UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN
ST. PAUL
President
University of Northwestern is a Christian university located in the heart of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Since 1902, students have come to Northwestern to learn and develop as leaders through academically excellent, Christian education.

Mission

University of Northwestern exists to provide Christ-centered higher education, equipping students to grow intellectually and spiritually, to serve effectively in their professions, and to give God-honoring leadership in the home, church, community, and world.

Vision

Because of God’s compelling love, we will teach wisdom and understanding to reach all nations for Christ.
History

Founded in 1902 as Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School by Dr. William Bell Riley, Northwestern has since grown into a flourishing Christian university and media ministry. In the beginning, classes were held at First Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

The Rev. Billy Graham became Northwestern’s second president and launched KTIS radio. Despite gaining national prominence under Graham, the college temporarily closed in 1966 for restructuring and relocation. Guided by the leadership and faith of new president Dr. William Berntsen, the college – then Northwestern College – reopened in 1972 on the current St. Paul campus. With the move, the institution began to expand, seeing a steady addition of programs and buildings over the next several decades. In 1978, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools granted accreditation to the university.

Enrollment has steadily grown since Northwestern moved to its current location. In 1996, full-time enrollment was 1,250. Additional educational venues were developed, and the college launched its first graduate program in 2005 and has continued to expand with total enrollment now over 3,500 students. In 2013, the institution, then Northwestern College, was rebranded to University of Northwestern-St. Paul to better align the name with the organization’s academic offerings.

Academics

At UNW, Jesus Christ is at the center of education. With 24 biblical thinking, living, and leadership credits embedded in every program, UNW offers more than 75 majors, providing students at every level numerous options to suit their personal academic goals. UNW has innovative programs that prepare students to meet the real-world needs of real people.

Dual Enrollment & Early College Programs
Undergraduate Programs
Adult Undergraduate Programs
Graduate Programs
**Campus Facilities**

**Nazareth Hall** – Celebrating its 100th birthday in 2022, Nazareth Hall is a beacon of spiritual growth to the local community. With its tower, standing high above the trees, that can be seen across Lake Johanna, Nazareth houses classrooms, labs, staff and faculty offices, and Nazareth Chapel, an ideal Twin Cities location for weddings, recitals, and lectures.

**Billy Graham Community Life Commons** – Completed in 2012, the Billy Graham Community Life Commons functions as the campus’ “living room.” It houses the main dining center, Heritage Café, the mail center, campus store, prayer room, and community rooms. Graham Commons also houses Student Engagement, Student Life offices, the Leadership Center, Student Government, and more.

**Mel Johnson Media Center** – The Mel Johnson Media Center is home to Northwestern Media’s central offices, KTIS-FM, and Faith Radio, as well as the academic department of communication. The state-of-the-art building features 10 radio studios, 10 edit suites, a 22-rack climate-controlled engineering room, and a TV studio and control room. It also holds several classrooms and the student radio station.

**Totino Fine Arts Center** – Home of the Art & Design and Music & Theatre departments, Totino Fine Arts Center includes the Beverly & John Lord Knight Performance Hall, Patsy Miller Studio Theatre, and Denler Art Gallery, as well as the Ticket Office. Major performances and showings of all types utilize the space to capacity. The fine arts wing houses art studios, animation and design labs, theatre and dance practice areas, choral and instrumental rehearsal space, music practice rooms, and faculty offices.
Student Life

Ranked as one of the most beautiful campuses in the Midwest, UNW offers beautiful residence halls, fun activities, and an intentional community where students can grow in their faith alongside peers. Student Life creates opportunities for students to develop community and grow during their time at UNW. Click here to learn more.

Spiritual Life

Northwestern seeks to create an authentic Christian community by integrating faith and learning - God and His Word are at the center of the mission. The university nurtures faith with daily chapel, worship, and prayer and by providing spiritual development opportunities in all aspects of community life. Click here to learn more.

Athletics

UNW is a member of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) and competes in NCAA Division 3 and NCCAA Division 1. Offering 20 varsity sports for both men and women, UNW Athletics serves as the conduit for spiritual, educational, social, and athletic growth for student-athletes, encouraging them to maximize all their gifts. Click here to learn more.

Northwestern Media

Northwestern Media began with one station (KTIS) in 1949 and multiplied to ten stations throughout the Midwest by 1985. More markets came on board throughout the 2000s. Today, Northwestern Media owns 23 stations in 14 markets across 10 states with more than 1.2M listeners each week.

