



# WHITWORTH

AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART

## **THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY**

**The Board of Trustees of Whitworth University announces the search for its next president. The search is being launched in response to William P. (Bill) Robinson's decision to make 2009-2010 his final year as Whitworth's president. Dr. Robinson's highly successful and distinguished tenure provides a firm foundation on which the next president can build a bright future for the university.**

### **An Education of Mind and Heart**

Whitworth University was founded in 1890. Today, it is at the strongest point in its history. Its strength has been enhanced by holding fast to the grand paradox that is at the heart of the University's mission – to provide an education of mind and heart characterized by both rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and a deep commitment to the integration of Christian faith and learning.

Whitworth's distinctiveness lies in its belief that a robust Christian faith should embolden the scholarly examination of even the most challenging ideas. As a community of Christians, Whitworth values commitment to Christ's gospel as essential to remaining faithful to its historic mission. As a community of scholars, Whitworth embraces the task of exploring new ideas. There is a broad sense of ownership of the mission in a culture characterized by trust and genuine appreciation of faculty, staff and students.

### **Emphasis on Student Responsibility**

Whitworth's emphasis on taking personal responsibility rather than following inflexible rules has helped to build the confidence and character of its student body, which welcomes a wide variety of students. Whitworth nurtures spiritual, emotional, and intellectual maturity in a community that values truth and grace. Leadership, service learning, social justice, and spiritual development programs are hallmarks of the Whitworth experience. The concept of discerning one's vocation or God's call on his or her life plays a central role in how faith and learning are

integrated on campus. The university's work in that regard has been recognized by the Murdock and Lilly Foundations with grants exceeding \$3.5 million to support and encourage vocation and service.

### **Strategic Purpose and Institutional Growth**

Whitworth's sense of purpose is clear. The university has enjoyed both qualitative and quantitative growth. Total enrollment has climbed steadily from 1,226 full-time matriculated day students in 1993 to 2,006 such students in 2009. The academic profile of the incoming freshman class has also risen as the GPA and SAT scores of these students have improved to 3.7 and 1800 respectively. Freshman to sophomore retention rates have improved (during the same period) from below 80% to 87%, and six-year graduation rates have averaged 74.8% over the last five years.

Graduate programs have grown in number to include more than 320 students enrolled in master's degrees in education, teaching, counseling, business administration, international management, and theology. Whitworth has also become the leader in high quality degree programs for working adults in Spokane. Non-traditional undergraduate programs in organizational management, education and liberal studies are offered for more than 330 students at Whitworth's main campus and in downtown Spokane.

The university is on an upward trajectory that is evident in every aspect of its operation. In the past fifteen years the campus has added an array of new facilities: an expanded and renovated library and academic building (Dixon), a landmark classroom and faculty office building (Weyerhaeuser), a visual arts building (Lied), three residence halls (Boppell, Duvall and East), and numerous athletic facilities and intramural fields. In addition, a new 60,000 square-foot biology/chemistry building is presently under construction to serve a 50 percent increase in science majors over the past decade and to position Whitworth as a leader in science education of all kinds. Significant investments have been made in technology to support classroom instruction and business operations, and new efforts in sustainability across campus underscore Whitworth's commitment to take leadership in protecting and caring for the environment. Throughout the campus and the region the sense of momentum is palpable.

### **Engaging the World**

Whitworth's distinctive mission – to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity – sets a trajectory for how it integrates faith and learning. As a community of active Christian scholars, Whitworth engages the broader culture, welcomes diverse voices, and asks challenging questions, all the while encouraging civil discourse. It is committed to preparing students in the liberal arts and various forms of vocational service in settings that equip them to succeed in wide-ranging roles around the world. Whitworth offers dozens of study programs on five continents, a commitment that will be enhanced in 2010 when the university opens a new education center in Costa Rica to enable up to 60 students to study Spanish language, Latin

American society, and ecology. Whitworth will continue to develop programs to internationalize its entire curriculum.

