



PROVOST SEARCH

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
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Huntington, West Virginia 25755
www.marshall.edu





BRAD D. SMITH - 38TH PRESIDENT OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY



A proud West Virginia native with a passion for leadership and philanthropy, Brad D. Smith assumed the presidency of his alma mater in January 2022. As president, Brad has leaned into his corporate experience as a Silicon Valley CEO, driving the university forward to best serve its students' education and futures. From generating interest among prospective students to preparing current students for the world outside of Marshall, he has begun paving new paths for student success by tailoring students' experiences, establishing the Marshall for All debt- and tuition-free programs, and encouraging design-thinking training. All of his work is inspired by his long-held mission to uplift West Virginia's people and economy. As Marshall's president, Brad believes in inspiring the future workforce now and providing opportunities for the next generation.

Brad previously held executive leadership positions with various companies in Silicon Valley and is best known for his tenure at Intuit, where he served as CEO for 11 years before becoming Executive Chairman. He ultimately left the corporate world to put more of his time and attention into his philanthropy, with the aim of supporting and creating organizations that bolster his home state and its people.

The Wing 2 Wing Foundation, which Brad co-founded with his wife Alys, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to education, providing entrepreneurship mentoring and investment, and strengthening communities in West Virginia.

Marshall University invites inquiries, nominations, and applications in the search for its next Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Marshall University seeks candidates of the highest caliber, befitting both the history and spirit of excellence that characterize Marshall University. Marshall seeks a Provost who can be an innovative and transformational partner to Marshall President Brad D. Smith.

Marshall University is a public comprehensive research university with a rich history as one of the first institutions of higher learning in West Virginia. Marshall advances the public good through innovative, accredited educational programs. The university is located in Huntington, West Virginia, with additional campuses in South Charleston and Point Pleasant. Accredited by the **Higher Learning Commission**, Marshall is classified as an **R2 institution, Carnegie Doctoral University: High Research Activity**. In fall 2024, the university enrolled **12,318 students**: 9,165 undergraduate, 2,614 graduate, and 539 first professional. The university offers **more than 150 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs** organized into **13 academic colleges and schools**. As the Thundering Herd, the university participates in the NCAA Division I, Sun Belt Conference. Marshall University is situated in a region of great natural beauty. Huntington is nestled in the heart of the Appalachian Mountain region, bordered by the Ohio River to the north and located close to a variety of state and national forests and parks.

History and Culture

One of West Virginia's oldest public institutions of higher education, the university was named after Chief Justice John Marshall, Fourth Justice of the United States and definer of the Constitution, and was **founded as Marshall Academy in 1837**. It was designated Marshall College in 1858 and attained university status in 1961.

Marshall's distinct brand and traditions are well-ingrained in the university's Thundering Herd faithful. Marshall is a welcoming and resilient institution that reflects the Appalachian region it serves. That culture was further defined and galvanized by the 1970 plane crash, where the lives of 75 people were lost in the single worst air tragedy in NCAA history. Among the losses were nearly the entire Marshall University football team, coaches, flight crew, and numerous fans and supporters. This event is commemorated on campus every year during a service at the Memorial Fountain.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Marshall's campus traditions.



Points of Pride

- **Marshall for All debt-free and tuition-free programs**, which create opportunities for students to earn their degrees without the financial burden of student loans
- **Six areas of distinctive excellence**—Cyber Security and Forensics, Health Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced Energy, Aviation, and Economic Development and Entrepreneurship
- **Five student-first priorities**—Increased Access, Affordability, Growing Support Programs, Delivering On Demand, and Enabling Lifetime Achievement
- **World-class Visual Arts Center** housing graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking, fibers, and art education and art history programs
- **Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation**, anchoring the Fourth Avenue Innovation District
- **Medical student-led monthly free mobile health clinic** providing care for the homeless and indigent
- **State-of-the-art Institute for Cyber Security** opening fall 2027, and housing a U.S. Cybercommand National Center of Excellence for Cybersecurity
- **“Most Beautiful College Campus in West Virginia”** designation from BuzzFeed
- **Award-winning student-run** radio station WMUL and news and entertainment outlet JMCTV
- **College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**—the first of its type in the nation
- **A growing research enterprise**, with recent major grants from sources including the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor
- **Luke Lee Listening, Language & Learning Lab**, where children with hearing loss learn to listen and speak through technology
- **Feature film *We Are Marshall***, which exposed the university's name and story to international audiences

