Appalachian State University invites applications for the position of

Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs

About Appalachian

Appalachian State University began as Watauga Academy, founded in 1899 by Dr. B.B. Dougherty and his brother D.D. Dougherty, and D.D.’s wife, Lillie Shull Dougherty, to provide access to education for children in North Carolina’s “lost provinces.” B.B. led the institution for 56 years — from its beginnings as Watauga Academy to the Appalachian Training School for teachers, the two-year Appalachian State Normal School and later the four-year Appalachian State Teachers College.

The pioneering spirit necessary to overcome the hardships presented by the region’s rural location in North Carolina’s Appalachian Mountains quickly characterized the institution, giving the university a special niche in higher education that it continues to occupy today. After more than a century, students still feel the pull of this unique place to transform their lives, and App State has remained focused on providing students with educational experiences that are not only life-changing but world-changing. Alumni go on to earn advanced degrees, approach life entrepreneurially, build distinguished military careers, work overseas and engage in professions that take them in many directions, all while giving back to the communities in which they live and work.

Students choose Appalachian because they can:

• Engage in critical inquiry with a community of scholars
• Discover and demonstrate their passion through research or performance
• Travel the nation and the world to learn about themselves and the world around them
• Engage with communities at home and across the world
• Create lifelong bonds and friendships with faculty and fellow scholars
• Develop a deep and holistic understanding of sustainability
• Channel their desire to make a difference into effecting real and lasting change in the world
App State faculty members are known for using innovative, interdisciplinary and integrative teaching methods, being dedicated to research and student mentorship, and investing in new strategies and technologies. The student-to-faculty ratio is 16:1. Small classes, which average 25 students in fall 2021, contribute to a freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 86.2%. A total of 18.2% of App State’s students are from underrepresented populations, which is a 66% increase in racially and ethnically underrepresented students since 2014.

App State was named among the best higher education institutions for 2021 in the Southeast and the nation, receiving recognition for its academics, value, innovation, benefits for student veterans and other aspects from U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review and personal finance website Money.com. Since the News & World Report “Best Colleges” rankings were first published annually, beginning in 1987, App State has consistently placed among the top 15 public and private Southern universities. The national publication also recognized the university’s online bachelor’s and graduate education programs, offered through App State Online, among the best in the nation for 2021. For a decade, App State has earned the Military Friendly® School designation awarded by VIQTORY in recognition of its efforts in helping military-affiliated students thrive on campus and in the surrounding community. The university earned the distinction of being one of the Top 10 Military Friendly® Schools in the nation for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

App State’s community of scholars comprises nine academic units: the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Reich College of Education, Walker College of Business, University College, Hayes School of Music, Beaver College of Health Sciences, Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies and the Honors College. Although not a degree-granting college, the Honors College offers an even more enriching academic experience for high-achieving students. Additionally, App State’s University Libraries, which include Carol Grotnes Belk Library and Information Commons and the Erneston Music Library, provides academic resources for all university students, faculty and staff.

The university’s more than 2,000 graduate students are drawn by App State’s 80 quality graduate degree and certificate programs designed to help students achieve a variety of career goals: getting promoted, becoming more competitive in the job market, changing professions, earning more money, achieving greater job security or pursuing a doctoral degree.
Students, faculty and staff consider App State a special place. The location in North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains, a place of great beauty abundant with cultural and recreational opportunities, profoundly shapes how the community lives, works and learns together. Many people find they fall quickly in love with this place and this university.

Students also choose App State for its value and affordability. U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks App State among its top 15 public comprehensive Southern universities, while The Princeton Review named App State among its “Best in the Southeast” for 2021 and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine named App State a “Best College Value” for 2019. Niche.com named App State among its “2022 Best Colleges.” Appalachian’s quality academic programs cultivate critical thinkers through small classes, individual attention and mentoring. Appalachian offers a variety of academic programs — in person and online. Explore Appalachian’s more than 150 bachelor’s degrees and 80 graduate programs at https://www.appstate.edu/academics/majors/.

Appalachian State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, intermediate and doctoral degrees.

**Mission Statement**

Appalachian State University prepares students to lead purposeful lives as engaged global citizens who understand their responsibilities in creating a sustainable future for all.

Our location in the distinctive Appalachian mountain town of Boone, North Carolina, profoundly shapes who we are. As a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, we fulfill our core academic missions of teaching, scholarship, and service in ways that honor our geography and heritage.

We bring people together in inspiring ways. The transformational Appalachian experience develops individuals who are eager to acquire and create knowledge, to grow holistically, to act with passion and determination, to embrace diversity and difference, and to become contributing members of society.

