



Dean of Libraries and Press

Position Description



The Opportunity

West Virginia University (WVU) invites nominations and applications for a strategic and innovative thinker to serve as the Dean of Libraries and Press. As a land-grant institution, WVU seeks an inspirational leader who understands WVU's commitment to its land-grant mission and the vital role WVU plays in the state and who can strategically build on the foundations laid by the retiring dean to shape the future of the Libraries and the Mountaineer family and community at large.

The Dean of Libraries and Press at WVU should be an accomplished and visionary leader. Reporting to the provost, the dean is the chief administrator responsible for strategic leadership of the University Libraries, the West Virginia & Regional History Center, the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences, the WVU Humanities Center, and the WVU Press. This role involves managing resources, collections, staff, technology, and facilities to support the university's teaching, research, and land grant missions. Key duties include advocating for the Libraries, understanding and advocating for the role of university presses, and of WVU Press specifically, in fostering engagement with global communities of scholars and creative artists, and contributing to the broader culture through its scholarly and creative output, fostering and driving innovation and collaboration in the delivery of resources and services across all campuses, and leading fundraising efforts to enhance the Libraries' role as an intellectual hub and to enhance the WVU efforts to publish important work that requires additional financial support.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide strategic, forward-thinking leadership to effectively set priorities, manage resources and programs, and achieve institutional goals;
- Establish a shared vision that promotes the University's and the Libraries' missions;
- Develop and implement a strategic road map to advance that vision;
- Facilitate the continuing organizational restructuring that is ongoing in the Libraries, building a culture that values inquiry and innovation, leverages its strengths, and works collaboratively in service to the betterment of the University;
- Collaborate creatively across campus and beyond to advance the Libraries' mission and role as a thought partner, building alliances to support and enhance the evolving needs of researchers, educators, students, users, and innovators;
- Oversee the Libraries' budget and cultivate relationships with alumnae donors and outside partners to support the Libraries' fundraising and development efforts;
- Promote the Libraries at campus, state, national, and international levels;
- Direct the recruitment, development, and retention of talented library staff, and create a collaborative library environment.
- Grow the financial and organizational capacities of the Libraries, Press, Museum, and Humanities Center through an active fundraising portfolio;
- Continue the transformation of WVU Libraries into a robust research library that supports research and academic excellence through expert staff, excellent collections, evolving support of scholarly communication, and technological advancement that meets the needs of the University
- Lead library Assistant and Associate Deans, Director of the Press and Director of the Humanities Center, the Director of Development, Strategic Business Advisor, and Administrative Assistant



Qualifications

- M.L.S. or equivalent degree from an ALA-accredited institution.
- Minimum 7 years of progressive leadership experience in library administration

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Proven leadership in program management and interdisciplinary collaboration in a complex research university setting.
- Commitment to the educational role of academic libraries, and alignment of library activities and curricula, information literacy, and research.

- Evidence of success in securing external funding.
- Ability to analyze complex problems, interpret operational needs, and develop creative solutions.
- Works with library assistants and associate deans and department heads, as well as external sources, to identify, evaluate, and implement programs that improve services and facilities, enhance the quality of resources, and increase operational efficiency within the libraries.
- Functions as the chief fiscal officer and provides clear communication about the budget.
- Ability to coach, guide, and delegate authority to others for specific administrative tasks.
- Creates an environment that supports professional growth.
- Fosters professionalism, open dialogue, transparency, and a positive and respectful work/learning environment.
- Advanced verbal and written communication skills and the ability to present effectively to small and large groups.



About the Libraries

The WVU Libraries encompasses seven libraries: the Downtown Campus Library, Evansdale Library, Health Sciences Library (Morgantown), Law Library, Health Sciences Library (Charleston), Mary F. Shipper Library at Potomac State College, and Beckley Library at WVU Institute of Technology. Their collections include more than 1.8 million books, 400,000 eBooks, and 117,000 eJournals. The West Virginia & Regional History Center is the archives and special collections at WVU Libraries and holds over 20,000 linear feet of collections and over 100,000 books that document the unique history and culture of West Virginia and central Appalachia. WVU Libraries also houses distinguished centers and programs, including Art in the Libraries, the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences, WVU Humanities Center, and WVU Press.

WVU Libraries connects people with information and culture, empowering their exploration, discovery, learning, and creativity.

Our purpose

As a dynamic and essential University partner trusted to empower learning and research, WVU Libraries provides access to reliable information and cultural understanding. We:

- Empower all library users to confidently discover, navigate, and engage with our collections, spaces, and services.
- Equip learners and researchers with the skills and confidence to think critically, navigate information independently, and apply or create knowledge with purpose.
- Welcome individuals and groups to new experiences, bridging perspectives, sparking curiosity, and deepening understanding through curated collections, programs, and exhibitions.
- Ensure long-term accessibility and responsible use of our collections through strategic stewardship, preservation, and infrastructure.

Through resilience, inclusivity, and adaptability, WVU Libraries commits to sustained growth, responsive service, and a deepened impact across the University and beyond.

Understand how WVU Libraries is turning purpose into action and connecting people with information and culture. [Check out our guiding framework](#)

Vision

The WVU Libraries are intellectual, cultural, and social centers that support the University's goal to attain national research prominence; the Libraries also serve as an essential information resource for the people of West Virginia. To excel in these roles, we seek to:

- Identify, evaluate, and develop collections in a variety of formats that meet the needs of our users.
- Promote discovery by applying technology and research to enrich services and to provide access to our collections.
- Strive for consistently high standards to ensure quality education and service.
- Act with courtesy, professionalism, and integrity.
- Create and maintain inspiring physical environments.
- Foster an inclusive, welcoming environment.
- Build an atmosphere of trust and intellectual freedom.
- Support the right to privacy.