Select Rankings

- **Doctoral University – High Research Activity – R2** (Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, 2018)
- **#1 Online M.S. in Computer Science Program** (*Fortune Magazine*, 2024)
- **Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs** (*U.S. News and World Report*, 2022)
- **Best Online MBA Programs** (*Princeton Review*, 2022)



MISSION

Marshall University advances the public good through innovative, accredited educational programs. Its mission, inspired by the university's Vision and Creed, includes a commitment to:

- **Offer** a wide range of high quality, affordable, and accessible undergraduate, graduate, and professional education that prepares students to think, learn, work, and live in an evolving global society.
- **Create** opportunities and experiences to foster understanding and appreciation of the rich variety of thought and culture.
- **Maintain** a dynamic intellectual, artistic, and cultural life by promoting and supporting research and creative activities by undergraduates, graduates, and faculty.
- **Contribute** to the quality of life of the community, region, and beyond through applied research, economic development, health care, and cultural enrichment.
- **Cultivate** the development of a just and fair community.

VISION

To inspire learning and creativity that ignites the mind, nurtures the spirit, and fulfills the promise of a better future.

Marshall University Creed

We the students, faculty, and staff of Marshall University, pledge to pursue the development of our intellects and the expansion of knowledge, and to devote ourselves to defending individual rights and exercising civic responsibility. We strive to exemplify in our own lives the core values of independence, initiative, achievement, ethical integrity, and commitment to community through association and service. As Marshall University, we form a community that promotes educational goals and that allows individuals maximum opportunity to pursue those goals.

MARSHALL IS:

- **An Educational Community** in which all members work together to promote and strengthen teaching and learning;
- **An Open Community** uncompromisingly protecting freedom of thought, belief, and expression;
- **A Civil Community** treating all individuals and groups with consideration, decency, and respect, and expressing disagreements in rational ways;
- **A Responsible Community** accepting obligations and following behavioral guidelines designed to support the common good;
- **A Safe Community** respecting each other's rights, privacy, and property;
- **A Well Community** respecting and promoting physical and emotional health;
- **An Ethical Community** reflecting honesty, integrity, and fairness in both academic and extracurricular activities;
- **A Pluralistic Community** celebrating and learning from its diversity;
- **A Socially Conscious Community** acting as citizens of the world and seeking to contribute to the betterment of people and their environments; and
- **A Judicious Community** remaining alert to the threats posed by hatred, intolerance and other injustices and ever-prepared to correct them.



STUDENTS

Marshall University is an anchor institution in southern West Virginia that draws its 12,318 students from 48 states and 53 countries. A degree from Marshall is a transformational achievement that changes lives and inspires extraordinary futures. Marshall students benefit from the university's small class sizes, active and engaged faculty classroom instruction, the availability of intensive advising paired with exceptional student success resources, modern facilities, and robust extracurricular programming. The **average ACT is 21.4** and the **average incoming freshman GPA is 3.62**. The first-to-second-year retention rate of first-time freshmen who enrolled in fall 2023 and returned in fall 2024 was 72 percent. A substantial number of students are **first-generation college students** requiring significant financial assistance; **49 percent of undergraduate students, including more than half of first-time freshmen, received Pell Grants** in fall 2024.

Beyond the classroom, Marshall is home to more than 200 recognized student organizations and 16 Greek-lettered social fraternities and sororities, which contribute to a deep campus life and a vast range of extracurricular experiences for students. Student services include career counseling, resource and writing centers, a women's center, veteran and military support, and counseling and health services. To accommodate students, Marshall has 10 residence halls, a student center and food court, and two dining halls.

THE SOCIETY OF YEAGER SCHOLARS

[The Society of Yeager Scholars](#) is a prestigious academic and leadership program housed with the Honors College. The program provides full scholarships to individuals considered extraordinary in their studies and leadership roles. Yeager Scholars are actively involved in organizations both on campus and in the community. An important goal of the program is to provide an experience that will develop exceptional leaders for the next generation.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Marshall's student-centered research mission is embodied by the university's accomplished and committed faculty and staff. With an **undergraduate student/faculty ratio of 16:1** and **average undergraduate class size of 20**, the faculty forge close relationships with their students as they work to make a profound difference in their students' lives, particularly for those who arrive at Marshall with great potential but lacking some preparation. Through their students and their research—and with critical support from the university's talented and engaged staff—Marshall's faculty positively contribute to the region and beyond. There are **978 full-time faculty** at Marshall, including at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and Marshall University Libraries, with **84 percent of them holding a doctorate or terminal degree** in their fields. More than **850 staff** support the operation of the university. For more information about the students, faculty and staff at Marshall University, see the [Institutional Research and Planning](#) site.

