Western Carolina University
Dean, The Kimmel School

Western Carolina University (WCU) is a premier regional comprehensive university with nationally and internationally recognized teacher-scholars dedicated to student learning. A constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, WCU deploys its resources statewide either singly or collaboratively with other institutions to address state needs. The University offers courses in the arts, sciences, technologies, humanities, and professions through degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, education specialist, and doctoral levels. Western Carolina offers the advantages of a large university while maintaining its small college atmosphere. The University enrolls approximately 9,400 students and has an annual budget of some $180 million.

Located in Cullowhee, NC, 52 miles west of Asheville, adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains and near the Blue Ridge Mountains, WCU has a commitment to the rich traditions of the Southern Highlands and Cherokee cultures. Its Mountain Heritage Center, Cherokee Center, Highlands Biological Station, Craft Revival Project, and Mountain Heritage Day, which attracts thousands of people across the region, reflect this influence—at the same time providing irreplaceable educational resources for the region.

As a regional comprehensive university, WCU is committed to serving constituents within its geographic domain by offering services and appropriate educational programs and experiences. Wedded to its region, WCU strives to take advantage of its location by capitalizing on assets unique to the region. As a result, WCU’s educational portfolio and services are strongly influenced by its location and the opportunities within it.

WCU’s core geographical region is defined as the 17 western-most counties of North Carolina. As such, it works most closely with educational, governmental, and business entities in this area. Historically, WCU has provided educational programs and services to an extended region as far east as the I-77 corridor. WCU will continue to serve its extended region when it fits within the University’s resources and programming. Further, WCU has multiple programs that interact with its larger economic region extending from Atlanta in the west, Raleigh to the east, Knoxville to the north, and Greenville/Spartanburg to the south. Although WCU has a defined region, it maintains a presence in national and international sites for educational purposes and training. Western Carolina
University received special designation as a Community Engaged University by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2008.

The following is the Mission Statement of the University: Western Carolina University creates engaged learning opportunities that incorporate research and service through residential, distance, education, and international experiences. The University focuses its academic programs, educational outreach, research and creative activities, and cultural opportunities to improve individual lives and enhance economic and community development in the region, state, and nation.

The academic programs span more than 120 specialties—including the nation’s highest-ranked online entrepreneurship and project management programs, a national award-winning teacher education program, a criminal justice program used as a model for North Carolina’s accreditation program, and the nation’s first accredited four-year emergency medical care program. The distinguished faculty includes national award-winning authors, nationally and internationally recognized experts, and winners of Emmy, O. Henry, and National Endowment for the Arts awards.

WCU is the sixth largest producer of teachers in North Carolina. The College of Education and Allied Professions was the national winner of the 2006 Association of Teacher Educators’ Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award and the national winner of the 2007 American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Christa McAuliffe Award for Exemplary Programs in Teacher Education.

A powerful combination of academic excellence and regional economic development, WCU’s Millennial Initiative not only will provide services and job opportunities to the people of the region, but also will promote exciting new educational opportunities for students and faculty and staff and will expand the University’s partnership opportunities with the private sector. WCU has collaborative partnerships with more than 100 corporations, including many on the Fortune 500, as well as a recent collaboration with Vale Soluções em Energia (VSE), a Brazilian-owned company.

The cornerstone concept of the Millenial Initiative revolves around specialized clusters of activity across the entire campus. Research and business activities, introduced into the existing traditional campus, create integrated knowledge communities that the University calls “neighborhoods of interest.” WCU envisions the development of many multiple-use neighborhoods, anchored by core academic facilities, blended with related business and industry activities, and incorporating special-interest housing.

Western Carolina’s priorities for the future are summarized in its Strategic Plan:

1. **Prepare students to meet 21st century needs and demands:**

   WCU will continue to align its academic programs and services consistent with its unique and nationally significant philosophy of integrative education.

2. **Serve the educational needs of North Carolina:**

   To address the projected demand for higher education in North Carolina, WCU will utilize an educational extension model to provide programming and services to non-Western Carolina University Dean, The Kimmel School
Western Carolina University
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traditional, underserved, and place-bound students; as well as increase the main campus capacity.

3. Improve public education:

Through its partnerships with the region’s schools and its applied research, WCU will influence public policy and practice with regard to teacher preparation and retention, administrative quality, and school performance.

4. Promote economic and community advancement in WCU’s region:

WCU will apply the Stewards of Place model as adopted by the Board of Trustees to advance the region.

5. Improve health and wellness in Western North Carolina:

WCU will expand its role as the major provider of allied health and nursing education, applied research, and service in the Western North Carolina region.

