



Provost & Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Spartanburg Methodist College

Spartanburg Methodist College invites nominations and applications for the appointment of Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs



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Spartanburg Methodist College

Located in Spartanburg, South Carolina on a 110 acre, beautifully wooded campus, Spartanburg Methodist College is a private, liberal arts, residential institution offering baccalaureate and associate degrees. It is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

History of the College

Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC; the College) was founded as Textile Industrial Institute (TII) in 1911 by Dr. David English Camak, a visionary Methodist minister. Founded as a work-study cooperative, TII served young adults working in area textile mills by offering high school level courses in preparation for advanced education or employment. In this first cooperative education program in the country, students worked a week, and then took classes for a week. This arrangement enabled the school to provide resources for education and for life.

In 1927, the first two years of college-level work were added to the curriculum to provide graduates with an associate degree in liberal arts for transfer to senior level colleges. The continued relationship between TII and local business and industry led to the development of associate degrees that prepared students for immediate employment.

In 1942, Textile Industrial Institute became Spartanburg Junior College and for the next twenty-five years focused its efforts on providing associate degrees designed for transfer into a wide variety of bachelor's degree programs. Beginning in 1965, the College began a cycle of growth during which over three-fourths of the present campus buildings were erected or renovated, the curriculum was broadened and strengthened, student enrollment doubled, and new expertise was added through faculty growth and development.

In 1974, Spartanburg Junior College became Spartanburg Methodist College.

In 2019, the college continued its history of growth and development when it began offering a bachelor's degree, moving to a four-year college for the first time in its 108-year history. The College received approval of the four-year degree from its accrediting organization, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) as well as the U.S. Department of Education. Notably, SMC is also South Carolina's first liberal arts college to make career development an integral part of the four-year degree programs.

SMC continues to move forward and exceeded a goal to grow its student body to 1,000 by 2020. 1,025 full-time new, returning, and transfer students enrolled at SMC in the fall of 2020, which at the time comprised the largest student population in the college's 109-year history. With this enrollment, SMC has had a fourth straight year of record enrollment growth and a 39 percent increase in the study body size since 2016. SMC further expanded opportunities for students in the fall of 2021 by offering an associate or bachelor's degree with a portfolio of nine online degree programs.

Mission

Spartanburg Methodist College is a private residential institution offering baccalaureate and associate degrees. At SMC, lives are transformed in a values-oriented, student-centered atmosphere in the Christian tradition that encourages academic excellence, intellectual exploration, social awareness, and character development within the liberal arts tradition.

The academic program offers students the option of transferring to a four-year college or university for continued study or entering a career after graduation. The curriculum ranges from the basic liberal arts and transfer program to preparation for immediate entry into the job market through career track and baccalaureate degree options. The College offers to a wide variety of students the opportunity of higher education by providing a competent and dedicated faculty, distance learning options, financial assistance, work-study positions, and special support programs.

Vision

Spartanburg Methodist College will be the college of choice for residential or commuting students who desire the advantages of a church-related education. We will offer motivated students a liberal arts education in preparation for lifelong learning through relevant and challenging academic programs, campus leadership opportunities, and strong athletic programs. We will do this in an environment of community and caring, where each student is respected as an individual with unique needs and is encouraged to achieve his or her fullest potential.

To achieve our vision, we must:

1. Continue our ethic of teaching, learning, and caring.
2. Recruit, retain, empower, and reward highly qualified faculty and staff.
3. Improve facilities for academic, athletic, and student life.
4. Grow the institutional endowment to enhance student access through improved student aid opportunities.

Guiding Principles: We value the following principles in pursuit of our vision:

- Achievement in all areas of endeavor – academic, athletic, leadership, and social.
- Integrity in all our dealings – with students, families, one another, and all other constituents.
- Service for the greater good – remaining true to our history and heritage, the College reaches out to students, families, alumni, and the community to enrich lives.

SMC Today

Spartanburg Methodist College serves a highly diverse student body from almost every South Carolina county and approximately 15 states, as well as from various countries around the world. Of the 1025 students, approximately 52% are female and 48% are male. Approximately 50% of the students are students of color; 46% of students live on campus; and 42% of students are first-generation college students.

