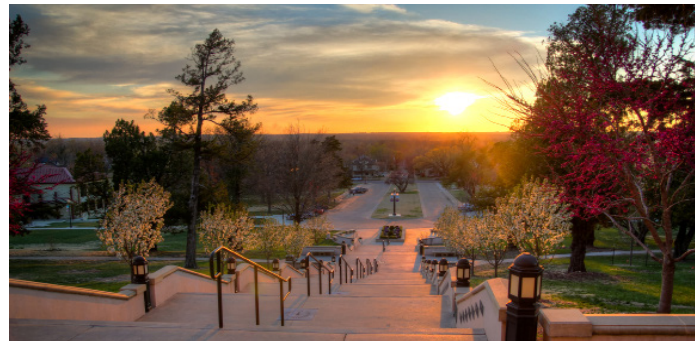




SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
for Professional Studies/Online Learning

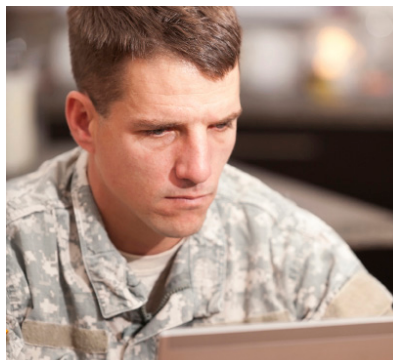




Southwestern College (SC), www.sckans.edu, announces a search to fill the newly created position of Associate VPAA for Professional Studies/Online Learning. The new Assoc VPAA will engage a historically successful program that has offered a distinctive array of professional programs, mainly through online pedagogy. Located in Southwestern's Professional Studies (PS) offices in Wichita, the new Assoc VPAA will be asked to lead and coordinate team efforts to evaluate courses, enhance programs, and improve instructional design throughout all PS offerings.

Reporting to Southwestern's VPAA and with an expected start date of mid-summer 2017, the new Assoc VPAA will be expected to provide guidance and development of the PS program to more aggressively meet current market needs. He/she will serve as "first among equals" within a dedicated team of PS professionals in refreshing and energizing the current academic offerings. 🏛️

In a marketplace where other small colleges have struggled to find their identities, Southwestern stands apart by offering its students a relational experience in a college that is innovative, relevant, and rooted.



THE MISSION

Southwestern College provides a values-based learning experience that emphasizes intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth. Founded in 1885 by Kansas Methodists and now related to the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church, the college offers bachelor's and graduate degrees on-ground and online. Southwestern College:

- Prepares students for careers and for graduate studies with courses that foster critical thinking and effective communication and are characterized by meaningful professor-student interaction;
- Employs emerging technologies that promote learning;
- Strives to live by and teach a sustainable way of life;
- Provides preparation for a wide range of church-related vocations and involvement;
- Offers programs that embrace prior learning and facilitate career progression for working adults, members of the armed services, and persons in transition; and
- Affords a residential learning experience abundant with co-curricular activities that build social awareness and interpersonal skills and cultivate an ethos of service and leadership. 🏛️



ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Southwestern College comprises two important facets – the main campus in Winfield, Kansas, which continues to appeal mostly to traditional-aged students and, since 1993, the PS program in Wichita, which serves working adults completing their undergraduate or graduate degrees in online classes. Enrollment for 2017-18 is expected to be more than 500 students on the main campus and 700 PS learners.

Main Campus – Southwestern’s 83-acre campus in Winfield provides a beautiful academic setting for students and faculty. Located on a hill overlooking the Walnut River Valley, the campus is notable for an abundance of trees (characteristic of the Winfield area) and its native limestone buildings. In the past 25 years, three capital campaigns have provided dramatic improvements in the college’s facilities, while transforming the core of the Winfield campus.

Southwestern’s United Methodist heritage and its commitment to a culture of a student centered approach and service pervades all campus programs. The college’s commitment to an appreciation of all peoples of diverse cultural, ethnic, gender, and racial backgrounds has developed a student population in which 44.6% self-reported as white, 23.6% as underrepresented, and 6.9% as international. Partnerships with two Wichita inner-city middle schools have led to SC students serving as mentors for the youth, and to summer camps that give the public school youngsters a taste of life on campus and the realization that higher education is a possibility for them.

SC’s academic divisions include Business, Education, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Computer Science, Communication, and English. Undergraduate students choose from 35 majors and 27 minors.



Professional Studies – Southwestern was one of the first private colleges in the nation to embrace adult students interested in earning a bachelor’s or master’s degree in a non-traditional format. Established in 1993, Professional Studies began offering on-ground courses in Wichita. In 1995, internet courses were added to provide further flexibility and accessibility for busy working adults.

