



Aurora University
Executive Director of the Wackerlin Center for Faith & Action

Aurora University seeks the next Executive Director for the [Wackerlin Center for Faith & Action](#), which is the campus' heart for service learning opportunities, leadership development programming, and campus ministry. The mission of the center is to support and cultivate a student's journey of discovering their vocation through serving, leading, and believing. 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 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 and none 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, and leadership. Additionally, a beautiful outdoor labyrinth enhances the center's focus on exploration, understanding one's personal journey, and discovering what matters.

The **Executive 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 Executive Director will be a creative thinker—someone 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 Executive 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. They will connect with the wider community, seeking opportunities for mutual benefit and student learning. The successful candidate will draw in others with a genuine enthusiasm for this work and a servant's heart.

Role and Responsibilities

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

1. Oversee programming and communications that promote a sense of campus community
2. Offers personal and group opportunities for students to help them discern their interests, values and life goals and deepen their faith and explore vocational interests.
3. Teaching an appropriate course (i.e. first-year seminar or in specific discipline)
4. Ensure ongoing volunteer activities for students to help them discover what matters
5. Supervise the University Chaplain position
6. Mentor and advise students throughout the AU community
7. Serve as university liaison to NetVUE
8. Maintain relationships and collaborate with partner organizations and institutions
9. Responsible for budgeting and managing expenses for the Center

Core Competencies

The next Executive 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 in related field; terminal degree preferred.
- Minimum of 3 years in service coordination, development of leaders and/or faith development leadership, 5 years preferred. Leadership experience required, preferably in one or more of these areas.

Skills:

- Approachable, kind, compassionate, energetic personal style
- Collaborative leadership style: must be team player, with positive attitude, able to build consensus to move initiatives forward.
- 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
- Excellent listening, verbal and written skills
- 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/>

This position is opened until filled. Review of applications will begin in early May and materials received by May 10, 2021 will be given full consideration. Nominations and application materials should be sent to AuroraWackerlin@academicsearch.org. 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.