The College seeks to serve the educational needs of its student body by enabling each student to meet the challenges of a technologically based future. SMC is a liberal arts college that only awards undergraduate degrees while offering a variety of educational programs to suit both the needs of the traditional college student and of the non-traditional working adult. Students learn from a highly qualified and engaged faculty and are offered: six on-ground associate degrees, three online associate degrees, two on-ground bachelor's degrees that include 18 hours of professional development courses known as the Camak Core, and three online bachelor's degrees (one of which includes four areas of specialization from which students may choose) that also include the Camak Core. SMC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees and bachelor's degrees and by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

The characteristics students acquire through an SMC education are the ideal foundation for lifelong learning. SMC students are challenged to think beyond a linear field of study. New ideas are encouraged, tested, and put into practice. Group projects teach understanding and openness to the ideas of others. In-class presentations sharpen communication skills. Leadership abilities are strengthened through participation in student organizations. Athletics foster a sense of loyalty and commitment. Creativity and imagination are encouraged by involvement in the arts and educational programs. Community outreach projects foster civic and social responsibility. At SMC, students graduate prepared to use the skills they attain to build careers, lead others, and strengthen our society.

SMC is committed to the education of the whole person and considers students' activities outside the classroom to be as important as those inside the classroom. Campus life at SMC is diverse, exciting, and fun while offering something for every student. Athletically, the SMC Pioneers are a Division 1 member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and the College has more than 250 student-athletes who compete on 13 athletic teams. SMC's long history of athletic excellence has allowed student-athletes the opportunity to continue their playing careers at NCAA institutions.

Since its founding, SMC has been affiliated with the mission work of the United Methodist Church and its forbearer, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The relationship between the College and the church has continued across the years through the General Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Global Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference. The College's name attests to the pride the institution's trustees, faculty, staff, and student body take in working and studying at a college based on the traditional values of the

church and the United States of America. The college is led by a Board of Trustees comprising 24 members, with six clergy members and 18 laity. Terms are staggered on a three-year basis.

SMC encourages students to the open exploration and expression of faith. The SMC culture is inclusive and supportive to all, regardless of religious beliefs or non-beliefs. The College welcomes the searching soul and dissenting opinion alike. More than 15 different religious backgrounds are represented at SMC, unified by the belief that the core foundations of loving God and loving neighbor, along with the valuable character traits of integrity, honesty, and compassion, will build strong citizens and leaders.

Finally, SMC is located in the vibrant city of Spartanburg, and within easy driving distance to South Carolina's coast and North Carolina's slopes, as well as the cities of Asheville, Atlanta, Charleston, and Charlotte. Seven institutions of higher learning make Spartanburg an officially designated "College Town," while world headquarters for global corporations like QS/1 Data Systems, Denny's restaurants, and Milliken help make it a true international city. Currently, Spartanburg is also home to the NFL Carolina Panther's training camp.

For more information about SMC, please visit www.smcsc.edu.

Spartanburg Methodist College's President



Scott Cochran

Scott Cochran became the eighth President of Spartanburg Methodist College on November 16, 2015.

Before leading the college, President Cochran spent nearly 30 years in executive roles in business and higher education.

President Cochran holds an economics degree from Wofford College and an MBA from Duke University. His business experience includes senior positions in the United States and internationally with GMAC, UPS Capital and Performance Solutions by Milliken, Milliken & Company's consulting unit. He served Wofford College for seven years as founder and Dean of The Space, Wofford's professional development program. During his time at Wofford, he also taught courses in finance.

President Cochran is a Liberty Fellow and serves on the boards of the United Way of the Piedmont and three national, regional, and state college associations. Most importantly, he and his wife, Teresa, have been married for 33 years and have six children and three grandchildren.



Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

Overview

The Provost is the Chief Academic Officer of the College and provides leadership to all academic areas to reflect the mission and vision of SMC. The Provost is an advocate for academic programs while providing leadership to faculty and academic staff to ensure consistent quality standards across the curriculum and academic programs to meet the educational needs of SMC's diverse student body. The Provost oversees the academic integrity of the College and provides leadership in long-range planning, budgeting, curriculum, and program development while supporting innovations in programs and methods of delivery that respond in a timely manner to changing environments. The Provost ensures compliance with various accreditation agencies at the institutional and program level as well as state accreditation and regulations. As a Cabinet member, the Provost also contributes significantly to the overall strategic and operational leadership of the College.

Reporting Relationships and Responsibilities

The Provost reports to the President and serves as a member of the Cabinet. Other cabinet positions reporting to the President include: Executive Vice President for Business Affairs; Chief of Staff & Vice President for Advancement; Vice President for Enrollment; Vice President for Student and Professional Development; Vice President for Analytics and Continuous Improvement; Vice President for Marketing; Vice President for Facilities; Vice President for Operations; Director of Athletics; and Chaplain & Director of Church Relations. The Dean of Community Wellness also serves on the Cabinet and reports to the Vice President for Student & Professional Development. An Executive Assistant also reports to the President.

