

SEARCH PROFILE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

The Opportunity

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the UWG Presidential Search Committee invite letters of nomination and applications for the position of President of the University of West Georgia.

The presidency is an excellent opportunity for an engaging, visionary leader who is inspired to advance the university’s mission to enable students, faculty, and staff to realize their full potential through academic engagement, supportive services, professional development, and a caring, student-centered community.

This profile provides a detailed overview of the University of West Georgia, its transformative impact, and the exciting opportunities awaiting its next leader.

UWG Fast Facts



14,400+
TOTAL ENROLLMENT
UNDERGRADUATE AND
GRADUATE STUDENTS



**RAISED NEARLY
\$28 MILLION
OVER LAST
THREE YEARS**

15

**NCAA DIVISION I SPORTS –
UAC AND ASUN CONFERENCES**



35

**UCA NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
CHEERLEADING**

**#3 IN SOCIAL MOBILITY
IN THE STATE**
(U.S. NEWS & WORLD
REPORT)



79,000+ ALUMNI
ACROSS 50 STATES & 20
COUNTRIES

**\$614
MILLION
IN ECONOMIC
IMPACT
ANNUALLY**

About the University of West Georgia

The University of West Georgia is a comprehensive, public university in Carrollton and Newnan, Georgia. UWG supports students in their efforts to complete degrees in relevant programs, valuing professional preparation and the liberal arts.

Through effective and innovative teaching, experiential learning, scholarship, research, creative endeavor, and public service,

UWG equips graduates to engage with and discover knowledge. UWG is dedicated to building on existing strengths and developing distinctive academic, research, and co-curricular programs and services that respond to economic development and identified regional, state, and global needs, thus empowering its 79,000+ alumni to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex 21st-century global society.



UWG is the seventh-largest public university in Georgia and set an enrollment record with 14,394 students in the fall of 2024, with students from 31 other states and 40 other countries enrolled. The university offers 106 fields of study, including bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral programs, as well as post-baccalaureate and post-master's certificates. UWG is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and is classified as a Level VI University, the highest level possible.

Founded in 1906, UWG grew from a district agricultural and mechanical school to a two-year institution and then a four-year college in 1957. UWG achieved university status in 1996. Fielding 15 teams in NCAA Division I athletics, UWG also boasts a cheerleading team with 35 national championships. The university generates \$614 million annually in economic impact, providing a safe, quality, and affordable college experience that transforms lives.

Colleges & Schools

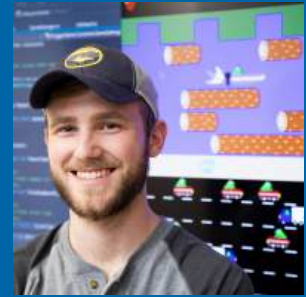
With programs of study ranging from computing to business management and mathematics to theatre, the University of West Georgia connects students with careers that will improve the quality of their lives and elevate the trajectory of their families for generations to come. The university is comprised of seven degree-awarding colleges and schools, in addition to the Honors College and Graduate School. To learn more about our academic programs, visit westga.edu/academics.



College of Education



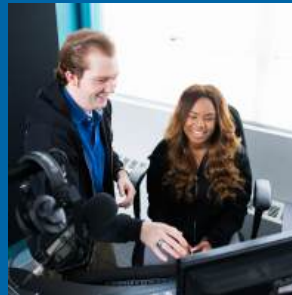
**College of Humanities,
Arts, and Social Sciences**



**Dr. James 'Earl' Perry
College of Mathematics,
Computing, and Sciences**



**Richards College of
Business**



**School of
Communication, Film,
and Media**



**Tanner Health
School of Nursing**



University College



Graduate School



Honors College

UWG Athletics

UWG is proud to be Wolves Country, fielding 15 teams in NCAA Division I athletics. We also boast one of the most decorated cheerleading programs in the nation, having earned 35 national championships since 2001. To learn more about how We Run Together, visit uwgathletics.com.



Campus Life

Life at the University of West Georgia is all about exploration. Students meet new people, expand their worlds, and discover their paths to a brighter future. From Fraternity and Sorority Life and leadership opportunities to intramural sports and academic clubs, students find their place among more than 150 student organizations. All of this takes place in a picturesque setting, too, with campuses that span 665 acres and have been frequently lauded by Tree Campus USA.