6. Model environmental sustainability:

WCU will expand its focus on education and research tied to environmental sustainability with particular emphasis on biodiversity and land use.

7. Promote outreach and engagement within the region:

WCU will encourage the application of scholarship and research through its adaptation of the Boyer Model of Scholarship and its model of integrative, intentional learning (Quality Enhancement Plan [QEP]).

8. Demonstrate institutional integrity, responsibility, and effectiveness:

WCU will align its internal policies and processes to achieve its stated objectives as outlined in the strategic plan.

Western Carolina has made significant progress in recent years. Student enrollment has grown from 6,500 to more than 9,400 today. To accommodate rising enrollment, the University has constructed or significantly renovated 14 buildings, including five new residence halls, a dining hall, a campus recreation center, the Fine and Performing Arts Center, and a high-tech Center for Applied Technology. The University expanded its student union facility, launched women’s soccer and softball programs, and renovated every athletics facility on campus.

With the 2005 acquisition of 344 acres of property across NC Highway 107 from the main campus as part of the Millennial Initiative, the University doubled the size of its campus. A new Health and Human Sciences Building is the first facility of the initiative, which envisions creation of neighborhoods anchored by an academic building and surrounded by related private industry and government partners.
The University has gained national recognition for being among the first institutions in the nation to require incoming students to report to campus with their own computers and for adopting innovative tenure and promotion policies that reward faculty members for their scholarly activities that go beyond traditional teaching, research, and service. Western Carolina’s Quality Enhancement Plan, which emphasizes strong links between students’ academic and extracurricular activities, has been called a national model by higher education associations.

The University has created the residential Honors College, which has grown to become one of the largest in the United States. Over the past 15 years, WCU has focused attention on sharply increasing admissions standards and has developed a top-ranked program in undergraduate research.

In recent years, the University emphasized the enhancement of student life through the development of learning communities, student leadership initiatives, model Greek life programs, and strong attention to the development and welfare of the whole student. WCU students excel both in and out of the classroom. WCU’s Pride of the Mountains Marching Band was the 2009 winner of the Sudler Trophy, the nation’s highest award for college and university marching bands, awarded annually by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, and marched in the 2011 Rose Bowl Parade.

**THE KIMMEL SCHOOL**

The Kimmel School is home to the Department of Construction Management, Department of Engineering and Technology, and Center for Rapid Product Realization. Degree programs offered include:

- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Accredited by the EAC of ABET
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, Accredited by the ETAC of ABET
- Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology – Applied Systems Technology, *Accredited by the ETAC of ABET*
- Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology – Engineering Technical Operations, *Off-Site Distance Program*
- Bachelor of Science in Engineering – Mechanical Engineering Specialization, *EAC of ABET Accreditation to be sought in 2017*
- Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, *Accredited by the ACCE*
- Master of Science in Technology
- Master of Construction Management – *Online Program*

The Kimmel School began offering the Master of Science in Technology at the Biltmore Park Facility in Fall 2013. Specifically, the program is designed to serve working professionals through evening course offerings in Asheville, NC.

The Kimmel School won approval in August 2013 from the North Carolina General Assembly to expand the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE) degree to the Biltmore Park Facility, starting Fall 2014. The program at Biltmore Park will primarily focus on serving working professionals and will lead to a general engineering degree that will provide the specific skills sought by regional industry partners.
The Kimmel School is becoming a national leader in implementing project-based learning (PBL) curricula. PBL enables students to work on real-world engineering problems through senior capstone projects. Kimmel School students are “job-ready” upon graduation and are in high demand, finding employment in the regions before or shortly after graduation. Currently, the Kimmel School serves more than 600 students, has a faculty of 27 and a staff of 11, a budget of $3.7 million, fixed assets of $8 million, and $8 million in endowed professorships.

Vision
The Kimmel School is determined to become a national model for applications-focused engineering and technology education and a leader in project-based learning.

Mission
The Kimmel School is committed to its statewide mission for education and its regional mission for engagement. The Kimmel School provides innovative academic programs in Construction Management and Engineering and Technology for students in an environment that supports economic development, professional development, and involvement with businesses and industries. The Kimmel School fulfills its academic missions through teaching and learning, scholarship and discovery, and service and engagement.

Core Values
Inspired by its SPIRIT, the Kimmel School strives to:

Serve – serve students, university, community, and region

Produce – produce high-quality graduates through its Project Based Learning model.

Innovate – explore innovative approaches that stimulate thinking, enhance the learning experience, and contribute to improving people’s lives.

Research – promote and support fundamental and applied research that enhances scientific discovery, informs teaching, and fosters the academic growth of all students.