GOVERNANCE

Marshall University is a **public institution** of the State of West Virginia. The university is governed by a 16-member [Board of Governors](#). Thirteen are lay members appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the West Virginia Senate. The other three members represent the faculty, student body, and classified employees, and are duly elected to the board by their respective constituencies. The board determines, controls, supervises, and oversees the **financial, business, and educational policies and affairs** of the institution. The board also oversees a campus master plan, approves the institution's annual budget, reviews and controls academic programs offered at the Institution, and approves tuition rates and applicable student fees.

Marshall operates under a **transparent system of shared governance** that reflects shared interests and shared responsibility of all constituency groups. These groups—including, but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, administration, and the board—have assured, protected opportunities to influence decisions regarding the operation and direction of the university. For more information, visit the [Shared Governance](#) website.

The [West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission](#) oversees the public policy agenda for West Virginia's four-year colleges and universities.



MARSHALL FOR ALL

Debt-Free Program

The **Marshall for All** program allows students to earn their bachelor's degree debt-free. Students who are selected to participate can combine scholarships, grants, work opportunities, and family contributions while Marshall covers the rest, offering a valuable opportunity to graduate from college without student loans.

In return, Marshall asks students to maintain 15 credit hours per semester with satisfactory progress, to file a FAFSA form annually, to work a paid internship or federal work-study position, to complete a financial literacy course, and to participate in career readiness and/or other learning experiences.

It is the vision and the hope of Marshall University that **Marshall for All** will not only change the lives of these amazing students but also have a broader impact on the region by attracting top talent to Marshall, where their hard work and contributions can improve the economy and every aspect of society can benefit from their efforts.

Early indications from the first two cohorts of the program are extraordinarily encouraging. The results have suggested that removing a financial barrier and providing additional support services can indeed lead to significantly higher grade point averages and better retention rates.

Marshall has the opportunity to make the university a national model for how a forward-looking university can work together across all its communities—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—to prove its value, attract those who need it most, and send them into the workplace career-ready.

TUITION-FREE WV

Beginning in fall 2025, Marshall is expanding the **Marshall for All** program to offer free tuition to West Virginia residents who make less than \$65,000. The **Tuition-Free WV** program will cover all tuition and mandatory university fees, with students remaining responsible for housing, meal plans, and any other personal expenses.

For more information and student stories, visit the [Marshall for All](#) site.



ACADEMICS

Building on its historic strengths in the undergraduate liberal arts, Marshall University has developed its graduate programs to include master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Marshall offers **59 baccalaureate, 3 associate degree, 51 master's degree, 2 education specialist degree, 6 professional doctoral degree, and 28 graduate certificate** programs. Through these additional graduate programs, Marshall prepares many of the doctors, physical therapists, and pharmacists who provide health care across its tri-state region and beyond. Additional recent points of pride in Academic Affairs include:

- **Graduate students' Forensic Science Assessment Test (FSAT) scores** highest in the nation 13 of the last 15 years
- New aviation programs in **Commercial Pilot – Fixed Wing (B.S.)** and **Aviation Maintenance (A.A.S.)**
- One of only 17 accredited **Health Informatics master's degree** programs in the country
- Nationally recognized graduate **DNA and Digital Forensics** programs
- New state-of-the-art **Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation**



MARSHALL'S ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The mission of the [Lewis College of Business](#) is to be a leading institution for the education of business students, and a contributor to the region's economic development. The COB is dedicated to graduating individuals who possess the communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills necessary to meet the Tri-State area's needs for the demands of the global marketplace.

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The [College of Education and Professional Development](#) continues to prepare teachers and other professional educators, including counselors, principals, supervisors, and superintendents. It also provides continuing education opportunities for professional educators and directs all teacher education programs at Marshall University.

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The [College of Arts and Media](#) is dedicated to the discovery, application, transmission, and advancement of knowledge in the arts and in media. Through its rich and varied programs, the college informs and enhances the lives of students and the wider community. Students are prepared for productive lives as global citizens and 21st century leaders through their professions and in their communities.

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The [College of Health Professions](#) is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate nursing and health professions education. The focus of the College of Health Professions is on being interactive with the community, including rural and underserved areas, and responding to contemporary and future needs of society, nursing, and the health professions.

