

POSITION PROFILE

**Vice Chancellor
for Finance and
Administration
(VCFA)**



ABOUT

A member of the prestigious Council for Public Liberal Arts Colleges, the University of Virginia's College at Wise is an inspiring place to teach, lead, learn and call home. With a student faculty ratio of 13:1 and approximately 2,000 students, UVA Wise is committed to excellence in teaching, personalized attention, and individual growth, as well as to the advancement of our region through economic development.

The only division of the University of Virginia located outside of Charlottesville, UVA Wise has a beautiful campus that is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Here, students learn from faculty who are encouraged to engage in scholarship and service that complements their teaching, and our environment is ideal for the task. In addition to Appalachian arts and culture, on-campus wetlands and impressive geography, and a region full of opportunities for study and outdoor adventure, there are many opportunities to build partnerships with organizations, agencies, and businesses in the area and beyond. Professional staff and a dedicated senior leadership team are driven by the vital mission of ensuring access and affordability to this robust, quality higher education.

The College's student population is largely first-generation, often rural students, for whom we offer access and affordability along with challenging academic work in the liberal arts tradition. The result is well-rounded graduates who earn fulfilling work at leading organizations and pursue graduate study at prestigious universities, as evidenced recently when *U.S. News & World Report* ranked UVA Wise as sixth in the nation for promoting social mobility.



BY THE NUMBERS

● **396**
acre campus

● **1,978** students

● **319** faculty & staff

● **\$131** million
endowment

● **6th** in the nation
for upward social
mobility according
to *U.S. News &
World Report*

VALUES

Public Liberal Arts: We embrace our identity as a public liberal arts institution. We are inspired by the world of ideas and a diversity of perspectives. We encourage all members of our community to seek understanding beyond the boundaries of their current knowledge, to deepen understanding through critical reflection and analysis, and to share understanding through clear and persuasive communication.

Affordability and Accessibility: We believe in the transformative power of higher education for all individuals. We prioritize affordable access to an excellent, inclusive, and comprehensive college experience. We are committed to degrees that open doors to a range of careers, create economic and social mobility, forge a path to global citizenship, and serve as a conduit for a fulfilled life.

Commitment to the Individual: We value the unique contributions of all members of our community, who represent diverse populations and rich cultural heritages. We are committed to creating a culture of listening that opens minds to new perspectives and fosters the habit of reflection that deepens self-awareness. Through our actions, we seek to be engaged citizens who work for positive impact in our community.

Engagement with the Community: We respect the history and culture of our home in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. We aspire, through teaching and scholarship, to deepen our understanding of the unique characteristics of the region and to apply and share that knowledge broadly. We partner with organizations and individuals to develop strategies for health and wellness, economic growth, job opportunity, and community vitality through the arts, education, culture, sports, and recreation. We are committed to stewardship of the community's resources and trust.

THE HISTORY

It was a cold and snowy night on December 17, 1953 when a winter storm stranded Samuel R. Crockett Jr., an extension agent from the University of Virginia, at The Inn at Wise in Wise, Va. Crockett struck up a conversation with local residents Mary Thompson, Jane Knox, and Lois Tracy, known now as "The Three Wise Women," about Southwest Virginia's need for a public college so residents could pursue higher education close to home.



After the initial conversation with Crockett, three local men, Kenneth P. Asbury, Fred B. Greear, and William A. Thompson Sr., known now as “The Three Wise Men,” traveled to Charlottesville to convince UVA that the plan was solid. A few months later, a little school called Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia, now the University of Virginia’s College at Wise, opened its doors.

**“At UVA Wise our mission is simple:
Student Success and Service to the Region.”**

— DONNA PRICE HENRY, CHANCELLOR

The Commonwealth of Virginia offered \$5,000 to open, staff, and operate the two-year school for one year, with another \$5,000 if a second year could be accomplished. Local citizens from Wise County donated more than \$6,000 to furnish and equip the classrooms, with the County donating property and two sandstone buildings that were remnants of the county poor farm.