We create rich environments where students can thrive. Our students are educated broadly and are simultaneously equipped with strong disciplinary knowledge. Academic learning occurs in a wide range of undergraduate, selected master’s and intermediate programs, and the two doctorate degrees offered on campus, at off-campus sites, and online.
Faculty and students engage in research and scholarship that advance knowledge and address the problems of our region, state, and world through creativity and innovation. Learning takes place within formal and informal instructional settings with dedicated faculty members, in co-curricular programs that enrich classroom experience, in interdisciplinary educational formats, and through outreach to the local community and beyond. Appalachian cultivates diverse and vibrant arts that enrich the cultural and intellectual climate of the campus and region.

We promote a spirit of inclusion that inspires students, faculty, and staff to form relationships extending well beyond graduation. Our students think critically, communicate effectively, make local to global connections, and understand the responsibilities of community engagement. We embrace our obligation to help create healthy, just, and sustainable societies by equipping our students to live with knowledge, compassion, dedication, humility, and dignity.

Vision

Appalachian State University aspires to be the destination institution for dedicated students who seek challenging academic programs and co-curricular experiences, engaged faculty and a vibrant campus culture that will shape them into engaged, responsible global citizens. Inspired by the ideal of sustainable community, we seek to deliver the Southeast’s best comprehensive, progressive education. Additionally, the university will provide excellent value; will be an influential world citizen; and will develop a distinctive identity built on the university’s strengths, location and tradition.

Essential Character and Core Values

Appalachian State University is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a place of great beauty and cultural and recreational opportunity. The mountains inspire an appreciation for the traditions of the region as we connect to and learn from the world. At Appalachian we follow the teacher-scholar model, with small classes in an innovative, interdisciplinary, and integrative curriculum supported by a faculty dedicated to research and invested in new strategies and technologies. Our faculty and staff inspire our students, who have a strong service ethic and involvement in the community. The green ethos at Appalachian infuses academic programs, environmental stewardship, research, and a community with an attitude of care for the planet.
Governance

Appalachian is one of the 16 constituent universities in the University of North Carolina System. The Board of Governors oversees and guides the coordinated system of higher education in North Carolina and in doing so maintains close liaison with other state and private educational agencies. Appalachian has its own Board of Trustees, as do the other institutions of higher education in the UNC system. The Board of Trustees at Appalachian serves as an advisor to the Board of Governors and to the Chancellor of Appalachian on the management and development of the University. Deans of the academic divisions meet regularly with the provost to enhance collaboration and inclusion in academic affairs. In addition, faculty, staff, and students participate in various levels of governance through appropriate representative bodies, committees, councils, and project teams.

The faculty is represented by the Faculty Senate, which gives advice with respect to questions of academic policy and institutional governance, with particular emphasis upon matters of curriculum, degree requirements, instructional standards, and grading criteria.

Leadership

Dr. Sheri Everts joined Appalachian State University as its eighth leader in July 2014. Previously, she was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Illinois State University since 2008.

A Nebraska native who attended elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse, Everts graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree in English instruction and secondary education. After teaching middle school and high school English in Kansas and Nebraska, she returned to UNL, where she earned a master’s degree in literacy education and English (1991) and a doctorate in administration, curriculum and instruction (1994).
Everts began her higher education career in 1994 as an assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Rising through the academic and administrative ranks at UNO, she was named assistant vice chancellor for academic and student affairs in 2000, promoted to associate vice president in 2003, and named interim senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs in 2006. She served in that interim capacity until June 30, 2008, when she left Nebraska to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at Illinois State University and also served as interim president at ISU.

Under Everts’ leadership, Appalachian has distinguished itself as the premier public undergraduate institution in the Southeast. By ensuring a sound foundation in terms of the university’s physical infrastructure and the goals and strategic initiatives that empower human potential, Appalachian provides a high-quality setting in which students can grow and learn how to navigate life successfully. Specifically, between 2014 and 2020, enrollment grew to more than 20,000 — a trend that has continued, with the university enrolling 20,641 students in fall 2021. The university has increased its underrepresented students by 66% and first-year underrepresented students by 108%. As of fall 2021, 18.2% of App State students are from underrepresented populations, 32% of the total undergraduate population are first-generation college students, and 34.3% come from rural areas (in-state, degree-seeking students who are from Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, as designated by the North Carolina Department of Commerce). In 2017, Everts launched the Chancellor’s Innovation Scholars Program to support research and practice related to the innovation of higher education. In 2018, she led the charge in opening the Appalachian State University Academy at Middle Fork in Walkertown, North Carolina — which serves approximately 300 K–5 students with research-based practices, state-of-the-art literacy instruction, and exemplary classroom instruction and administration — and cut the ribbon on the new Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences. Appalachian continues to be a leader in sustainability, in part by hosting the annual Appalachian Energy Summit — a platform through which UNC System campuses have worked together to save more than $1 billion in utility costs.
Teaching and Scholarship