About the University System of Georgia

The University System of Georgia is composed of 26 higher education institutions, including four research universities, four comprehensive universities, nine state universities, and nine state colleges. It also includes the Georgia Public Library Service, which encompasses approximately 389 facilities within the 61 library systems throughout the State of Georgia. Additionally, the USG includes the Georgia Archives, which identifies, collects, manages, preserves, and provides access to records and information about Georgia.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia oversees the public colleges and universities that comprise the University System of Georgia and has oversight of the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Public Library Service. The Board of Regents is composed of 19 members, five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large, and one from each of the state's 14 congressional districts.

About the UWG Foundation

While state funding provides financial support for the university, charitable giving funds many scholarships and improvements to our academic programs. The UWG Foundation was created in 1967 for the express purpose of raising, administering, investing, and transferring private gifts for the University of West Georgia. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It receives all gifts to the university and distributes them as per the donor's instructions. It also determines the distribution of annual funds dollars.

The mission of the University of West Georgia Foundation, Inc. is to support the University of West Georgia in its mission to provide excellent higher education to its constituencies. It does so by attracting and involving leaders from among the University's alumni and friends in this endeavor. The Foundation primarily focuses on attracting, receiving, investing, managing, and expending gifts and other resources. This supports the university's educational programs, research projects, and community service efforts as identified in the strategic planning process.



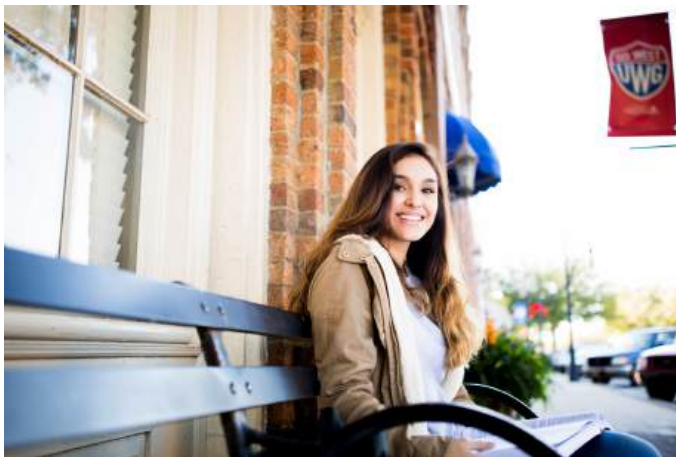
About the West Georgia Region

Carrollton

Located about an hour west of Atlanta, Carrollton is a thriving small town with surprisingly big appeal. From a rich and colorful local arts scene to an uncommon variety of outdoor amenities, the city truly offers something for everyone. Add in two higher education institutions bursting with their own activities and classes, a host of locally owned restaurants and shops, and a calendar full of lively events, and it's easy to see that the City of Carrollton is Altogether Original.



Visit the [City of Carrollton's Website](#)



Visit the [City of Newnan's Website](#)

Newnan

Boasting historic architecture, culinary delights, and a downtown square that would make even Norman Rockwell jealous, opportunities abound in this city. Newnan, known as the City of Homes, contains six National Register Historic Districts, all located just 30 minutes south of Atlanta. Between decadent dining experiences, thriving small businesses, and immense outdoor amenities, you are sure to discover your curious in Newnan.

Douglasville

Conveniently located just west of Atlanta, Douglasville is a small town full of charm. Home to more than 30,000 residents that enjoy a family-friendly environment with the benefits of a major city nearby, Douglasville offers excellent schools, a variety of cultural activities, great civic amenities, and a local community that welcomes everyone.



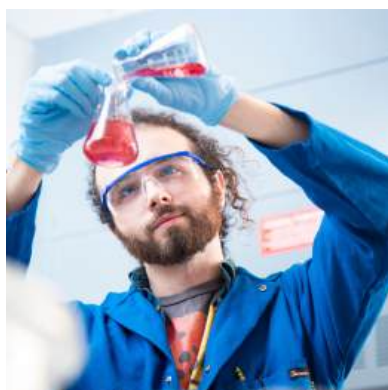
Visit the [City of Douglasville's Website](#)

Presidential Priorities and Opportunities for Impact

It is expected that the new president will address the following priorities, listed in no particular order of importance.

PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND VISION

UWG's next president will embody the qualities of a strong servant leader dedicated to fostering collaboration among stakeholders coupled with the ability to articulate and implement a forward-thinking, clear vision that aligns with the university's mission and priorities. The president will honor academic excellence and the university's history, support cherished traditions, and recognize historic programs while solidifying UWG's brand and instilling renewed pride in the institution. With a firm commitment to transparency and integrity, the president will lead the university into its exciting next chapter, creating a meaningful legacy as UWG navigates its mission-critical initiatives. They will recognize UWG for its unique strengths and embrace its identity while focusing on serving both the community and the region. Furthermore, the president will champion and drive the transition to Division I Athletics, harnessing this opportunity to boost visibility, engage the community, and foster a spirit of collegiality that spurs investment and enriches the entire university experience.