In September 1954, the College welcomed 109 freshman, two-thirds of whom were Korean War veterans. The first class of the College’s graduates went on to become some of the region’s most successful professionals, and, as more graduates of the two-year college expressed their preference for baccalaureate degrees, the College became a four-year institution. The first Bachelor of Arts degree was conferred in 1970, the Bachelor of Science followed in 1973, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing was added in 1996. All told, more than 10,000 students have earned bachelor’s degrees in one or more of the College’s academic disciplines.

UVA Wise’s heritage of providing access to affordable, quality higher education continues today.

MISSION

In 2020, a cross-campus Strategic Planning Committee formed, and went to work collecting critical data to identify the College's current identity, evaluating strategic options for the future, and envisioning the future of UVA Wise. The result was a strong, concise mission and corresponding objectives that further articulate our commitment to our students, who have the power to transform our region, the Commonwealth, and the U.S. as they become leaders and servants around the world.

The UVA Wise Mission:



Through excellence in teaching, personalized attention and commitment to individual growth, the University of Virginia's College at Wise prepares students to be engaged citizens. Drawing upon its foundation as a public liberal arts institution in the Appalachian region, the College strives to build a diverse community of learners with the drive to serve and lead in their communities, the nation, and the world.

Strategic Objectives

- » Re-imagine curricular structure with a focus on competencies to meet academic and professional goals.
- » Align program portfolio with institutional mission, student demand, and regional need.
- » Invest in faculty and staff recruitment and development to achieve diversity, collaboration, and commitment.
- » Attract, engage, and retain students who will fully benefit from a UVA Wise experience.
- » Update systems, policies, and processes to ensure sustainable and efficient management of resources.

ACADEMICS

With a student faculty ratio of 13:1 and approximately 2,000 students, UVA Wise is committed to excellence in teaching, personalized attention, and individual growth. Students engage in a well-rounded education that allows them to gain hands-on experience through internships, undergraduate research, and other high-impact practices. They learn from faculty who are encouraged to engage in scholarship and service that complements their teaching and mentoring. UVA Wise students gain a professional liberal arts education that broadens their career opportunities and prepares them for a fulfilling life.

ACADEMICS BY THE NUMBERS

● **33** majors & **39** minors

● **5** pre-professional study tracks

● Prestigious agreements with the Appalachian School of Law, the Appalachian School of Pharmacy, and the Edward Via College of Medicine



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

The Highland Cavaliers are members of NCAA Division II and the South Atlantic Conference, which is comprised of competitors from Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. We compete in 13 varsity sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, and tennis for men; basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, softball, tennis, and volleyball for women.

The mission of the UVA Wise Athletic Department is to support the transformational vision of the College through a commitment to using athletics to impact the lives of our students, campus, and community. Membership in NCAA Division II reflects the College and Athletic Department's vision of providing the best opportunities for our deserving and dedicated student-athletes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As the only four-year public institution of higher education in Virginia's coalfield region, UVA Wise exists not only to support employers but also to promote economic development throughout our region. We are the area's engine of economic growth.

We support Southwest Virginia by:



- » Connecting the wealth of resources available at the University of Virginia to opportunities in Southwest Virginia.
- » Linking the community to faculty, staff and students through strategic partnerships.
- » Serving as a source of professional and leadership development.
- » Supporting the economic development community.

In 2016, an economic impact study found that UVA Wise has an \$84 million economic impact on our region, boosting the economy, revenues, and employment for the LENOWISCO (Lee, Wise, and Scott counties, as well as the City of Norton) and Cumberland Plateau Planning Districts. This study found that the College provides 680 jobs, \$3.5 million in government revenue, and student, employee, and visitor spending that pumps \$6.1 million into the local economies annually.



On the Road to Wise

Located in the Appalachian Mountains, Wise is an incredible place to study and live. Here are some favorite stops along the way as you visit our campus.