For additional information about the Libraries, please see the [WVU Ex Libris Issue 2025](#)

About West Virginia University

Mission

As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity; by advancing high-impact research; and by leading transformation in West Virginia and the world through local, state and global engagement.

Vision

As One West Virginia University, we are purposeful in our studies and our work so that we can partner with our communities — both near and far — to bring needed and valued solutions to real-life problems within the pillars of education, healthcare, and prosperity.

Values

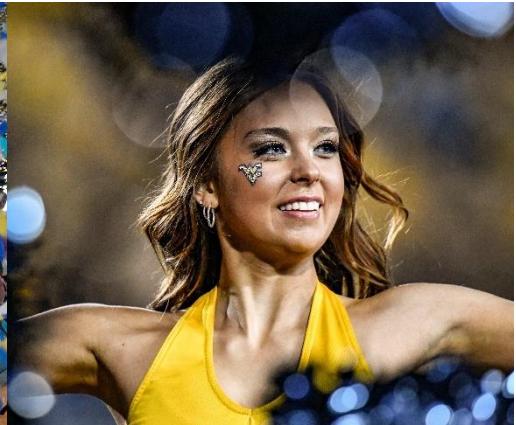
- › SERVICE We seek opportunities to serve others and are committed to providing the highest quality of service.
- › CURIOSITY We ask questions, seek new opportunities and change through innovation.
- › RESPECT We are respectful, transparent and inclusive with each other.
- › ACCOUNTABILITY We perform at our very best every day to create a University that is responsive, efficient and effective.
- › APPRECIATION We support and value each other's contributions as we build a community that is One WVU.

This is WVU

WVU is **one of only about a dozen** U.S. schools classified as a land-grant, doctoral research university with a comprehensive health

Quick Facts

- **R1 Institution:** Highest research ranking possible from the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- **Accreditation:** WVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Many WVU programs hold specialized accreditation.
- **Governance:** The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities. Michael T. Benson is WVU's 27th president.
- **300+ Majors** Total Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, and Professional across 12 colleges and schools
- **170+ Undergraduate Majors Systemwide**
- **WVU Online** offers 13 undergraduate majors, as well as 32 master's, 2 doctoral and 2 associate degrees. Plus, 32 certificate programs.



sciences center.

WVU is **one of only five flagship, R1, land-grant, community-engaged universities in the nation and one of 146 R1** (highest research activity).

The Higher Learning Commission accredits WVU. Many degree programs hold specialized accreditation.

WVU is a space-grant university, part of a network established for outer-space-related research.

According to College Scorecard, WVU graduates earn **\$10,000 more** than other college graduates 10 years after graduation — **32% more than other college graduates**.

Cost of a WVU degree compared to an average 4-year school is **29% LESS** (nationally).

In May 2024, **43%** of WVU System graduates earning bachelor's degrees had **zero federal student loan debt**.

We're the **best 4-year college in West Virginia** for future earnings (College Scorecard).

WVU ranks in the **top 2.4%** of worldwide universities, according to the Center for World University Rankings.

WVU System

WVU SYSTEM DISBURSED
\$432,000,000+
IN FINANCIAL AID

(\$167,000,000+ IN SCHOLARSHIPS 2023-24)

WVU MORGANTOWN
DISBURSED
\$385,000,000+
IN FINANCIAL AID TO 18,661 RECIPIENTS

The **WVU System has 4,246 Promise Scholars** (2024-25) awarded a total in excess of **\$22 million in funding**. The current freshman class at Morgantown includes **1,106 Promise recipients**. Yearly, the **WVU System** educates about **half of all West Virginia students**.



The [WVU System](#) is a family of distinctive campuses united by a single mission. From the groundbreaking research of our flagship in Morgantown (ranked R1, the highest research category institution) to the student-centered focus of WVU Potomac State College in Keyser to the technology-intensive programs at WVU Institute of Technology in Beckley — we are leveraging our talents and resources to create a better future for West Virginia and the world.

The [WVU Institute of Technology](#) in Beckley offers more than 30 programs of study, including six ABET-accredited engineering and computer science programs.

[WVU Potomac State College](#) in Keyser is one of the nation's most affordable four-year colleges, as ranked by the U.S. Department of Education. Offering more than 60 majors, this campus combines the personal attention of a small college with the benefits of a major university.

The WVU System also includes Health Sciences campuses in Charleston and Martinsburg, as well as seven farms and five forests throughout the state, and [WVU Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp](#). The WVU System includes 518 buildings on 15,880 acres. The Morgantown campus has 245 buildings (11 on the National Register of Historic Places) on 1,892 acres.

The [WVU Morgantown campus](#) is in a town named "#1 Best Small City in the East" by Guide to Life in America's Small Cities for its exceptional quality of life. [Morgantown](#), with a population of 30,855, was also among Livability's top 10 best places to raise a family and is within easy traveling distance of Washington, D.C., to the east; Pittsburgh, PA, to the north; and Cleveland and Columbus, OH, to the northwest. Other rankings: Southern Living included Morgantown as one of the South's best small towns; one of the "Top 15 College Football Towns in the Country" by Bleacher Report.

Nomination & Application Process

Compensation

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Contact GA&A

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting WVU in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Inquiries and nominations should be directed towards Julie Holley and Shelley Feather with Greenwood Asher & Associates.

Julie Holley
julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com
850-687-5104

Shelley Feather
shelleyfeather@greenwoodsearch.com
850-687-5132

How to Apply

Application materials should include:

- › A letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position
- › A current résumé/curriculum vitae

For a full application package, please submit a cover letter and CV to
WVULibraries@greenwoodsearch.com

Submission of application materials as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment to confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made.





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West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We invite all qualified applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or Veteran status.