



## **Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs**

Wayne State University (Wayne State) seeks a visionary and collaborative leader to serve as **Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs** (SVP). The successful placement will join recently appointed President, Dr. Kimberly Espy, in charting a dynamic and ambitious future trajectory for the University. Applications, inquiries and nominations are invited.

### **The Institution**

Founded in 1868, Wayne State is Michigan's third largest and only urban public research university, with the Carnegie Foundation's highest (R1) classifications for research and community engagement, ranked # 79 among universities ranked by the NSF HERD survey with an annual total research expenditures of more than \$240 million last year. Evidenced in its world-renowned faculty, top-ranked programs and groundbreaking discoveries, academic excellence and pioneering research are central to Wayne State's mission. Wayne State is a member of the University Research Corridor, along with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, generating 95% of research in the state and supporting economic growth throughout Michigan. As one of the city's largest employers, Wayne State has a nearly \$2.5 billion impact in Detroit — a driving force behind the city's resurgence. Wayne State consists of 13 schools and colleges offering 240 programs to nearly 24,000 graduate, professional and undergraduate students. Just as the city of Detroit is undergoing a renaissance, the university itself is in a time of significant transformation, strengthening its ability to serve students from Detroit, Michigan and around the world.

Located in the heart of Detroit, Wayne State University embraces its urban research mission, a "university of opportunity", by continuing to provide access to, and success in top tier higher education for students of all backgrounds through its outstanding faculty and research and innovation focused learning environment. This commitment has made Wayne State a national leader in social mobility, ranked as one of the top research universities nationally in most mobility indices. This commitment also helps nurture the next generation of professionals who will use their education to advance equitable outcomes for all threads of our society, remedy gaps and disparities, and help meet the needs of Michigan, especially Detroit and its surrounding communities. Approximately, 3 out of every 4 alumni remain and work in Michigan, serving as a talent pipeline for the region and driving the state's 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Wayne State also attracts students from across the United States and beyond.

### **The Position**

The Division of Finance and Business Operations leads and facilitates the fiduciary stewardship of the University by managing resources and providing extensive support services to foster excellence and enable the campus community to thrive. Specifically, the Division provides centralized management of the University's day-to-day financial and budgetary activities and is home to: Business Services, Facilities Planning & Management, Fiscal Operations/Finance, Human Resources, Treasury Services, and Risk Management.

Reporting to President Espy, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs is responsible for leading and managing all aspects of the Division and overseeing a staff of approximately 600. As the University's business officer, the SVP will be a strategic, critical and creative thinker who is skilled at diplomacy, collaboration and consultation, with proven broad-based leadership and management skills. The SVP serves as the Treasurer of the university's Board of Governors and holds the same position on the board of the university's foundation.

As a senior member of the President's executive leadership team, the SVP participates in institutional decision-making by providing an overall administrative and operational perspective on how to best manage, steward and utilize the university's resources, promoting the academic, research and institutional goals of the university. The SVP plays an important role in addressing budgetary issues in consultation with the President and serves on several executive-level university teams, councils and committees that set direction in critical areas, including information technology, strategic planning and space allocation. The SVP must exercise managerial courage, inspire confidence, and be an effective advocate in elevating Wayne State's presence in Detroit, Michigan and beyond.

As a constitutionally independent public research university, Wayne State enjoys unparalleled innovation in partnership, supported by a forward looking Board of Governors. Wayne State has been ahead of the curve in establishment of creative partnerships and entities, including a full service small business support and technology accelerator, Tech Town Detroit; the WSU Foundation and Wayne Health; Corvias Deal, Selling underutilized parcels to support city development. In Wayne State's Strategic Plan, *Our Moment in Time*, and campus plan, the Board of Governors have embraced the notion of the university at the center of innovative partnerships that both generate new resources for the university, serve to support the development of the surrounding Midtown area and the Detroit metro, to advance the State of Michigan's goals. This record of success provides a strong platform for a creative leader to achieve even greater success as Wayne State's next Senior Vice President.

#### **Qualifications\***

The best candidates for the SVP role will have the following experiences or attributes:

- An advanced degree, preferably an M.B.A., J.D, M.P.A, or Advanced degrees and professional certifications in other related fields from an accredited university.
- An extensive financial and business background, including financial and investment management, general administration, facilities management, contract negotiations and administration, short/long term operational planning, and strategic planning.
- Experience in collaborating with and managing large, complex and decentralized organizations; institutions of higher education; government; health care; or similar organization is highly desirable.
- Strong knowledge and understanding of generally accepted accounting principles, policies and processes; internal controls and business ethics.
- Experience in implementing and streamlining policies and procedures that remove inefficiencies and promote collaboration across multiple operational areas.
- Knowledge of building construction; plant operations; utilities; and sustainability practices, including recycling, green building practices and energy conservation.
- Creative partner with experience in developing third party relationships and/or innovative financing relationships with governmental, business for-profit and non-profit and/or philanthropic organizations that leverage Wayne State's location, tax status and other university assets for the benefit of all parties.
- Team leader and contributor, experience and capabilities to lead directly through supervision and indirectly through inspiration of others.
- Excellent communication skills, including written, verbal, presentation and listening skills.
- A trusted decision-maker with sound business, professional and ethical judgment.

\* A complete list of qualifications will be available when the leadership profile is finalized.

Although administrative leadership experience in higher education is preferred, Wayne State is open to candidates who have achieved noteworthy success in their respective fields outside higher education to apply. These candidates must have demonstrated experience and a track-record of success working in a complex organization where success is achieved in partnership and collaboration rather than solely through direct authority.

### **Application/Nomination Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications in early March and will continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position. Nomination letters should include contact information for each nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence.

Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted to:



**EXECUTIVE SEARCH**

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Email: [apsearch@spaexec.com](mailto:apsearch@spaexec.com)  
Refer to code "**Wayne State SVP**" in subject line

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