- » **High Knob Tower:** Take a drive and then a short climb to 4,223 elevation and a breathtaking lookout.
- » **The Wood Booger Grill:** Explore likenesses of the wood booger, a mythical bigfoot-like creature, rumored to live near High Knob for which this restaurant is named.
- » **The Central Drive-In:** Neighboring Norton, Va., is home to an authentic drive-in movie theatre.

Recently, the College has gained momentum in fostering economic development with and for the region by:

- » Renovating a building which became the Oxbow Center, a community for technology and innovation which provides co-working and office spaces supported by high-speed internet that has bolstered entrepreneurship and increased teleworking opportunities.
- » Facilitating the Southwest Virginia Economic Forum which shares thought leadership around economic and community leadership while allowing space for local and regional leaders to have discussions around a shared vision of growth and innovation for Southwest Virginia.
- » Diversifying leadership and professional development learning opportunities through collaborations with GO Virginia Region One, the Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Va., and the University of Virginia.

THE REGION/SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Home to some of the most scenic stretches of the Appalachian Trail, vital natural resources, local music and culture, and flourishing new industries, Southwest Virginia is a welcoming and growing region.

The College at Wise is located in Wise, Virginia, a small town with a rich history. The historic downtown is a short stroll from campus and features many locally owned shops and restaurants. Local farmer’s markets, summer movies in a downtown glade, and local festivals round out the variety of offerings in Wise. Just beyond Wise, you’ll find plenty to see and do, whether you love hiking, canoeing and camping or shopping local boutiques and enjoying delicious food and drink with friends.

Wise is located approximately an hour from the Tri-Cities region of northeastern Tennessee, which includes Bristol, Va./Tenn., home to both the Bristol Motor Speedway and the Birthplace of Country Music, the organization that hosts the internationally renowned *Rhythm and Roots* festival each year. The Tri-Cities region boasts an international airport, the Barter Theatre, South Holston Lake, and more amenities including a wide array of shopping, dining, arts and cultural attractions, historic sites, outdoor adventures, and more!

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Position Summary

The Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (VCFA) is a full-time, 12-month position, reporting directly to the Chancellor. Leading a team of Finance and Administration professionals, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration demonstrates a broad knowledge of strategic financial and administrative operations in higher education or other non-profit organizations of similar size, complexity, and scope. The vice chancellor has a number of direct reports and oversight of many operational units, including: finance, budgeting, facilities management (including construction), campus police, human resources, and auxiliary services. The UVA Wise division of finance and administration has 80 employees.

The incoming Vice Chancellor will be an effective and innovative leader, natural collaborator and communicator, and an accomplished manager of people, processes, projects, and systems. The ideal candidate will possess an advanced degree in Finance, Accounting, or Business with at least 10 years of experience in a senior leadership role.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- » Serves as a member of the Chancellor's Senior Staff and Cabinet;
- » Provides the overall vision and leadership for Finance and Administration and ensures coordination of programs and services;
- » Creates a dynamic and productive environment for a group of experienced and diverse Finance and Administration professionals with direct supervision of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration who manages College Services and Procurement, the David J. Prior Convocation Center; the UVA Wise Bookstore and the on-campus UVA Health Clinic for students and employees;
- » In addition, the Vice Chancellor supervises the Director of Budget, Director of Human Resources, Comptroller, Director of Capital Operations and Planning, Chief of Police and Director of Emergency Management,
- » Participates in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, integrated management plan that is supported by a clear mission statement for the Division and achievable department goals;



Professional Development Funding

As part of the University of Virginia, UVA Wise provides full-time employees with several thousands of dollars per year to pursue conferences related to their professional growth and development and/or tuition for degree programs related to their area of expertise.

