



Aurora University
Director of the Wackerlin Center for Faith & Action

Aurora University seeks the next Director for the [Wackerlin Center for Faith & Action](#), which is the campus' heart for service learning opportunities, diversity initiatives, leadership development programming, and campus ministry. The mission of the center is to be inclusive of all students and support and cultivate a student's journey of self-discovery through faith, service, cross-cultural understanding and experiential learning. The Wackerlin Center brings to life AU's commitment to helping students "discover what matters".

Founded two decades ago, the Center serves as a connecting point to a variety of volunteer opportunities in the diverse surrounding community, as well as offers numerous leadership development opportunities for "hands-on" learning experiences that combine service, volunteerism, and personal reflection. Students of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds are equally welcomed in the common quest for meaning and purpose.

The Center houses Aurora University's campus ministry programming and builds on the university's faith-based roots while reflecting today's diverse student body. The retreat-like space offers students and the campus community opportunities and space to contemplate and discuss issues of faith, responsibility, identity, and leadership. Additionally, a beautiful outdoor labyrinth enhances the center's focus on exploration, understanding one's personal journey, and discovering what matters.

The **Director** of the Wackerlin Center is responsible for the carrying out the center's mission and will be student centered and possess a calling to serve in this unique, important capacity.

The next director will be a creative thinker and will be instrumental in working with senior leadership to ensure that the university honors its mission while welcoming and supporting students of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds. They will be a leader who both generates new ideas and who naturally seeks opportunities to integrate the efforts of the Wackerlin Center with those of the broader community (and vice versa). Perhaps most importantly, the director will be a connector: creating a nurturing, student centered space and building relationships across campus. They will connect conceptually, weaving the work of the Wackerlin Center into the student experience and the life of the University. And they will connect with the wider community, seeking opportunities for mutual benefit and student learning.

Role and Responsibilities

The Director of the Wackerlin Center will be responsible for the following duties:

1. Provide strategic direction to create a campus that promotes a deep understanding of diversity and inclusion that supports all members of the Aurora University community.
2. Promote and assist in mission integration and outreach across campus through forming relationships with colleagues in all departments to help identify opportunities for mission integration.
3. Create integrated service and experiential learning opportunities that align with the university's mission.
4. Mentor students through their own journey of self-discovery. Including, but not limited to discerning personal interests, cultures, values, and faith exploration.
5. Oversee programming and communications that promote a sense of campus community.
6. Teaching an appropriate course (i.e. first-year seminar or in specific discipline).
7. Ensure ongoing volunteer activities for students to help them discover what matters.
8. Supervise the University Chaplain position
9. Maintain relationships and collaborate with partner organizations and institutions.
10. Responsible for budgeting and managing expenses for the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action.

Core Competencies

The next Director of the Wackerlin Center will be able to:

1. Represent Aurora University in the most positive manner with prospective, former and current students, clients, suppliers and the community we serve. Interact effectively with a diverse group of faculty, staff, students and other customers of our service, learns and uses operating practices of the department and Aurora University.
2. Uphold the Mission Statement: *Aurora University is an inclusive community dedicated to the transformative power of learning. As a teaching-centered institution, we encourage undergraduate and graduate students to discover what it takes to build meaningful and examined lives. Our singular goal is to empower our students to achieve lasting personal and professional success.*
3. Handle all information with tact and discretion and recognizes the confidential nature of university business.
4. Support learning through performance of essential job functions and performing other duties and functions as necessary or as assigned, including voluntary participation in university committees, activities and events.

Characteristics of the Ideal Candidate

Education and experience:

- Master's degree is required; an earned doctorate is preferred.
- Minimum of 3 years of leadership experience (including strategic planning, supervision, change management, etc.) or the equivalent is required, with additional experience preferred.

Skills:

- An energetic, authentic, compassionate, charismatic, and resilient student-centered leader who acts with the highest personal and professional integrity.
- An inspirational leader who builds momentum, encourages others toward action and the pursuit of excellence.
- Detail oriented and organized; excellent project management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a fast-paced, team environment and manage numerous activities simultaneously.
- Strong organizational skills, including ability to plan, establish priorities, and handle multiple tasks and projects.
- Ability to employ flexibility and creativity in the execution of duties in the face of changing needs and fluid priorities.
- A self-starter with the ability to work independently and, as needed, the willingness to accept direction.
- Outstanding communication, listening, and interpersonal skills, bringing an open and friendly demeanor to interactions with all constituencies.
- Understanding of and enthusiasm for serving AU's unique student population.
- The ability to work effectively to create an inclusive learning environment—one that integrates diverse perspectives and is welcome to all.

Physical Requirements:

- The ability to interact in person, via electronic media, and on the telephone.
- The ability to move about campus and between locations.
- The ability to work a flexible schedule as needed with some weekends and evenings required.

All benefit-eligible faculty positions offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including health, dental, vision, life, long term disability, a 403(b) retirement plan through TIAA, and tuition remission.

This search is being assisted by Academic Search, Inc. Inquiries and questions should be directed to Senior Consultant Dr. Scott Flanagan (scott.flanagan@academicsearch.org). To arrange a confidential conversation with Scott, please use this this Bookings link to access available times and set a call at your convenience:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ScottFlanagan@academicsearch.org/bookings/>

Nominations and application materials should be sent to AuroraWackerlin@academicsearch.org. Materials received by January 20, 2022 will receive full consideration. Applications must include a letter of intent including description of education, certifications held, and all relevant experience, current curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references including phone numbers (candidates will be notified prior to references being contacted).

Aurora University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.