Northwestern’s music stations feature contemporary Christian music, engaging on-air talent, and focus on involving and serving the local community. The Faith Radio Network offers a blend of preaching, teaching, and compelling conversation to help connect faith to life. Click here to learn more.
UNW Quick Facts

18 Fulbright Scholars since 2004

30 NCAA National Tournament appearances since 2010

2021 Total Enrollment 3,463

15:1 Student to Faculty Ratio

75+ Undergraduate Majors
The Opportunity

The President provides leadership, vision, and oversight of all aspects of the university working closely with the senior leadership team and other key staff to ensure the effective operation of the university in accordance with generally accepted best practices, and to ensure that operating policies and practices are aligned with the university’s mission and commitment to diversity. The President reports to the Board of Trustees and works with the Board in establishing policies to guide the institution.

The next president will be a theologically sound leader who will lead within an environment of the diverse viewpoints and build on the foundation of diversity and strong community relationships in the region.

Strategic Priorities

- **Academic Programs** – Create a compelling academic program portfolio which reflects the institutional mission and achieves strategic enrollment growth.
- **Global Online** – Expand the offering of Christ-centered, biblically-based programs to an increasing number of students locally, nationally, and internationally who would otherwise not benefit from a Northwestern education.
- **Unifying Modalities** – Explore, select, and implement an adaptable educational model which provides for flexibility and accessibility in course modalities across venues and program areas.
- **Student Experience** – Identify unmet needs and pain points in the student journey, develop experiences which attract and retain students, and better leverage institutional data to increase engagement to best serve students.
- **Community** – Advance intercultural understanding and nurture genuine belonging for all students and employees.
- **Support** – Strategically market the university and Northwestern Media to constituents and the region to identify and provide funding opportunities which inspire donors to financially support institutional priorities.
- **Podcast Network** – Identify and attract niche groups within the university audience to give a voice to those who have not previously been able to share their message.
- **Trade School** - Investigate the market need, mission alignment, and financial impact of a Christian trade school.

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Transition

After leading the University of Northwestern (UNW) and Northwestern Media for nearly 20 years, Dr. Alan Cureton has announced he will be stepping down from the chief executive role. Cureton, who became Northwestern’s eighth president in January 2002, will serve in his current capacity until the board of trustees appoints a successor. Dr. Cureton’s tenure is more than three times longer than that of today’s average private college president. Under his watch, total enrollment has grown from 2,278 to more than 3,500 and student diversity increased significantly.

Many campus buildings and facilities were constructed or refurbished under Cureton’s leadership. Among them was the Mel Johnson Media Center, the Billy Graham Community Life Commons, a new outdoor athletics complex, and academic and fine arts spaces were renovated. UNW also acquired several local buildings to house the School of Nursing, engineering classrooms and labs, and provide additional student housing. Northwestern has also grown its media footprint under Cureton’s leadership since 2002, expanding from 9 to 23 radio stations in 14 markets in 10 Midwest states.
The Role

The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer for University of Northwestern and Northwestern Media and is the chief advisor to and executive agent of the Board. The President leads all university educational, media, and managerial affairs by implementing Board policies, informing the Board on appropriate matters, and serving as the university’s key spokesperson. The President is the channel from the Board to the university and from officers, staff, faculty, and students to the Board. The President will also represent the university to regional and national organizations networking and creating alliances with a much broader range of organizations.

Current Members of the President’s Senior Leadership Team:

- Vice President for Student Life and Human Resources
- Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Athletic Director
- Vice President for Institutional Advancement
- Senior Vice President for Media
- Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Vice President for Finance and Operations