- » Provides direct oversight of the College's cash-management in consultation with the Comptroller and Associate Vice Chancellor;
- » Serves as Legislative and Government Relations Liaison to the Virginia General Assembly and Virginia Executive Branch in support of the Chancellor and College;
- » Plans, creates, administers, and assesses existing UVA Wise Budget with College Budget Director, while developing innovative methods for providing services, for engaging staff in short- and long-range strategic planning, and for implementing successful outreach efforts in support of comprehensive budget planning;
- » Oversees Campus Police fostering collaboration with Student Affairs and all areas of the College to ensure consistency regarding policy implementation and enforcement;
- » Serves as a member of the Crisis Management Team;
- » Works collaboratively with the Vice Chancellor for Advancement & Alumni Engagement to develop best practices for the investment, through the University of Virginia's Investment Management Company, and use of the College's endowment with a commitment to ensure fund restrictions are honored;
- » Reviews yearly professional development needs and opportunities for the Finance and Administration team and recommends appropriate opportunities as needed;
- » Serves as liaison between the College and the University of Virginia's General Counsel's Office in all matters relating to the College Administration;
- » Partners with the College's leadership team, faculty, students, and staff to pursue opportunities to strengthen the College's efforts to be an inclusive community marked by respect, responsibility, and acceptance;
- » Works with the Director of Human Resources and Director of Compliance & Inclusion in all mandated programming regarding Title IX and the Clery Act;
- » Performs other duties as assigned by the Chancellor.



Built-in Network

The University of Virginia's College at Wise is the only college affiliated with UVA not located in Charlottesville. We are in an entirely different geographic location with its own distinct culture and character; yet, we hold the UVA values of advancing human knowledge present in our actions everyday. Being a part of UVA means that our employees have a built-in network with the University and can call on colleagues in Charlottesville for collaboration and learning.

Professional and Personal Qualifications

- » Advanced degree in Finance, Accounting, or Business preferred; or, comparable experience, as in significant experience leading a complex organization that is accountable and responsive to diverse stakeholders.
- » Ten years of progressively-responsible administrative experience preferably in higher education.
- » High energy, strong collegiality, and a positive demeanor.
- » Demonstrated knowledge and experience in managing all aspects of a transparent budgeting process.
- » Exceptional judgment and the ability to make decisions and recommendations with the highest levels of integrity, fairness, and ethical standards.
- » Demonstrated experience in fostering team building and the ability to engage and motivate the full talents of a diverse staff, inspiring the trust and confidence of the entire campus community.
- » Superior interpersonal skills and demonstrated strong transformational leadership, communication, marketing, planning and organizational skills consistent with those required to direct a complex organization coupled with experience in budget management and strategic planning.
- » Demonstrated ability to project a strong positive image of the College through public speaking and personal interaction with faculty, staff, students, parents, and others.
- » Experience and comfort with both making difficult, high-profile decisions under pressure and advising those who do; a demonstrated ability to apply strong problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills, and ability to train personnel and evaluate performance, taking corrective action as needed and dealing with stressful situations while maintaining composure.
- » Shared commitment to the College's values of inclusion and respect for all and understanding of the needs of a diverse and rapidly changing student body.
- » Ability to establish collegial relationships within and outside the College and to work collaboratively and effectively on matters of policy across multiple offices and units at the College and the ability to relate to a wide variety of constituencies, including students, parents, faculty, staff, donors, and alumni, and to appreciate the concerns of each group.
- » An understanding of state and federal programs, agencies and laws that specifically address higher education.

Nomination and Application Process

Parker Executive Search is assisting UVA Wise in the search for the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. The Search Committee invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, full resume/CV, and contact information of at least five references), or expressions of interest to be submitted to the search firm assisting the University. Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to March 24, 2021. Please submit applications through the Parker Executive Search website. For additional information, please contact:

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DeLaina Jordan, Associate
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The University of Virginia's College at Wise is fundamentally committed to the diversity of our faculty and staff. We believe diversity is excellence expressing itself through every person's perspectives and lived experiences. We are equal opportunity and affirmative action employers. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family medical or genetic information.