Presidential Priorities and Opportunities for Impact

PRIORITIZE UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT GROWTH AND STUDENT SUCCESS

To create a dynamic and thriving academic environment, the president must prioritize undergraduate enrollment growth and student success by providing essential resources and support systems. The president will bring a genuine student-centered approach with a passion for enhancing student success, well-being, and development. The president will spearhead innovative programs in academics, research, and campus life to bolster the institution's reputation and offerings. They will increase experiential and transformational learning opportunities to connect the university with its community. Strengthening UWG's connection with alumni and the community is crucial to solidifying a network that contributes to current and future student success. These efforts will forge important relationships that can significantly improve and enhance educational outcomes for all students.

Additionally, the president will creatively address housing, course availability, wellness, and other student services needed to create a supportive ecosystem. As a unifier, the president will be committed to bringing people together to ensure UWG not only prioritizes student support services but also actively develops programs that secure long-term growth and retention while creating a vibrant academic community that empowers students to thrive. By fostering strong relationships in the region, they will work collaboratively with community leaders to retain graduates locally and strengthen collegiate ties.

CREATE A COLLABORATIVE CULTURE AND EFFICIENT STRUCTURE

UWG's next president has the opportunity to cultivate a vibrant, collaborative culture that honors and uplifts the entire institutional community. To achieve this, the president will need to develop a cohesive culture of teamwork and collaboration that helps foster the full potential of talented faculty and staff while achieving institutional goals.

Presidential Priorities and Opportunities for Impact

By clearly defining the institution's mission and fostering an environment where collaboration thrives, the president will have the opportunity to instill a renewed sense of pride and unity. It is crucial the new president demonstrate an authentic commitment, listen before leading, and show an appreciation for the expertise and contributions of faculty and staff, instilling empowerment and trust at every level.

The president will evaluate the university's academic enterprise and existing structure with an eye toward improvements that increase effectiveness and organizational agility while creating meaningful connections and dialogue. The president will strive to streamline processes and overcome obstacles that inhibit the ability of faculty and staff to capitalize on opportunities. The president will embrace technological advances, identify synergies, and drive initiatives that reward efficiencies and innovation. Investing resources wisely and removing the existing barriers between divisions will enable the university to work together more effectively, leading to improved outcomes for everyone.

GENERATE REVENUE

Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the university is a crucial priority for the next president. With higher education institutions nationwide facing enrollment challenges and demographic shifts, the next president of UWG must identify diverse revenue pipelines beyond enrollment and generate revenue at a level that fuels the university's ambitious goals and ensures a sound institutional future. The president will be an eager and enthusiastic fundraiser, working closely with UWG's University Advancement team and the university's philanthropic foundations to further develop and drive private philanthropy efforts.



Presidential Priorities and Opportunities for Impact

Alongside ongoing fundraising efforts, the president will demonstrate initiative and creativity in identifying and fostering strategic partnerships, supporting grant acquisition, and exploring additional revenue streams to sustain and advance the institution. UWG's president must have a partnership-driven mindset and accelerate these efforts, finding transformational ways to expand interest in UWG, its mission, and its programs. The president will continue to support faculty and staff in these endeavors to take full advantage of new funding and partnership opportunities with state and federal agencies, corporations, foundations, and industry.

FOSTER EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To truly enrich the educational experience, community engagement is essential to further the vibrancy of a college town. By actively connecting with the local community, the president will continue to foster mutually beneficial relationships that not only benefit students but also invigorate the town itself. This engagement opens doors to a multitude of opportunities and education that leads to supporting workforce needs – from job placements and internships to partnerships with various sectors, including industry, government, and K-12 school districts. Moreover, by managing the budget effectively and creating revenue pipelines beyond tuition, UWG can support these initiatives to ensure the university thrives alongside the community.



Preferred Competencies and Qualifications of the Next President

Experience

- Proven ability to spearhead innovative academic, research, and campus life programs.
- An appreciation and respect for the wide range of disciplines represented at UWG.
- Demonstrated track record of cross-collaboration.
- Awareness of global trends in education and the ability to position UWG as a leader in an increasingly interconnected world.
- Appreciation for the student-teacher relationship.
- Evidence of qualities that would promote improved student outcomes, particularly enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.
- Evidence of qualities that promote working with athletes or with a university transitioning to Division 1 athletics.