### **Planning Further Improvements**

A broadly representative strategic planning process is now nearing completion. Whitworth's vision – to advance academic excellence in a community characterized by intellectual inquiry and Christian faith – requires a leader capable of raising significant additional resources. The draft of the strategic plan envisions the construction of new facilities for the study of science (beyond the first phase already under way) and the performing arts, expansion of global academic programming, as well as new space for indoor athletics and recreation. In addition, fundraising plans for endowment, financial aid, intercultural programming and enhancement of academic opportunities for faculty and students are being developed. Whitworth anticipates the need for \$200 million in improvements over the next ten years to actualize its long-term strategic vision.

### **AN AGENDA FOR LEADERSHIP**

**The Whitworth faculty, staff, students, trustees and alumni, as well as members of the Spokane community, look forward to supporting the efforts of the next president to continue to advance the mission of the university by:**

1. Deepening Whitworth's mission "...carried out by a community of Christian scholars committed to excellent teaching and to the integration of faith and learning."
2. Advancing academic excellence within Whitworth's undergraduate and graduate programs.
3. Strengthening Whitworth's financial foundation by expanding the number of new donors and friends to meet Whitworth's long-term capital and endowment needs.
4. Providing visionary leadership that enhances Whitworth's sense of community, fosters just and trusting relationships across all differences, values diversity, and encourages collaboration between students, faculty, staff, administration and board members.
5. Supporting the advancement of academic rigor, developing innovative pedagogy and programs, expanding opportunities for student success through experiential learning, and supporting, as well as valuing, faculty and staff.
6. Fostering an environment where students can develop the virtues of personal responsibility, good judgment, service in society (both local and global), and respect for others.
7. Expanding graduate and non-traditional degree programs in alignment with the mission and the market.

8. Preparing students for vocations in a global environment.
9. Balancing growth while ensuring the high quality of the Whitworth student experience.
10. Developing strategies and implementing mission-driven plans to continue Whitworth's forward momentum.

### **DESIRED ATTRIBUTES OF A NEW PRESIDENT**

**The next president of Whitworth University should present a combination of personal and professional qualities that directly address the agenda for leadership presented in this profile. He or she will fully embrace Whitworth's mission "...to provide its diverse student body an education of the mind and heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity." In addition the successful candidate will:**

1. Follow Jesus Christ with vibrant faith.
2. Honor and uphold Whitworth's Reformed and evangelical heritage.
3. Care for and value students, including their educational, emotional, and spiritual well-being and development.
4. Understand and value the history, ethos, tensions and core values of Whitworth University
5. Exhibit integrity, authenticity, transparency, humility and deep appreciation for community.
6. Model, with intellectual vitality, the integration of faith, life, learning and service as well as thoughtful engagement of important issues of the day.
7. Appreciate and articulate the value of a liberal arts education.
8. Possess an earned doctorate from a respected academic institution (desired).
9. Understand enrollment and the economics of a private, tuition-dependent academic institution.
10. Demonstrate the ability to raise funds and embrace doing so.
11. Possess strong leadership skills, including a capacity to build and work with a team, to develop and maintain healthy relationships across a wide spectrum of individuals, and to communicate and collaborate with members of the campus and community.
12. Value people and their giftedness, welcome and weigh new ideas, and empower faculty and staff to serve students with excellence.

13. Think clearly, speak effectively and write well.
14. Represent Whitworth University with a winsome spirit.

### **The Application Process**

The Whitworth University presidential search committee will begin to review candidate materials in December, 2009, and plans to make preliminary decisions about the candidate pool in early February, 2010. Although applications will be reviewed until a new president is selected, candidates should submit materials by late January for the most favorable consideration. The new president will begin work on July 1, 2010.

R. Thomas (Tom) Williamson of Academic Search, Inc. in Washington, D.C. is assisting with this search. Nominators or prospective candidates may contact him at ([tom.williamson@academic-search.com](mailto:tom.williamson@academic-search.com)). Applications should include:

1. A letter of candidacy responding to the desired attributes for leadership
2. A complete resume or vita
3. A faith essay (Click here for guidance on writing the faith essay.)
4. Names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of five references (for future contact), all of which will be received in full confidence.

**All application materials should be submitted electronically to ([Whitworth@academic-search.com](mailto:Whitworth@academic-search.com)).**