to this being the most authentically friendly city and state in which we’ve lived. We have been warmly embraced by the wonderful people and opportunities that offer a rich diversity of culture and ideas. Simply put, Lincoln has rightly earned its place on many top 10 lists of best places to live.

I am truly excited to imagine the significant impact that our next Vice President for Advancement will have on the future of this outstanding university!

—Dr. Darrin Good, President

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Nebraska Wesleyan University works towards the creation of a campus community that is inclusive. All diverse worldviews belong in its Wesleyan community. Diversity encompasses the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability, or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs. Inclusion is involvement and empowerment, where the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized. An inclusive university promotes and sustains a sense of belonging; and it values and practices respect for the talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of living of its members. Diversity and inclusion are core values of Nebraska Wesleyan University’s mission, and it embraces diversity as a source of strength.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice President for Advancement will

- strengthen Nebraska Wesleyan’s culture of philanthropy;
- design, implement, and regularly evaluate development strategies and tactics for all philanthropic constituencies;
- motivate and lead the advancement team;
- develop volunteer leadership in support of institutional needs;
- serve as the chief development officer by establishing and maintaining productive relationships including the cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of leadership donors and prospects;

- guide and support the President’s fundraising activity;
- support Board of Governors members and other key volunteers as needed to advance their relationships with donors;
- prepare for, plan, and implement a comprehensive resources campaign that will have a lasting impact on NWU’s tradition of support;
- establish goals that meet the University’s needs, designing plans to meet them, and accepting individual and team accountability;
- increase the effectiveness and reach of advancement programs by enlisting partners including Board of Governors members, alumni leaders, faculty, and staff;
- ensure appropriate stewardship of gifts;
- serve as an active, collegial member of the President’s senior management team, collaborating in the development and implementation of strategies that meet institutional needs; and
- provide professional management of all development operations including budgeting, policies, systems, and reporting.

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Darrin Good President

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, one of the country’s most ethnically and racially diverse private national liberal arts colleges with an enrollment of 1,700 students. At Whittier, Dr. Good was responsible for 20 academic departments with 130 full-time faculty and several offices that support the academic mission of the institution. He oversaw hiring, personnel evaluation, budget, and curriculum.

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 administrative roles including Director of Service Learning and Leadership Initiatives, Director of Summer Academic Programs, Director of Nicaragua Medical Service-Learning Program, Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences, Chair of the Governing Board of the Pre-Health Professions, and Admissions Coordinator for Biology and Pre-Health Professions. 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’s degree with a major in biology from Augustana College and his master’s degree and Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kansas.

PREFERRED COMPETENCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Nebraska Wesleyan University seeks a Vice President for Advancement with

- 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 University’s mission and vision;
- experience building a program that has been successful raising sights, reaching untapped potential, and producing lasting change in philanthropic habits;

- experience as an accomplished fundraiser, ideally at an independent institution of higher education;
- experience as a results-oriented motivator of the work of others including an ability to hire, inspire, and redirect as necessary;
- a history of progressively increasing responsibilities and long-term success in planning, supervising, and carrying out the work of an advancement office;
- experience with major facilities projects, annual funds, and comprehensive campaigns;
- an affinity for working cooperatively and effectively with volunteers;
- an ability to provide leadership in the creation of a compelling and consistent case for support;
- excellent oral and written communication skills as well as excellent interpersonal skills;
- experience using data to assess, report, and improve results; and
- personal qualities suitable to working effectively among a strong group of Vice Presidents.

A bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience is required for this position as is at least seven years of senior advancement experience.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

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

LOCATION

Nebraska Wesleyan University is in [Lincoln, Nebraska](#).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. ***Cover letters should be responsive to the mission and vision of Nebraska Wesleyan University as well as the responsibilities and qualifications presented in the prospectus. Applicants are highly encouraged to demonstrate how they can enhance and embrace the University's [core values](#) in a diversity statement submitted as part of their cover letter.*** Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the successful candidate has been selected.

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.

To apply for this position, visit:

[Vice President for Advancement, Nebraska Wesleyan University](#).

To nominate a candidate, please contact Don Hasseltine, donhasseltine@aspenleadershipgroup.com.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.