Leadership

- A commitment to ethical leadership, openness in decision-making, and fostering a culture of trust and accountability.
- Ability to lead institutional transformation and experience with growing an institution.
- Ability to effectively lead organizational change and to assess structures and staff.
- Ability to recruit, mentor, and empower while holding self and others accountable.



Preferred Competencies and Qualifications of the Next President

Communication Skills

- Relatability, with superb listening skills, an open and transparent communication style, and the willingness to consider the suggestions and ideas of others.
- Ability to adapt to different audiences with the natural ability to connect with diverse audiences, including legislators, foundations, donors, alumni, national organizations, students, and parents.
- Evidence of authenticity, empathy, and a commitment to fairness
- An understanding of digital communication, the importance of social media, and the most effective ways to connect with students.

External Engagement

- Strong desire to actively engage in fundraising, with an eagerness to partner with development and foundation leadership.
- Demonstrate superb negotiation skills with the experience or ability to work with local and state government and University System of Georgia staff to secure funding.
- Convey optimism, passion, and enthusiasm as a compelling storyteller with a proven ability to articulate UWG's value proposition effectively.

Student-Centered

- A genuine interest in students and the student experience.
- A deep understanding of the needs of UWG's student population and the ability to champion the university's mission of fostering a vibrant learning environment for all students, including non-traditional learners such as veterans and adult learners.
- Evidence of a commitment to student success, well-being, academic achievement, and career preparation.

Preferred Competencies and Qualifications of the Next President

Financial Acumen

- Experience managing a complex budget and navigating financial challenges.
- Possess strong fiscal management skills with the ability to make strategic budget allocation decisions.
- Ensure that budgets, investment opportunities, infrastructure, and support services are aligned with institutional priorities.

Personal Characteristics

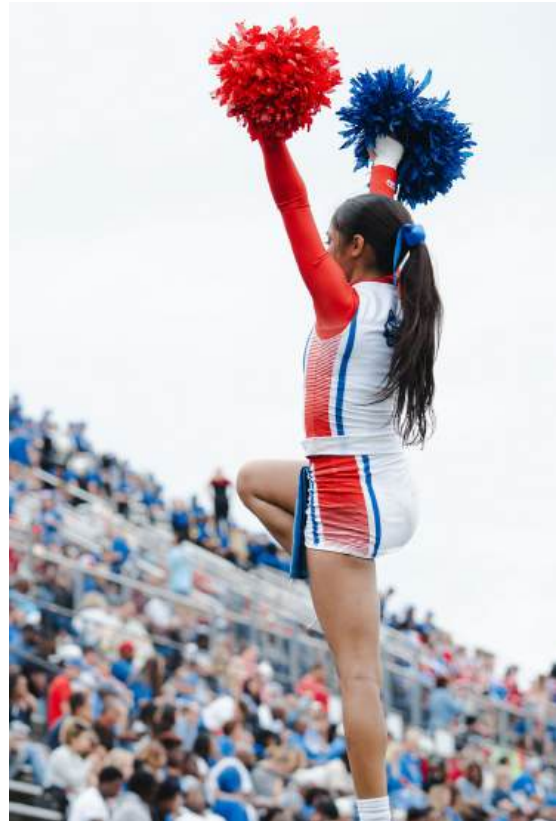
- Integrity.
- Honesty.
- Humility.
- Empathy.
- Compassion.
- Authenticity.
- Approachability.
- Wisdom.
- Emotional Intelligence.



Application Process and Search Contacts

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. Candidates should provide a resume or CV and a letter of application. Inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be sent electronically via email to the university's search consultants, Ann Yates and Dinah DeWitt at uwgpresident@buffkinbaker.com

The University System of Georgia is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



Members of the UWG Presidential Search Committee

- Regent Mat Swift, committee chair
- Regent and immediate past Board Chairman Harold Reynolds
- Regent and Board Chairman T. Dallas Smith
- Ashley Knight Bush, director of communications, Southwire Company, LLC; vice chair, UWG Alumni Association Board of Directors
- David Godwin, senior vice president, BankSouth Mortgage; school board chairman, Carrollton City School
- Gary W. Kinard, CFO, Verida, Inc.; chair, UWG Foundation
- Ashley May, vice chancellor of external affairs and chief of staff, USG
- Dylan S. McLean, Ph.D.; chair, UWG Faculty Senate; associate professor of political science, UWG University College
- Christopher Sanders, executive director, The East Metro Community Improvement Program; chair, UWG Alumni Association Board of Directors
- Bill Stone, CEO, Systems and Methods, Inc. (SMI)
- Chase Williams, president, UWG Student Government Association

