



Liz Lange Consulting

Vice President for Advancement
Nebraska Wesleyan University | Lincoln, Nebraska



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

[Liz Lange Consulting](#) is proud to partner with Nebraska Wesleyan University in the search for its next [Vice President for Advancement](#). This role is open following retirement of a seasoned Advancement professional with a long career in non-profit leadership and development.

The Vice President for Advancement will serve as an action-oriented leader, driving Nebraska Wesleyan University's mission forward by transforming its culture of philanthropy and fostering meaningful connections with key stakeholders. This pivotal role will shape and implement a strategic, results-driven fundraising program, including the design and execution of a comprehensive campaign.

This is an exciting opportunity for a forward-thinking, passionate advancement professional to lead transformative impact while helping to shape the future of an institution deeply committed to excellence and service.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW: NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a thriving, comprehensive, liberal arts-based institution with approximately 1,600 traditional and graduate students. Its academic programs are rooted in an enduring commitment to excellence; a belief in the power of personal attention; and a strong tradition of shared governance. Chartered by Methodists in 1887, Nebraska Wesleyan has an ongoing, beneficial relationship today with the United Methodist Church.

Nebraska Wesleyan offers five baccalaureate degrees—Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing—and four master's degrees—Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, a joint MSN/MBA, and Master of Social Work and will launch a Master of Athletic Training this fall.

Students choose from over 130 majors, minors, and pre-professional programs. The general education Archway Curriculum ensures that every student has an experience-rich education through internships, research projects, service learning or study abroad. The curriculum integrates learning across disciplinary boundaries, enhances learning through non-classroom experiences, and weaves skill development throughout the academic program. Nebraska Wesleyan's curriculum has been nationally recognized as a progressive model of liberal arts learning for the 21st century.

Nebraska Wesleyan's full-time faculty numbers around 100; 92% percent of the faculty hold a terminal degree in their field. With a student-faculty ratio of 13:1 and an average class size of 14, the University is known for a rigorous and nurturing learning environment, enhanced by the faculty's deserved reputation for exceptionally effective teaching and mentoring.

Nebraska Wesleyan has received recognition in *U.S. News & World Report*, which has placed NWU in the Regional Universities-Midwest category and has also been recognized favorably by *The Princeton Review*, *Forbes*, *Colleges of Distinction*, *Washington Monthly*, and *Money Magazine*, as well as being named a military-friendly school.

THE OPPORTUNITY: IMPACTING NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

An energetic campus leader and active member of the President's Administrative Council, the Vice President for Advancement will manage all advancement functions including the Archway Fund (annual giving), major and planned giving, capital projects, external grants and sponsored programs, stewardship, donor-research, development support services and alumni relations. As part of this role, the Vice President will partner with the President and the Board of Governors to establish productive relationships with alumni, donors, and volunteers.

Primary responsibilities of the Vice President for Advancement include:

- Serving as the institution's Chief Development Officer by establishing and maintaining productive relationships with alumni, donors, and prospective donors;
- Strengthening Nebraska Wesleyan's culture of philanthropy by demonstrating the highest ethical standards and continuing to build a donor-centric approach to impact and giving;
- Designing, implementing, and regularly evaluating development strategies and tactics for all philanthropic constituencies and making adjustments as needed;
- Motivating and leading the advancement team;
- Serving as a campus philanthropic thought leader while supporting the President's development activity;
- Supporting Board of Governors members and other key volunteers as needed to advance their relationships with donors;
- Engaging and supporting the Board of Governors' Advancement Committee
- Establishing goals that meet resource needs, designing plans to meet those goals, tracking progress toward success, and accepting individual and team accountability;
- Increasing the effectiveness and reach of advancement programs by enlisting internal and external partners including alumni leaders, faculty, and staff;
- Ensuring ongoing and appropriate stewardship of donor gifts;
- Serving as an engaged and collaborative member of the President's senior management team, providing strategic input and supportive decision-making on behalf of the University;
- Providing professional management of all development operations including budgeting, policies, systems, and reporting.

In addition, a key priority of the Vice President will be to design, implement, and launch a comprehensive campaign to secure major gift support for Nebraska Wesleyan's strategic goals. As part of the comprehensive campaign, plans are well underway for a capital campaign to build a Nursing, Health Sciences and Wellness facility.

A catalyst toward building the Nebraska Wesleyan of the future, the comprehensive campaign will serve as an opportunity to set a new pace for philanthropic giving to the University—preparing and training volunteer leaders; broadening the donor base; integrating all components of the advancement program; expanding engagement of alumni and friends; upgrading the professional donor-research capability; and improving database management, reporting, and other development services.

