

SEARCH PROSPECTUS:

President



KENTUCKY
WESLEYAN
COLLEGE
—1858—

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THE COLLEGE

[Kentucky Wesleyan College](#), a liberal arts institution whose mission is to prepare students intellectually, spiritually, and physically to achieve success in life, seeks an outstanding leader as president. The college is located in Owensboro, Kentucky, the business and cultural hub of western Kentucky, which is situated on the banks of the Ohio River. Since its founding in 1858, Kentucky Wesleyan students have learned to think critically, communicate effectively, and live ethically in a complex, rapidly changing world in an environment where student success is the top priority.

Kentucky Wesleyan College was ranked No. 15 in the nation in the Baccalaureate Colleges category of the 2018 Washington Monthly College Rankings. College Consensus also recognized Kentucky Wesleyan with the No. 2 ranking in the Best Colleges and Universities in Kentucky for 2018, while Princeton Review named the College “Best in the Southeast” for the 15th consecutive year. Kentucky Wesleyan is approved by the University Senate of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry as a United Methodist-related academic institution. The Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers compete in NCAA Division II and are members of the Great Midwestern Athletic Conference.



HISTORY

The roots of Kentucky Wesleyan College reach back to 1858, when the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, voted to found a college in Millersburg, Kentucky. Classes began in 1866 and the first commencement was in 1868. Created as a training school for preachers, the curriculum expanded rapidly to include a solid basis of instruction in the liberal arts. Business classes were soon added and by the 1880s half of the alumni were employed as either teachers or businessmen. The first women were admitted as students in the early 1890s, and Kentucky Wesleyan College became one of the first co-ed institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth.

Kentucky Wesleyan secured full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1947. The strong curriculum in business and liberal arts was expanded to include major programs in pre-professional areas. Due to challenges facing the institution from the Great Depression and World War II, the board voted to move the campus to Owensboro in 1950. A farm south of the city was purchased and a campus was laid out. By 1954, the new campus was fully operational.

In the 1990s Kentucky Wesleyan College revised its mission statement to focus on preparing leaders for the 21st century. The college reaffirmed its commitment to the liberal arts and adapted the general education program in order to fulfill the new mission statement. Two grants, one from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to fund leadership education and the other from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation to establish a Leadership Lecture Series, enhanced Kentucky Wesleyan's reputation for academic excellence.

Following severe damage from a tornado in 2000, the years after were marked by a transformation of the campus with the addition and renovation of buildings. New facilities included the Winchester

Center, Yu Hak Hahn Center for the Sciences, President's Home, and Steele Stadium. The fourth floor of the Barnard-Jones Administration Building became the Center for Business Studies, and the residence hall, Massie Hall, was renovated. New faculty and academic programs were added, and in 2007, the college's first endowed chair, the W. Terry Woodward Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurial Studies, was established.

Since 2008, the campus has received a range of external funding for student support, faculty development, and academic initiatives, including the following:

- A National Science Foundation S-STEM grant to support students in the sciences in recognition of the strength of Kentucky Wesleyan's science programs.
- A James Graham Brown Foundation grant to develop a program to combat the "Sophomore Slump" that led to an increase in sophomore retention.
- A Department of Education Title III grant to develop faculty, from teachers to teacher-scholars, and to improve classroom teaching by engaging students. This initiative has led to the development and implementation of distinctive project-based courses, classroom undergraduate research experiences (CURES), and renovated classrooms.

This period has also witnessed an increase in Kentucky Wesleyan's external partnerships, most notably with prominent regional universities. The college's graduates now have increased opportunities to attend graduate school at the University of Kentucky Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy, Sullivan University's College of Pharmacy, the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, Emory University's Graduate Division of Religion, and Western Kentucky University's Gordon Ford College of Business.

HISTORY (CONT.)

President

Barton D. Darrell became the thirty-fourth president of Kentucky Wesleyan College on September 16, 2014, after serving as vice president of external services. President Darrell was associated with the law firm of Bell, Orr, Ayers & Moore and served in numerous education-related public service capacities. He was appointed by the governor to serve on Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education for four years and was the vice-chair in 2004.

During Darrell's tenure, Kentucky Wesleyan has experienced positive enrollment trends with growth

in both freshmen class sizes and in retention, including an almost 10 percent improvement in overall fall-to-fall retention. He also oversaw the introduction of "The Wesleyan Way," which became part of the college's overall brand and culture. The college also had a complete overhaul of its campus ministry program, led the state in average CPA exam scores, and saw an increase in the academic profile of the student body. President Darrell has raised Kentucky Wesleyan's profile in the community and region and has been active on various boards, including serving as the 2018 Chair of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

OWENSBORO

Kentucky Wesleyan College is located in Owensboro, Kentucky, a 2013 All-America City right on the Ohio River. The population of Owensboro-Daviess County is about 94,000. *Money Magazine* recently ranked Owensboro as one of the best places to live in the small cities category. It is small enough to promote a hometown atmosphere, yet large enough to support many amenities usually available in much larger cities.