Responsibilities

- Cast a compelling vision and create consensus among key constituents for capitalizing on the university’s heritage and building on the strong foundations of faith and learning;
- Be the chief advocate and leader of the university’s mission and continue to raise the profile of the university nationally;
- Collaborate with the chair of the board of trustees to share university updates; gain perspectives and advice; and discuss key matters affecting board policy and university governance;
- Develop an exciting, strategic, and forward-looking future vision which honors the history and mission of the university and plan and execute a strategy to accomplish it;
- Serve as a compelling spokesperson for the university to develop trust with both internal and external stakeholders;
- Be a student of higher education and societal trends to actively address the challenges within the context of the university’s mission and commitment to diversity;
- Serve as the university’s chief fundraiser, working closely with the board and office of advancement to build an abundance mindset, develop relationships with donors, share the vision of the future of the university, and significantly increase the financial resources of the university;
- Prioritize enrollment development and monitor student recruitment operations to ensure sufficient enrollment to meet budgeted needs;
- Attract top talent to the university and develop a strong and cohesive leadership team;
- Lead the university to leverage technology and innovative strategies to prepare students to compete for tomorrow’s jobs;
- Be a consistent presence in university events and activities;
• Be the face of the university to the external community and participate in key community events and organizations;
• Build partnerships with like-minded organizations, corporations, municipalities, and institutions to further common goals;
• Encourage accountability and participate in, as appropriate, professional development opportunities;
• Adhere to university policies and procedures;
• Promote and sustain efforts to attract and retain a qualified and diverse faculty, staff, and student body;
• Affirm the value of faculty and staff; collaborate with and invest in them personally and in their professional development.

Characteristics

• Genuine and personal relationship with Jesus Christ as evidenced by spiritual maturity and wholeheartedly embrace a theological position in line with historic faith;
• Personal humility and healthy, bold leadership as a result of regular time in the Scriptures; a shining example of Christ-like servant leadership;
• Prayerful visionary who can leverage innovation and technology for organizational growth;
• Moral courage, especially in upholding biblical values in professional settings;
• Prayerful biblical discernment applying Christian faith in the workplace;
• Articulate advocate for the university to all audiences;
• Comfortable addressing local, regional, and national social and educational issues;
• Collaborative, consensus builder who brings together a diverse group of constituents, including a track record of working with a board, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and constituents and stakeholders in the region;
• Awareness and understanding of external environmental factors impacting higher education along with a history of proactivity and vision in identifying opportunities and solutions to mitigate negative consequences;
• Maturity and integrity in personal life as well as in leadership style;
• Unwavering commitment to the mission and values of the university;
• Transparent and collaborative in decision making evidenced by inviting multiple perspectives;
• Honest, enthusiastic, resilient, and intentional.

Qualifications

• Mature personal faith in Jesus Christ and a vibrant life experience that reflects this commitment;
• Progressively responsible record of visionary leadership in a large college, university, business, or non-profit environment;
• Strong business acumen with a successful record of building and maintaining external relations, building strong relationships with donors, and advancing an organization’s profile and reputation;
• Unwavering passion for a higher education;
• Knowledge of higher education trends, legislative processes, budgeting, financial and resource management issues;
• An earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree.
Applications and nominations will be accepted until a new President is appointed. Candidates should submit a Resume or CV and Letter of Interest addressed to the president search committee by March 21, 2022, for most favorable consideration.

Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications will be treated with complete confidentiality and should be submitted directly to Northwestern@carterbaldwin.com. Confidential inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to:

Bill Peterson  
Partner  
678.448.0013  
bpeterson@carterbaldwin.com

Michael Nichols, Ed.D.  
Consultant  
470.202.9723  
mnichols@carterbaldwin.com
The oldest of the “Twin-Cities” and located on the banks of the Mississippi River, St. Paul is full of culture, history, and exciting things to do. The enchanting winters and temperate summers of St. Paul yield an environment that provides residents the opportunity to experience the full depth and breadth of the seasons.

Founded in 1854, it is rich in history and provides its residents the opportunity to tour through neighborhoods that take them back in time, even if only for a moment. Places such as the Cathedral Hill, the home of the Cathedral of St. Paul, the Germanic American Institute, and the childhood home of “The Great Gatsby” author F. Scott Fitzgerald offer moments for visitors to explore what makes St. Paul, St. Paul.

Music and education are central to the St. Paul experience. The city is home to a Grammy-winning Orchestra known to be the only full-time orchestra in the United States and hosts a diverse group of students. There are over 90 languages spoken across the different schools in the district. St. Paul also has the second-highest number of higher education institutions per capita.

For the sports fanatics, St. Paul is only located 20 minutes away from the home of the Minnesota Vikings NFL football team, the Minnesota Timberwolves NBA basketball team, and the Minnesota Twins MLB baseball team. The wide array of sports teams provides non-stop entertainment options during all times of the year and options when looking for things to do with friends, family, and fellow St. Paulites.