Competitive candidates will have the following **preferred competencies and qualifications**:

- A commitment to intellectual and personal growth within the context of liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern consistent with Nebraska Wesleyan’s mission and vision;
- Experience building a holistic advancement program that has been successful in achieving institutional vision and goals through activation of philanthropic support;
- Experience as a relationship-based fundraiser — ideally in higher education — working alongside donors to facilitate gifts that are meaningful to them;
- Experience as an effective leader and energetic motivator of teams and people with a history of progressively increasing responsibilities and success in planning, supervising, and carrying out the work of an Advancement Office;
- Experience with major facilities projects, annual funds, and comprehensive campaigns;
- An affinity for working cooperatively and effectively with volunteers and boards;
- An ability to provide leadership in creation of a compelling case for support;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills as well as excellent interpersonal skills;
- Experience using data to assess, track, report, and improve results; and
- Personal leadership qualities suitable to collaborating with a strong group of vice presidents.

A **bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience** is required for this position as is **at least seven years of senior advancement experience**.

The Vice President for Advancement **reports** to Nebraska Wesleyan’s President, Dr. Darrin Good, and **oversees** a growing advancement team of 17 professionals, including six direct reports.

Nebraska Wesleyan University offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN’S HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADVANCEMENT

Drawing inspiration from well-known philanthropic thought leader, [Jim Langley](#), Nebraska Wesleyan University continually seeks to promote and embrace a holistic approach to institutional advancement and philanthropy. This approach aligns the institution’s mission, values, and goals with the diverse needs of its donors and stakeholders, fostering collaboration, equity, and innovation to achieve academic excellence, financial sustainability, and community impact.

As Langley eloquently emphasizes, “Successful fundraising is one of the outcomes an advancement office strives for but that can't be achieved if people don't understand, believe in and identify with the organization's purposes and goals...Yes, we raise funds, but we build community first. And after people give, we seek to sustain their trust and participation by helping them see how their time, talent and treasure are advancing the organization's highest and best purposes, how we, together, are making a difference where a difference most needs to be made.”

Advancement is a collective effort that thrives when every member of the university community works together to inspire support, build trust, and create a shared vision for the future.

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP: DR. DARRIN GOOD

Well-respected by both the campus and broader community, Dr. Darrin Good was appointed 17th President of Nebraska Wesleyan University effective July 1, 2019.

Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Good served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the faculty at Whittier College. At Whittier, Dr. Good was responsible for 20 academic departments with 130 full-time faculty and several offices supporting the academic mission of the institution.

Prior to Whittier College, Dr. Good served as the Associate Provost and Dean of Science and Education at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota (2012-2015). Prior to that he was a biology professor at his alma mater, Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he assumed various administrative roles related to service learning, leadership, governance, and admissions. While at Augustana, Good was chosen by the graduating class six times to present the year's *Last Lecture Address*, among the school's highest teaching and mentoring honors.

Dr. Good earned his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology from Augustana College and his master's degree and Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kansas.

THE GOOD LIFE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The state's capital, Lincoln, Nebraska is a vibrant and welcoming city known for its friendly community, affordable living, and thriving cultural scene. Lincoln boasts a dynamic economy, safe neighborhoods, and a reputation as one of the happiest and healthiest cities in the United States. With the cost of living below the national average and highly ranked public schools, Lincoln is an ideal place to work and call home. More information on the Lincoln community can be found [here](#).

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Nebraska Wesleyan University works toward the creation of an inclusive campus community. All diverse worldviews belong in its Wesleyan community. Diversity encompasses the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability, or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.

Inclusion is involvement and empowerment, where the inherent worth and dignity of all people is recognized. An inclusive university promotes and sustains a sense of belonging; and it values and practices respect for the talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of living of its members. Diversity and inclusion are core values of Nebraska Wesleyan University's mission, and it embraces diversity as a source of strength.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. **Cover letters should be responsive to the mission and vision of Nebraska Wesleyan University as well as the information in this prospectus. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how they enhance and embrace the University's [core values](#) in their cover letter.**

Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until the successful candidate has been selected. Interested applicants should contact Liz Lange for more information about the application timeline.

Nebraska Wesleyan University provides equal educational and employment opportunities to qualified persons in all areas of university operation without regard to religion or creed, age, genetic information, gender identity and expression, sexual identity and orientation, veteran status, disability, marital status, race, or national or ethnic origin, in compliance with state and federal laws, including but not limited to Title XII, Title IX, and the ADA. E-Verify, EOE.

To apply for this position, visit: [Vice President for Advancement, Nebraska Wesleyan University](#).

To nominate a candidate, please contact Liz Lange liz@lizlangeconsulting.com.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.