The Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education has opened the search for the president of Western Connecticut State University. The university is one of four universities, 12 community colleges, and Charter Oak State College comprising the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. The successful candidate will succeed Dr. James W. Schmotter, who has served the university with distinction since 2004. The president of Western Connecticut State University reports to the President of the Board of Regents.

Western Connecticut State University has two campuses in Danbury: the original 34-acre Midtown main campus and the 364-acre Westside site. Founded in 1913, Western Connecticut's student population includes 5,900 undergraduates in the Ancell School of Business, the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Professional Studies, and the School of Visual and Performing Arts. Over 500 students pursue master's and doctoral degree programs. They are guided by 216 full-time and 379 part-time faculty, 89 percent of whom hold terminal degrees.

The Board of Regents Search Committee and the University Advisory Committee seek an inspiring, goals-oriented leader to uphold the university's mission, abide by its principles, and advance its values. They desire a dynamic, politically astute, and forward-thinking president who will preserve the university's identity and integrity. He or she must bring a view that balances scholarship and a commitment to the arts and sciences with strong business skills, technology know-how, and political savvy. This individual should be a visible, congenial leader who will manage a transformational agenda in conjunction with Board of Regents' policies and invite participation by the entire campus community. The new president is expected to be a strong advocate, making all that is good about Western Connecticut State University even better.

CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate should have characteristics that address the following:

- Desire to be part of a statewide team, working with the Board of Regents and President as both a system and university advocate;
- Success in cultivating and supporting an environment conducive to change and continuous improvement;
- Extensive senior level higher education management experience with knowledge of national higher education policies, practices, and trends;
• Success in budgeting and financial management;
• Proven ability in fundraising practice and outcomes;
• A students-first, student affairs focus with particular attention to enrollment management, retention, support services, and athletics;
• Respect for faculty/staff contributions, recognizing shared governance in a collective bargaining environment;
• Commitment to institutionalizing diversity and a culture of inclusiveness;
• Appreciation of the regional public university’s access and affordability mission;
• Collaborative mind-set for interaction with all university stakeholders, i.e., state legislature, university foundation, businesses, public schools, and other institutions of higher education;
• Demonstrated ability to make complex decisions and utilize keen problem-solving skills;
• Excellent communication skills, written and spoken, with an ability to practice an open-door, open-mind style; and
• An earned doctorate (or terminal degree) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

To assure best consideration, nominations and applications should be received by March 19, 2015. The application should include a letter of interest (not more than three pages) addressing the qualifications described; a current résumé (or curriculum vitae); and the names of five professional references with each person’s position, office or home address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers. The application materials should be submitted as a single, combined document. All applications will remain confidential pending the selection of finalists. The new president will assume office on or about July 1, 2015.

The search is being assisted by James H. McCormick, Senior Consultant, AGB Search, jhm@agbsearch.com, 651-238-5188. Nominations and applications should be sent electronically (MS Word or PDF Format) to wcsupres@agbsearch.com. Additional position and university information may be found at www.ct.edu/regents/search-wcsu and www.wcsu.edu.

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