[Owensboro](#) is known for warm hospitality, great museums, and a world-class performing arts center. The city hosts over 20 exciting festivals throughout the year, including the International Bar-B-Q Festival. Owensboro is just 40 minutes east of Evansville, Indiana, two hours north of Nashville, Tennessee, two hours west of Louisville, Kentucky, and four hours east of St. Louis, Missouri.





UNITED METHODIST RELATIONSHIP

Kentucky Wesleyan College is one of 123 colleges, universities, and schools related to the United Methodist Church in America today, which are united by an emphasis on quality education. KWC is committed to Christian unity. Through the support of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a full-time chaplain coordinates Campus Ministries and serves as a spiritual advisor to the college community. Campus Ministries is ecumenical and provides shared opportunities for people of all Christian faiths.

Students who choose to participate in Kentucky Wesleyan College Campus Ministries have opportunities to grow in their faith, connect with others as they serve God together, and reach out in acts of service and witness around the world.

The Wesleyan Way

The Kentucky Wesleyan community believes in an education that goes far beyond the textbook, the computer screen, or the written exam. Leaders

of the next generation are those who have been educated with a broad view of how relationships matter in the overall success of the world. Therefore, the Wesleyan Way of learning and living is based on four key principles:

- Do everything with honor.
- Always support each other.
- Compete with integrity.
- Love each other.

The Wesleyan Way is not restricted to certain groups of people and is a philosophy that covers and strengthens all members of the campus community. Kentucky Wesleyan fosters an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, national origin, or religion. The Wesleyan Way celebrates and focuses on the diversity of individuals so that their greatness can emerge at Kentucky Wesleyan and their impact on the world can be its most valuable and important.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

[Kentucky Wesleyan](#) offers 29 majors and 13 pre-professional curriculums to 738 full-time, on-campus students with a student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1. These programs are organized within four academic divisions: Fine Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Professional Studies, and Social Sciences. Within these divisions, Biology and Zoology, Education, Business, Psychology, Exercise Science, and Criminal Justice are the largest programs. Kentucky Wesleyan is the only institution in a 150-mile radius with a Zoology program, making it a particularly distinctive offering for students. Currently, Graphic Design, Health Sciences, and Fitness and Sports Management are increasingly popular and witnessing rapid enrollment growth. The Theater program is distinguished by strong relationships with Owensboro Community College, Brescia University, and the Owensboro RiverPark Center.

Students and faculty value Kentucky Wesleyan's small community and intimate classroom settings for the personal attention given to student progress and cultivation of critical thinking skills. Many courses are project-based and emphasize student research opportunities to more thoroughly prepare students for life beyond Kentucky Wesleyan, both for the work force or for graduate school. There is also a strong focus on student writing, which is enhanced through internships and service-learning opportunities, as well as in research, scholarly, and creative work, per the campus's Writing through Engagement plan.

Wesleyan Fellows

Wesleyan Fellows is a grant-based work-study program that expands the critical thinking and student research focus of the institution by providing opportunities for students to work under the mentorship of a Kentucky Wesleyan professor, staff member, or an off-campus supervisor. As opposed to more traditional work-study roles,

Wesleyan fellows must think creatively, solve problems, and explore alternatives as part of their work. This form of career exploration must be intellectually demanding, likely to create genuine learning for the student, closely related to a career or scholarly field, or directly related to faculty research. At the end of the Fellows year, participants must present their completed project at the college's Scholar's Day in late April. The Fellows program is competitive with 25 grants available per year.

Honors Program

The Kentucky Wesleyan College Honors Program is an auto-admit enrollment for incoming freshmen meeting the 3.25+ GPA with a 25+ ACT that requires 15 hours of Honors courses to completion. Honors courses are engaging, rigorous, and provide high-achieving students with the opportunity to enrich their critical thinking, communication, and self-direction. Students grow research skills, enhance writing skills, and actively participate in their education while exploring leadership roles and service to the community. The Honors Program encourages independent and creative research, service learning, and study abroad. This program challenges honors candidates with extra learning opportunities that integrate diverse disciplines.