Invest – invest in recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding team members to accomplish its mission.

Teach – seek to enhance education effectiveness through continuous improvement and advocacy of original teaching pedagogies.

CENTER FOR RAPID PRODUCT REALIZATION

An Innovative, Can-Do Partner
The Center for Rapid Product Realization (the Rapid Center) is a university-based product development center that helps clients refine existing products, develop new ones, and improve business practices. Industry-experienced faculty and staff work with business partners to address specific needs and to remove obstacles to product commercialization and process improvement.
At the same time, students, working with faculty mentors and course instructors, address real problems for project sponsors while gaining hands-on engineering experience during the two-semester senior capstone project.

**Collaborative Approach**
The Rapid Center is partially funded by the Economic Development Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and is a partner of WCU’s EDA University Center. Collaborating with the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) and with the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in WCU’s College of Business, the Rapid Center assists individuals and companies whose combined successes will improve the economic strength of the state, the region, and the Southeast.

**For Business Partners**
At the Rapid Center, engineering expertise, facilities, and equipment needed—all in one place—to get a project completed within budget and on time. Intellectual property is protected, under contract, with an analysis and testing agreement (ATA).

The Rapid Center can:
- match RP method to development stage and requirements
- evaluate form, fit, and function with rapid prototypes
- field-test functional prototypes to help prevent costly tooling mistakes
- verify specifications using contact or non-contact metrology
- optimize manufacturing methods with input from our experts
- provide advice on intellectual property issues and agreements.

In addition to technical assistance, the Rapid Center offers access to business resources and information that can help its clients move forward with successful commercialization of products.

**Facilities and Equipment**
The Kimmel School’s offices, classrooms, and laboratories are located in the Belk Building. Additional labs are located in the $8 million, 28,000-square-foot Center for Applied Technology. The Kimmel School has 16 laboratories, which support classroom instruction and the work of the Center for Rapid Product Realization with business partners and project sponsors. The labs contain sophisticated equipment that meets or exceeds industry standards for work on 3D imaging and solid model generation, re-engineering and project design, automation, rapid prototyping in polymers, CNC and laser machining, component integration, and product testing.

**Virtual Computing Lab**
The Virtual Computing Lab (VCL) system allows Kimmel School students and faculty to access software located on campus from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, all year long.
Automation Lab
The assembly system employs levels of automation ranging from simple PLC controlled pick-and-place robots to color vision and TCP/IP control networking. This system supports Profibus DP, TCP/IP Ethernet, and remote I/O communication protocols in order to bridge the gap between the user and the machine. This system uses HMI (human machine interface) for both data acquisition and control.

The Dean of the Kimmel School
The successful candidate should have the following qualifications:

- An earned terminal degree and eligibility for tenure at the rank of professor.
- A professional history of progressively more responsible leadership positions in engineering or scientific education.
- A strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate teaching excellence, faculty research and creative activities, the teacher-scholar model, the Boyer Model of Scholarship, and to the significance of applied research.
- Experience with developing resources to support faculty research and engagement, including grant writing, sponsored research, and technology transfer.
- Experience recruiting, retaining, and developing faculty.
- A strong commitment to enhancing the educational opportunities of students, including international experiences.
- Experience in leading meaningful engagement activities between academic institutions and their communities and demonstrated commitment to the mission of a Carnegie Engaged University.
- A demonstrated commitment to shared governance and a history of collaborative, consultative, and transparent decision-making.
- Consummate integrity and unwavering support for academic freedom and academic responsibility.
- Experience managing a complex budget, integrating budget decisions and strategic planning, and ensuring institutional efficiency.
- The demonstrated ability to develop and lead the academic leadership team.
- A demonstrated commitment to promoting diversity and equity.
- A clear understanding of institutional accreditation processes.
- Familiarity with emerging issues and trends in engineering education.
- The ability to represent the University to external audiences, especially corporate partners.
- An understanding and appreciation of the history, institutional culture, mission, values, and principles of Western Carolina University and its sense of place.
- Well developed interpersonal skills, including a clear and open communication style.

Western Carolina University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (www.sacscoc.org) to award bachelor's, master's, education specialist, and doctor's degrees. -
All correspondence relating to the position of Dean of the Kimmel School of Western Carolina University should be directed in confidence to the University’s executive recruitment consultant:

Jerry H. Baker
Baker and Associates LLC
4799 Olde Towne Parkway - Suite 202
Marietta, GA 30068
jbaker@baasearch.com
770-395-2761

Western Carolina University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Proper documentation of identity and employability are required at the time of employment. Final candidates for employment are subject to a criminal background check. All new employees are required to provide official transcripts within 30 days of employment.