Positions reporting to the Provost include Associate Provost for Online Strategy; Librarian; Registrar; Division Chairs (11) for: English; Humanities; Business; History & Anthropology; Science; Math; Criminal Justice; Physical Education; Psychology; Professional Development; Arts Enrichment; and an Administrative Assistant. There are over 50 full-time employees in the functions led by the Provost, including 42 full-time faculty. There are approximately 44 adjunct faculty.

The Provost will also work closely with, and/or communicate regularly with, a variety of stakeholders (internal and external) and vendors including, but not limited to: Board of Trustees; accrediting agencies; outsource partners; administrators from other educational institutions; government officials; and community representatives.

The primary responsibility of the Provost is to serve as the chief academic officer of the College with responsibility for planning, development, implementation, coordination, review, and administration of all academic programs and support services.

Specific accountabilities/responsibilities of the Provost include, but are not limited to:

- Serve as Chief Academic Officer of the College, managing and unifying the academic affairs function to promote a current and relevant curriculum consistent with the mission and vision of SMC.
- Actively participate as a member of the Cabinet; partner with the President and other Cabinet administrators in achieving institutional objectives identified in the College's Strategic Plan.
- Ensure that programs and activities within academic affairs meet and exceed the requirements of the SACSCOC accreditation standards; serve as the key liaison with SACSCOC or other accrediting organizations.
- Discern, analyze, assess, and recommend the creation of new academic programs and the modification, expansion, and/or enhancement of the existing curriculum; measure and plan continuous improvement, ensuring effective and cost-efficient operations.
- Serve as a champion for the faculty while balancing the pragmatic realities of operating the College in a fiscally prudent manner.
- Direct/oversee the recruitment, development, and retention of high-quality faculty and academic staff.
- Provide leadership in the incorporation of instructional technologies to improve student learning.
- Prepare the annual budget for Academic Affairs, within the College's strategic priorities.
- Maintain regular communication and working relationship with other areas of the College, keeping them informed of current activities and working with them to achieve institutional priorities.
- Represent the faculty and appropriate staff to all constituencies, including the Board of Trustees, administration, students, alumni, and the public; and promote the College to all constituencies, both internal and external; represent the College in any discussions of academic collaboration with other colleges, universities, or academic organizations.



Requirements

- Commitment to the principles embodied in the vision and mission of SMC: values-oriented, student-centered; intellectual exploration; social awareness; and character development within the Christian tradition and a liberal arts tradition with career preparation.
- Belief in the value of higher education as a means of economic and social mobility for students of color, first generation college students, and nontraditional adult learners. Understands the challenges and opportunities inherent in meeting the needs of a diverse student body.
- Record of progressively responsible academic administrative experience in higher education; experience as an academic dean, chair, or significant academic administrative experience, at a regionally and/or nationally accredited institution; successful record of teaching, scholarship, and service.
- Track record of academic leadership that actively seeks innovation through the development of student-focused pedagogies, the demonstration of exemplary teaching, the creation of market-driven programs, and enhanced student success; a students-first mentality.
- Effective leadership skills combined with a strong work ethic and an ability to prioritize work, advance multiple projects at once, and adjust plans as circumstances change. A service mindset, characterized by being present and active in the life of the college; visible and approachable.
- Embraces a highly collaborative, innovative, and entrepreneurial culture. Confident in drawing upon the collective intelligence of teams. Recognizes the interdependence of academics and student support functions. Accepts risk as a necessary part of growth and change for successful institutions.
- Strong and effective written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills to support engagement with both academic and non-academic constituencies.
- Expertise/experience with program-level accreditation processes and with institutional-level accreditation requirements/processes (e.g., SACSCOC or other accrediting bodies).
- Understands the changing landscape of higher education, including the threats to and opportunities for small liberal arts colleges. Proponent of online education and other modalities that meet the needs of the increasingly nontraditional college student population. Strongly supports the integration of career readiness and experiential experiences into the liberal arts curriculum.
- Terminal academic degree.

Compensation

Compensation will be commensurate with experience including a competitive base salary and competitive benefits package.



To make a nomination, provide a referral, or for additional information, please use the contact information below. While applications and nominations will be accepted until a successful candidate has been appointed, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials by, or preferably before, November 5, 2021. To apply, please submit a resume and/or vita, and cover letter, to: SMCProvost@buffkinbaker.com

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Spartanburg Methodist College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any legally protected status in any personnel action regarding the recruiting, hiring, and promotion of faculty and staff members. All offers of employment are contingent upon satisfactory results of a background investigation. SMC participates in the federal E-Verify program.