

Board of Trustees

College & University Presidents



Joseph Womack
President, Bushnell University

Dr. Joseph Womack became the 10th President of Bushnell University in 2010. Dr. Womack came to Bushnell University from William Jessup University (WJU) in Rocklin, California, where he served as Vice President for Advancement and Student Life and Dean of Students, as well as led WJU's relocation from San Jose to Rocklin in 2004. Dr. Womack's tenure at WJU was punctuated when the Womack Student Life Building on campus was named in honor of his exemplary service to WJU and to Christian higher education as a whole. Dr. Womack earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University, a master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University, and an education doctorate degree from Azusa Pacific University. Dr. Womack and his wife are the proud parents of four sons: James, Benjamin, Daniel, and Andrew.



Robin Baker
President, George Fox University

Dr. Robin Baker served a professor and academic administrator at George Fox University before becoming President in 2007. Prior to arriving at George Fox in 1999 as the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Baker worked at three Christian universities. Dr. Baker completed a Bachelor Arts in history and political science at Grand Canyon University, a Master of Arts in history at Hardin-Simmons University, and a doctorate degree in history with honors at Texas A&M University. He has a special interest in the works of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and has collected several first editions of their works. Dr. Baker is a native of Phoenix, AZ and an avid runner. Dr. Baker and his wife, Ruth, have three children: Jacob, Rebekah, and Tara. Dr. Baker has served as Treasurer/Secretary of The Alliance since September 2019.



Wim Wiewel
President, Lewis & Clark College

Dr. Wim Wiewel became Lewis & Clark College's 25th President in 2017, after nine years successfully leading Portland State University. He holds degrees in sociology and urban planning from the University of Amsterdam and a Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University. A sociologist with a passion for strong cities, Wiewel has authored or edited several books and articles on the topic. Dr. Wiewel was the first in his family to go to college. Dr. Wiewel is married to architect Alice Wiewel and together they have four children. He and his wife like to camp and explore the mountains, coasts, and deserts. They also attend performances and games in town and frequent community receptions and dinners.



Miles Davis
President, Linfield University

Dr. Miles Davis was named Linfield University's 20th President in 2018. Prior to arriving at Linfield, he served as the inaugural Chair of the management science department in the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. School of Business, the Founding Director of the School of Business' Institute for Entrepreneurship, and the Dean of the School of Business at Shenandoah University. Dr. Davis has a B.A. in communications from Duquesne University, an M.A. in human resource development from Bowie State University, and a Ph.D. in human and organizational sciences from The George Washington University. Dr. Davis is an authority on entrepreneurship – his most recent work focuses on integrity, values, and principles in the business world, as well as faith-based entrepreneurship.



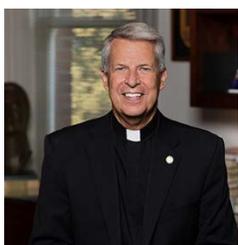
Lesley Hallick
President, Pacific University

Lesley Hallick began serving as President of Pacific University in 2009, following a distinguished 32-year career at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU). With 20 years of experience as Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Hallick is known for her leadership in the areas of equality, environmental stewardship and sustainability, innovative thinking, and philanthropy. Dr. Hallick earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Pomona College and a doctoral degree in molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin Madison. A Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Hallick has conducted an extensive research program in molecular virology and has authored numerous publications in tumor virology and viral genome structure. Hallick manages a 20-acre farm in Scappoose, OR with a close friend, raising beef cattle, caring for a variety of other animals, and welcoming visits from both of their extended families. Hallick's daughter, Deborah, is a computer engineer in Eugene, OR.



Audrey Bilger
President, Reed College

Dr. Audrey Bilger became Reed College's first woman President in 2019. Prior to being elected to this post, she served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and Professor of English at Pomona College. Dr. Bilger is a prolific author of scholarly books, articles, and chapters, as well as reviews, creative nonfiction, and journalism for the popular press. Her acclaimed work focuses on comedy, Jane Austen, the English novel, feminist theory, popular culture, and gender and sexuality. Dr. Bilger earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Oklahoma State University and a master's and Ph.D. degree in English from the University of Virginia.



Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C.
President, University of Portland

Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., became University of Portland's 20th President In 2014. Prior to this role, Fr. Poorman served as Executive Vice President, providing oversight for the divisions of university operations, financial affairs, university relations, and student affairs. He is a Professor of theology, teaching courses in Christian ethics and moral theology. Fr. Poorman came to the University of Portland from the University of Notre Dame, where he

most recently served as a member of the theology faculty and as Vice President for Student Affairs. Fr. Poorman graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Illinois. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Notre Dame and was ordained a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross. He later studied at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, where he earned a Ph.D. in Christian ethics.



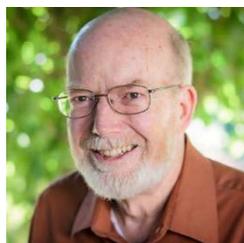
Joseph Brimhall
President, University of Western States

Joseph Brimhall, D.C., started his career in 1981 as a chiropractic physician in Ogden, UT, where he was in private practice for 22 years. Since 2003, Dr. Brimhall has served as President of University of Western States. Dr. Brimhall is currently the chairman of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), a recognized agency that accredits more than 160 public and private higher education institutions in the Northwest. Dr. Brimhall also served on the task force that was formed to merge the Oregon Independent Colleges Association (OICA) and the Oregon Independent College Foundation (OICF) into The Alliance as it is known and functions today. Dr. Brimhall is a graduate of Logan University in St. Louis, MO.



Brian Johnson
President, Warner Pacific College

Dr. Brian Johnson became the eighth president of Warner Pacific University (WPU) in August 2020. Before being appointed President of WPU, Dr. Johnson served as Vice President at Mercy College and, prior to that, as President and CEO of Tuskegee University. Dr. Johnson is committed to a Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts education that embraces diversity. He is the first African American to serve as WPU's President. Dr. Johnson is a scholar of American literature and was a first-generation college student.



Randal Roberts
President, Western Seminary

Dr. Randy Roberts became Western Seminary's 12th President in 2008. Prior to being named President, Dr. Roberts served as Dean of Faculty, Academic Dean, and Provost at Western Seminary. Dr. Roberts earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of California Davis, a Master of Theology and a Master of Divinity from Western Seminary, and Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Spirituality and Renewal from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



Stephen Thorsett
President, Willamette University

Immediately preceding his arrival at Willamette University, Dr. Steve Thorsett was a Professor, former Chair of the department of astronomy and astrophysics, and as the Dean of the division of physical and biological sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Thorsett has taught broadly in both physics and astronomy and has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications focusing on the late stages of stellar evolution. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Thorsett co-discovered the oldest known

planet, popularly dubbed “the Methuselah planet.” Dr. Thorsett earned a bachelor’s degree in math with honors from Carleton College and a master’s and Ph.D. degree in physics from Princeton University. Dr. Thorsett grew up in Salem. He is married to Rachel Dewey Thorsett, an astrophysicist and an affiliated scholar in physics at Willamette. Dr. Thorsett and his wife have one daughter, Laura, who is a graduate of Harvard College.

Business & Community Members



Mark Swenson
Chief Executive Officer, Shepherd's Grain

Mark Swenson is CEO of Shepherd’s Grain, a cooperative of Northwest wheat farmers focusing on no-till farming practices, extraordinary quality, and fair-trade pricing. Prior to becoming CEO of Shepherd’s Grain, Swenson was Corporate Director of Purchasing Initiatives and Western Regional Vice President for Bon Appetit Management Co., where he worked for 27 years. Swenson joined the Oregon Independent College Foundation Board in 2007, continuing in 2011 as an At-Large Board Member for the Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities. Swenson has been an active member of the Alliance Board of Trustees, serving as Treasurer/Secretary in the past and as Chair since 2018.



David Lyon
Director of Research, Lonza Pharma & Biotech

Dr. David Lyon joined Bend Research (the former name of Lonza Pharma & Biotech) as a Research Chemist. During his tenure at Bend Research, he has held positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in his current role as Senior Vice President of Research. Dr. Lyon has been involved in and led numerous technology innovation, market, and business development efforts. Dr. Lyon received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Western Washington University and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Oregon. He also completed a post-doctoral program at the California Institute of Technology.



Kristin Stathis
Vice President of Operations Services, Portland General Electric

Kristin Stathis has served as Vice President of Operations Services at Portland General Electric Company (PGE) since 2019. Stathis oversees PGE’s customer contact operations, billing, credit, revenue collections, community offices, direct access operations, network data operations, and customer systems quality Assurance areas. Stathis has a Bachelor of Science degree from Willamette University and a certificate in accounting from Portland State University.