Appalachian attracts and retains an exceptionally talented and committed faculty who work closely with their students inside and outside the classroom. In the 2020-21 academic year, the university employed 1,032 full-time faculty, including 330 professors, 226 associate professors, 218 assistant professors, six instructors, 218 lecturers and 21 adjuncts, 12 clinical faculty, and one research faculty. Ninety-eight percent of full-time faculty hold their doctorate, first professional degree or other terminal degree. Counting full- and part-time staff and faculty, Appalachian has more than 3,200 employees.

Over the last few years, App State has expanded its graduate programs and developed a more intense research profile, particularly in environmental issues and health-related initiatives. Faculty at App State maintain vigorous research portfolios, working to advance knowledge and address the problems of our region, state and world through creativity and innovation. The university strives to achieve a balance that attends to its primary mission as an undergraduate teaching institution while supporting faculty’s pursuit of intellectual activities that both stimulate their learning and complement and support their teaching. Maintaining App State’s commitment to community, the faculty work closely with undergraduate and graduate students both in the classroom and on research projects, providing students with numerous opportunities to engage in research and/or creative endeavors. Students often present their findings at regional, national and international conferences — experience that can be crucial when applying to graduate school or seeking jobs.

Students come to Appalachian with a strong desire to serve the local community, and the university supports their commitment by offering opportunities for volunteer work and service-learning. Each year, Appalachian offers nearly 100 service-learning and community-based research courses. Students often say these opportunities to work in the community open their hearts and minds to ways they can make a difference, and in turn influence their choice of major and career path. Appalachian students’ connection with the community has been recognized by the President’s Higher Education Honor Roll, the Carnegie Foundation for the Engagement of Teaching, and Beyond the Books website for Excellence in Service-Learning.
Grants and contracts from external agencies and organizations for faculty research totaled $12.69 million in fiscal year 2020. Many of these grants from government, nonprofit agencies, business and industry generate special opportunities for students, and the university encourages faculty/student collaboration on research and creative endeavors. The Office of Research provides support to faculty and staff who seek external funding to support their research and teaching; the university also maintains an Office of Student Research to encourage and support student research and to provide grants to enable undergraduate and graduate students to present their research results or creative performances at professional conferences in their discipline. Promoting scholarship is a key component of the strategic plan, and the university is committed to increasing sponsored research programs and funding opportunities for both faculty and students.

The Future of Appalachian

We’re enhancing the Appalachian Experience — with a stronger physical infrastructure and five-year goals that further empower human potential. Get the full picture through the Appalachian’s Future website, which details our growth and change: https://www.appstate.edu/appalachians-future/.

App State has major construction projects underway or being planned over the next three to five years that will enhance the Appalachian Experience and support the university’s strategic planning. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the university has developed a Bridge Strategic Plan that is intended to bridge between the university’s former, five-year strategic plan — “The Appalachian Experience: envisioning a just and sustainable future,” in place from 2014–19 — and its next five-year strategic plan.

We believe the most important goal Appalachian State University can achieve is to open possibilities — for our Appalachian Community, our society and our planet — by empowering human potential. Appalachian has been cultivating students’ personal best for nearly 125 years through small classes, individual attention and mentoring, as well as institutional values, practices and policies.
As the premier public undergraduate institution in the Southeast and a national leader in higher education, Appalachian has established five-year performance goals as part of the UNC System’s five-year strategic plan, titled “HIGHER EXPECTATIONS,” addressing:

- Access
- Student success
- Economic impact

After the second year of the Strategic Plan for the UNC System, Appalachian State University was meeting, and in some cases exceeding, its five-year performance goals. When Appalachian Chancellor Sheri Everts signed a pledge with then-President Margaret Spellings in 2017 to meet UNC System strategic goals over a five-year period, Everts noted that the initiatives were consistent with Appalachian’s mission to increase access to education for those students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to achieve a college education. Read more at [https://www.appstate.edu/appalachians-future/empowering-human-potential/](https://www.appstate.edu/appalachians-future/empowering-human-potential/).

Boone and surrounding area

Boone, North Carolina, is a college town in the best sense — a place where people say hello on the street and a vibrant downtown is just a block from campus. Its eclectic hub, known as King Street, features specialty shops, restaurants and cultural attractions that appeal to students, parents, residents and tourists. Whether in town for a weekend or a four-year education, many people leave seeking an opportunity to return to Boone.

The surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains attract outdoor enthusiasts year-round for hiking, skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, cycling, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing and other activities. The Blue Ridge Parkway, which draws some 20 million visitors a year, and a section of the Appalachian Trail that runs from Virginia through western North Carolina, are both just minutes from campus.

Preserving these mountains is essential to Appalachian’s character. An ethic of sustainability pervades the campus and local community, as evident through an on-campus electricity-generating wind turbine, a commitment to making new buildings efficiently designed and LEED® certified, a biodiesel-powered public transportation system and research and academic degree programs that focus on issues related to energy, economics and the environment. Many sustainability projects on campus are funded by a Renewable Energy Initiative fee, which students overwhelmingly supported as a way to ensure a better future for all.

The natural setting makes outdoor recreation and experiential learning programs possible, and the heritage of the region is alive on and around campus. The university’s location also attracts students, faculty and staff interested in sustainable development and the economics of sustainability. As a result, the Research Institute for Environment, Energy and Economics is spearheading cutting-edge research that is making Appalachian a leader in this area.

The 2020 U.S. Census lists the population of Watauga County at 54,086 and the population of Boone at 19,092. Boone is known for having friendly, engaged neighborhoods and quality schools. The Watauga County Schools system has a long-standing reputation as one of the best in the state, with students consistently outperforming their statewide peers on the state’s standardized tests. Watauga County also boasts a high number of National Board Certified Teachers, and North Carolina leads the country in the number of Board Certified personnel by a wide margin.
Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Reporting directly to the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs serves as the University’s Chief Financial Officer and oversees the business functions of the university, including management oversight of a growing portfolio of capital projects and facilities, across multiple sites. This person serves as a vitally important senior member of the administration and is expected to provide proactive, strategic advice to the Chancellor regarding the achievement of the mission of the University through sophisticated financial and administrative policies and procedures. This responsibility includes the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and the ability to provide additional accurate analytical, financial, and accounting information that will allow the Chancellor and members of the administration to make informed decisions and select appropriate courses of action.

The position is responsible for a staff of 530 employees in the areas of finance and administration, facilities, design and construction, campus services (dining, bookstore, parking, postal, transportation, conference services) and New River Light and Power. The position is also responsible for an annual divisional revenue budget of $49 million, a divisional expenditure budget, and oversight responsibility for the entire state appropriated budget of $150 million. The university’s total net assets for FY2021 were $1.2 billion, along with a net position $377 million, total operating and nonoperating revenues of $533 million and total expenditures of $432 million. In addition, the position has financial oversight for the university’s laboratory school(s), funded via federal, state, and local funding allocations, in addition to supplemental funding provided by the university and the UNC System Office.

The position requires a person of high integrity who is a strategically focused, visionary leader with meaningful senior leadership experience in financial management in higher education, including the management of complex budgets and integrating budget decisions and strategic planning that will ensure institutional efficiency.
Minimum Qualifications:

- An advanced degree (master’s degree or equivalent).
- Progressively responsible leadership experience and familiarity with emerging issues and trends in financial management in higher education.
- Experience engaging in public-private partnerships.
- Experience developing, sustaining and successfully leading a sophisticated financial organization through recruitment and retention of a highly qualified, diverse staff.
- Demonstrated compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and financial standards established by GASB, as well as other applicable and externally mandated governance, policies, guidelines and laws.
- Experience managing a complex budget, integrating budget decisions with strategic planning and ensuring institutional efficiency.
- Demonstrated understanding of complex research budget portfolios composed of state funds, extramural funding from sponsored grants and contracts, facilities and administration costs, and licensing fees.
- Successful leadership experience in making tactical, strategic, and transparent decisions and in leading others toward strategic outcomes.
- The ability and commitment to safeguard all fiscal, human, technological and physical assets with ethical practices, strong internal controls and corrective action to address audit findings.
- The ability to represent the university to external audiences, including the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, UNC System Office and the local community.
- The ability and commitment to build and maintain collaborative and consultative partnerships across organizational units and divisions.
- An understanding and strong appreciation of the mission, values and principles of Appalachian State University.
- Effective communication and excellent supervisory and management skills, with the ability to work effectively in a team-oriented environment.

AA/EEO Statement

Appalachian State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The University does not discriminate in access to its educational programs and activities, or with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation.

Appalachian’s Diversity statement

Appalachian State University is committed to developing and allocating resources to the fundamental task of creating a diverse campus culture. We value diversity as the expression of human similarities and differences, as well as the importance of a living and learning environment conducive to knowledge, respect, acceptance, understanding and global awareness. Learn more at http://diversity.appstate.edu.