The Western Michigan University (WMU) Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee are conducting a national search for the University’s ninth president. A Top-100 national research university, WMU seeks a courageous, visionary, and resourceful academic leader who will enable us to leverage our strengths, advance our stature, and help us shape an enduring identity.

ABOUT WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1903, WMU is a learner-centered, discovery-driven, and globally-engaged research institution with an enrollment of 24,000, of whom nearly 5,000 are pursuing graduate degrees. Classified as a “higher research” university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, WMU offers more than 250 degree programs, including 31 at the doctoral level. Many of its degree programs enjoy national and international recognition. Committed to diversity in all its forms, the University attracts students from a rich variety of backgrounds and identities representing every state in the union and 100 nations around the world.

Nearly 900 WMU Board-appointed faculty members have studied and earned degrees at many of the world’s leading universities. They engage in teaching, research, creative activity, and service primarily on the main campus in Kalamazoo and at 18 locations throughout the region and around the world. Additionally, WMU has a substantial online presence through its Extended University Programs and a wealth of articulation agreements with other institutions and international partnerships.

In 2014, in partnership with the community and two local teaching hospitals, WMU launched a private medical school, the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. WMU also recently announced a formal affiliation with one of the nation’s largest and most diverse law schools, renamed the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

WMU is one of only 103 public institutions with a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. For 26 consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has listed Western Michigan University among that publication’s top national universities. Military Times EDGE magazine ranks WMU among the best U.S. institutions for military veterans, the only Michigan school to appear on its annual Best for Vets list all seven years of the list’s existence. Western regularly appears on Washington Monthly’s annual list of Top 100 National Universities, a designation that recognizes contributions to the public good. In addition, the University has been recognized nationally for its many award-winning sustainability programs and environmental leadership.
WMU has eight degree-granting colleges:

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Aviation
- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Health and Human Services
- Graduate College
- Haworth College of Business

The Lee Honors College is home to more than 1,700 high-achieving students who are completing programs of study in every one of WMU’s seven undergraduate degree-granting colleges.

The faculty and staff of Western Michigan University are committed to fostering a learning environment that is rigorous, supportive, and inclusive. International students comprise eight percent of WMU’s diverse student body; students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups comprise 21 percent. A wide range of resources and services for students focus on academic and career success, with several dedicated to meeting the needs of such select groups as first-year students, transfer students, and military veterans. One of WMU’s signature initiatives, the Seita Scholars program, provides scholarships to students who have aged out of the foster care system.

WMU students enjoy a vibrant campus atmosphere featuring nearly 400 student organizations, including an active student government, academic clubs and honor societies, student chapters of professional associations, fraternities and sororities, club sports teams, faith-based groups, and a variety of other interest groups.

The WMU Broncos, members of the NCAA – Division I Mid-American and National Collegiate Hockey Conferences, are nationally competitive in fifteen varsity sports. Notably, the 2016 Bronco football team just completed a perfect 13-0 season, capped off with its first MAC championship title since 1988. One of only two undefeated Division I teams this season, the Broncos will compete in the 2017 Cotton Bowl.

The city of Kalamazoo is midway between Chicago and Detroit, 140 miles from each. With a population of more than 325,000, the Kalamazoo metropolitan area is large enough to support many of the amenities more commonly found in larger cities. The University hosts acclaimed arts programs and exhibitions, world-renowned speakers, and world-class musical and theater performances. Frequent collaborations with community groups and other local educational institutions add to the many rich cultural and intellectual opportunities offered.
 According to a national study that looked at relative affordability, housing, and employment opportunities, Kalamazoo was named one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates. It is also the home of the Kalamazoo Promise, which guarantees tuition to Michigan colleges and universities to graduates of the Kalamazoo Public Schools—the largest program of its kind anywhere.

ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY
With just eight presidents in its 113-year history, WMU’s leaders have had an average tenure of 14 years. The University has a long tradition of attracting exceptional, deeply committed leaders who appreciate and value academic diversity across the University. WMU, like Michigan’s 14 other public universities, is constitutionally autonomous. The President reports to the Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the governor, and responsible for the academic, philanthropic, financial, and overall vision and direction of the University.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Advance the mission of the University in partnership with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and the broader community;
• Lead the process of refining and articulating a clear, compelling, and enduring academic identity that leverages WMU’s unique strengths and responds to existing and future challenges and opportunities for growth, advancement, and sustainability;
• Cultivate an inclusive learning and working environment that celebrates and embraces diversity in background, identities, and perspective;
• Foster a culture of research and discovery and advance the pursuit of intellectual freedom and academic excellence through curating, generating, and disseminating knowledge and creative activity;
• Build and promote a supportive and collaborative culture that respects and honors the academic tradition of shared governance and provides the necessary resources and development opportunities for faculty, staff and students;
• Oversee all budgetary operations for the University to ensure that funding priorities align with near- and long-term strategic objectives;
• Build a cohesive leadership team that is open to collaboration with faculty and staff to anticipate and find creative, affordable solutions to the challenges facing higher education;
• Work with private, state, and national sources to raise funds and to articulate the value of supporting the University;
• Champion comprehensive internationalization of higher education and interdisciplinary research and instruction, with a focus on graduating globally competent students whose world view extends beyond their field of study; and
• Innovate and adopt best practices in recruitment and retention of traditional and other student populations, strategic enrollment management, financial aid administration, and awarding scholarships.
The successful candidate will have most or all of the following characteristics and qualifications:

- Ability to motivate success and build consensus through transparent, accountable leadership that advances the University mission.
- A sustained record of high integrity and ethical behavior, creativity, energy, and the ability to inspire and unite others;
- Visionary leadership, proven management skills, and a record of accomplishment to advance diversity and inclusion as part of the core university mission—particularly through recruiting, developing, and retaining diverse faculty, staff, and students;
- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree in an academic discipline with qualifications meriting appointment at the rank of full professor;
- A successful academic career with prior experience creating exemplary leadership teams that can initiate, guide, and nurture transformational change in a large decentralized organization;
- A commitment to actively honor and uphold the core academic principles of shared governance;
- Experience building consensus with collective-bargaining units in an environment of mutual respect;
- Evidence of exceptional political savvy and ability to work with business leaders and other community stakeholders;
- A student-centered philosophy;
- Strong commitment to the promotion and enhancement of student success initiatives;
- Evidence of strong leadership in advancing global engagement, including promoting study abroad, the recruitment of international students, and comprehensive internationalization at home;
- A record of championing sustainability and leveraging higher education to address sustainability challenges and integrate the UN Sustainable Development Goals into research and teaching;
- An authentic, engaged, charismatic, and accessible communication style;
- An understanding of and appreciation for the role of athletics in the University setting, and the relationship between WMU, the NCAA, the MAC, and the NCHC;
- An understanding of and appreciation for the value of the arts to higher education and the surrounding community; and
- Knowledge of best and emerging practices in managing university finances and a record of budgeting to support and align strategic objectives.

APPLICATION PROCESS
The Presidential Search Advisory Committee invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, full resume/CV, and contact information for at least five references), or expressions of interest to be submitted directly to Parker Executive Search. Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to February 28, 2017. Please send all nominations and application materials to:
Laurie Wilder, President
Porsha Williams, Vice President
770-804-1996 ext: 109
pwilliams@parkersearch.com || mbonds@parkersearch.com

Western Michigan University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and all other qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.