Online Offerings

Kentucky Wesleyan strives to continuously respond to the increasing demand for flexible and convenient learning by offering online degrees readily applicable in the marketplace. Designed for adult learners on the fast track to success, Kentucky Wesleyan's intensive seven-week course format allows students to graduate efficiently and take classes from anywhere at any hour. Six online degree programs are available: Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Criminology, General Studies, Graphic Design, Psychology, and Religion.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (CONT.)

Accreditation

Kentucky Wesleyan College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate degrees. Kentucky Wesleyan College is authorized for operation as a postsecondary educational institution by the Kentucky Council

on Post-Secondary Education. The college is fully accredited and approved by the following: the University Senate of the United Methodist Church; the Kentucky State Department of Education, Professional Standards Board; the Kentucky State Approving Agency for Veterans Training; and the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education.

STUDENT LIFE

[Kentucky Wesleyan](#) is located on a beautiful 55-acre campus, where students develop lasting bonds and friendships in a strongly linked community setting. Many first-generation students enroll at Kentucky Wesleyan, typically between 48 and 58 percent of students self-identify as first generation, and approximately 50 percent are Pell-eligible. Student success is strongly emphasized and is a driving value for the faculty and staff. This commitment has yielded recent improvement in retention and graduation rates.

Kentucky Wesleyan possesses robust campus ministries programming and service-oriented opportunities, which emphasize both spiritual growth and development and the importance of a service ethic in the wider world. For example, campus ministries recently sponsored an Alternative Spring Break trip to Biloxi, Mississippi where 15 Kentucky Wesleyan students spent a week of service in partnership with the Society of St. Andrews, local food banks, homeless ministries, and beach cleanup efforts. Ministry interns better their campus and community by creating social events, raising money for needy families and causes, and highlighting important issues such as suicide awareness and prevention.

The college offers a myriad of clubs, organizations, and societies where students can become involved in arranging activities and are encouraged to join at least one student organization. These organizations include departmental clubs, academic honor societies, musical and theatrical groups, and religious organizations. The college also hosts five national Greek social fraternities and sororities. Intramural sports include ping pong, bowling, basketball, volleyball, kickball, dodgeball, and billiards.





ATHLETICS

The Kentucky Wesleyan College athletic department sponsors 21 (11 men / 10 women) varsity sports, competing at the NCAA Division II level. Around 50 percent of Kentucky Wesleyan students are athletes and coaches strongly emphasize student success, which has led to a retention rate for athletes on par with the broader campus community. Known as the Panthers, Kentucky Wesleyan is a founding member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC), a conference comprised of institutions in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and West Virginia. NCAA

Division II operates on a partial-scholarship model, and athletic scholarships are awarded at Kentucky Wesleyan at the discretion of each head coach.

Kentucky Wesleyan gained national recognition in athletics when its men's basketball team won NCAA national championships in 1966, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1987, 1990, 1999 and 2001. No Division II school has ever surpassed this record. Numerous regional and conference championships were also won during this period in a variety of intercollegiate sports.

DESIRED PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

The Presidential Search Committee seeks a proven leader who fundamentally understands the mission, needs, and value of a liberal arts college environment. Among other characteristics sought by the search committee are intellectual achievement; impeccable integrity; a record of successful leadership; fundraising and major campaign experience; demonstrable success in

promoting diversity and inclusion; transparency and communication; well-developed fiscal and management skills; excellence in human relations; and creative problem solving. Candidates should have an earned doctorate, a comparable terminal degree, or the equivalent combination of education and experience.

HOW TO APPLY

Nominations, applications, and inquiries may be sent in complete confidence. Full consideration will be given to all applications received by Thursday, August 15. Application materials (to include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the full contact information for five references – who will not be contacted without permission) must be electronically submitted to:

KWCPresident@academic-search.com.

Assisting Kentucky Wesleyan College in this search are Ann Die Hasselmo (Ann.Hasselmo@academic-search.com) and Chris Butler ([\[Butler@academic-search.com\]\(mailto:Butler@academic-search.com\)\), consultants with Academic Search, Inc., Washington, D.C. To learn more about Kentucky Wesleyan College and the Presidential Search, \[click here\]\(#\).](mailto:Chris.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Kentucky Wesleyan College is an equal opportunity employer. Employment decisions are made without respect to color, race, national origin, religion, sex, age, genetic disposition, disability that does not relate to the job, veteran status or any other basis that would be in violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law.



ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search, Inc. is assisting Kentucky Wesleyan College in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services exclusively to institutions of higher education. Academic Search was founded on the principle of strengthening higher education leadership through professional search services. We are the only search firm in the nation with a formal relationship to a premier leadership development program. As the subsidiary of the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI), Academic Search provides substantial financial support to a number of leadership identification, development, and support programs across all sectors of public and private higher education. For more information, visit <http://www.academic-search.com/>.

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