Market demands continue to inform major PS offerings, with ongoing analysis of enrollments and interest allowing for quick start-up of such programs as security management, health administration, and cyber-crime investigation in addition to majors in business, nursing, and other more traditional fields. Currently, 17 bachelor’s degree programs are offered. Master’s degrees are offered in five business fields. The Division of Education in Winfield also offers several education programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level through PS. Non-credit training opportunities are also available.

In partnership with corporate, military, community and technical college partners, PS provides an opportunity for students to utilize prior college credit, experience gained through military service, and corporate training programs. A six-week course schedule is conducive to balancing professional and family demands. Faculty facilitate the sharing of knowledge as an integral part of the educational process. Although most PS learners are enrolled in asynchronous online classes, select courses are also offered on-ground in Wichita, Midwest City (OK), Fort Riley, and McConnell Air Force Base.

As on the main campus, relationships also characterize the college experience for this population. Success coaches are assigned to each learner, guiding the student through course selections and credit options, while serving as the student’s mentor and advocate from admission through graduation. 🏛️



The Agenda for the Associate VPAA

Despite its successful role in pioneering online educational programs more than two decades ago, Southwestern's PS division now requires new leadership. The Assoc VPAA will be asked to retain a mission-driven vision that is consistent with SC's overall philosophy and quality of education, while also refreshing the PS program to offer today's students an updated and distinctive online learning experience. With this opportunity in mind, the Assoc VPAA will be expected to:

- **Rejuvenate PS's Course Offerings**

As the market for online offerings has grown and the competition for online students has sharpened, an aggressive effort is needed within SC's Professional Studies to update both course and program offerings. Restoring Southwestern's prominence in this marketplace will require a selective updating of curriculum and pedagogy, and the leadership of someone with a deep working knowledge of the online learning environment and its trends for the future.

- **Work Effectively in the PS Organizational Structure**

Currently, a dedicated PS professional staff work together in several teams in order to provide transparency and understanding across the entire PS operation. The Assoc VPAA will have influence over these teams (faculty affairs, academics, instructional design, and a less formal operations team). While collaborating with all teams in the rejuvenation of course offerings, it will be understood that the Assoc VPAA will be the "first among equals" when providing support for and guiding these groups.

- **Understand the Current PS Students**

In order to refresh the PS program, the Assoc VPAA will also need to understand the nature of the program's current successes and the characteristics of its current students. Over 60% of the PS student population is affiliated with the military and the majority of those are active duty service members.



With this and other student profiles being prominent, the chance to increase market share will necessarily require the Assoc VP to evaluate the academic needs and educational desires of current and future students.

- **Develop a Working Knowledge of the Current Online Market for PS**

Employers' needs are among those most critical to the future growth and welfare of the PS program. The Assoc VPAA will need to be strategic in identifying potential new opportunities for PS, while at the same time maintaining academic standards that will be acceptable at SC. By remaining "light on his/her feet" within the marketplace, new PS leadership can gain early traction in developing new programs. The ability to effectively market to and service the network of current and prospective educational partners will be essential.



Desired Attributes of the Associate VPAA

The successful PS candidate should possess a combination of personal qualities and professional experiences that relate directly to the AGENDA presented above. The Assoc VPAA should bring integrity, energy, empathy, a sense of humor, and an uncompromised work ethic. An advanced degree is preferred, as are both online and classroom teaching experience. Professional experience from outside the academy could also be attractive. More specifically, the Assoc VPAA for Professional Studies/Online Learning should present:

- A deep working knowledge of today's online learning environment and the vision to forecast future trends that will be beneficial to SC;
- A nimble approach to analyzing current course and program offerings in order that review, revision, and renewal will occur gracefully and quickly;
- A record of accomplishment in the successful administration of online programs;
- Strategic thinking and planning skills that will analyze data in order to enhance the future of SC's PS programming;
- Successful leadership experience as a team member, providing and supporting the continuous improvement of others while holding them accountable for positive performance;
- An ability to grow PS's enrollment through fresh programs and improved instructional design, without compromising SC's academic standards;
- Effective communication skills that include a willingness to listen carefully, while writing and speaking with clarity and inspiration; and
- A passion for matching the needs of current PS learners with effective online programs, while identifying new student markets and ways in which the PS program can serve them.





THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee will be accepting nominations and applications on a rolling basis until early June, 2017. For most favorable consideration, applications should be submitted by Friday, June 9, 2017. The Associate VPAA will be invited to begin work as soon as possible after July 1, 2017.

Dr. Thomas B. Courtice is the search consultant assisting with this search. Nominators and prospective candidates may contact him at Tom.Courtice@gmail.com or at 614-395-6631.

Applications should be addressed to :
SouthwesternAVPAAforPS@gmail.com

Materials should include a letter of candidacy that responds to the Agenda and the Desired Attributes detailed in this prospectus, a CV or resume, and the names and addresses of three references, none of whom will be contacted until a later stage of the search and not without the formal permission of the candidate. All inquiries and applications will be received and evaluated in full confidentiality.

Southwestern College is an EEO/AA employer



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