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The [College of Engineering and Computer Sciences](#) builds on combined traditions of student-focused education, entrepreneurship, service, and funded research. The college provides education when and where needed, incorporating technology-enhanced methods, by full-time, dedicated faculty complemented by expert adjunct faculty from industry and government.

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The [College of Liberal Arts](#) has the responsibility to preserve, transmit, interpret, and create knowledge in an environment of free inquiry and expression. COLA provides instruction that forms the core of the undergraduate curriculum for all Marshall University students so they may think critically and imaginatively, communicate effectively, and understand various dimensions of the human experience.



Scientific and technologically trained people are essential to the nation's health and prosperity in a rapidly expanding global economy. Undergraduate students in the [College of Science](#) receive a broad education conducive to pursuing a wide range of career options. Special emphasis is placed on experiential learning through participation in activities such as undergraduate research and internships.

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Established in 1976, the [Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine](#) quickly developed a reputation for providing students with a high-quality, hands-on medical education delivered in an atmosphere of caring and respect. Since that time, the school has also dramatically expanded its scope of research and clinical services, giving students an energized learning environment in which to become physicians.

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The [School of Pharmacy](#) educates compassionate, ethical, and competent students to become innovative thinkers, problem solvers, and future leaders in pharmacy. To accomplish these goals, the school has developed a curriculum that fuses local practice standards and vision to the evolving trends within the discipline.

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Additional units in Academic Affairs include:

The [Graduate Studies](#) program offers 51 master's degrees, 6 professional doctoral degrees, 2 education specialist degrees, and 28 certificate programs. Graduate Studies is committed to the intellectual, professional, and personal growth of students through the delivery of high-quality education at convenient times and places.

The [Honors College](#) fosters academic excellence in a community of learners whose undergraduate education is enhanced through innovative teaching and learning, an engaging interdisciplinary curriculum, creative and critical inquiry with talented faculty, strong leadership, and plentiful service opportunities.

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[University College](#) offers students a solid foundation of academic skills for progression into another Marshall University college to declare a major and graduate. University College extends this mission to all Marshall students by providing a broad range of academic services and transitional support programs.

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The university has a thriving [Marshall Online](#) program that currently includes 4 doctorates, 23 master's degrees, 13 bachelor's degrees, and 13 graduate certificates that can be obtained solely by technological means in asynchronous or hybrid formats. With the number of distance students growing annually, the university has adapted student support to ensure that this population receives a full array of services similar to those available on campus.

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To support R2 level research and curriculum needs, the [university library system](#) comprises four facilities on three campuses, housing over two million print and electronic resources, a unique archive and special collections, and a Federal Depository Library. Library faculty partner with academic units to provide a thriving information literacy education program, and patron requests are further supported with access to library consortium agreements within the state and beyond.

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Marshall University is accredited as an institution of higher learning by the **Higher Learning Commission**, as well as by the various discipline-related professional associations. For details, visit [Accreditations](#).





ATHLETICS

The university's Thundering Herd athletic teams compete in **16 NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports**: nine women's (Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, and Volleyball), and seven men's (Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, and Track and Field), all competing in the **Sun Belt Conference**.

Major recent highlights include the Men's Soccer program finishing as the national runners-up in the 2024 NCAA College Cup—a tournament in which they were seeded No. 13 going in and knocked off No. 1 Ohio State in the semifinals enroute to an NCAA Championship appearance. In a similar Cinderella story, Men's Soccer brought home the university's first national championship ever at the Division I level when they won the 2020 College Cup following an amazing tournament run.

Other notable accomplishments in 2024 included a Women's Basketball Sun Belt Conference Championship, Football going 10-3 and earning the Sun Belt Conference Championship, and Women's Cross Country senior Kylee Mastin winning the Sun Belt Conference Championship and becoming the first individual women's champion in the program's 39-year history.

Thundering Herd student-athletes also regularly distinguish themselves academically, with all 16 teams finishing the fall 2024 semester with GPAs above 3.0. Ten teams finished with a 3.4 GPA or above. Women's Golf led all programs with a 3.93 GPA, followed by Swimming and Diving with 3.77.

A sign of Marshall's commitment to the health, safety, well-being, and performance of its 515 student-athletes is the **Chris Cline Indoor Athletic Facility**, which includes the state-of-the-art **Marshall Sports Medicine Institute** and the **Buck Harless Student-Athlete Academic Center**.



COMMUNITY—HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

With the main campus located in Huntington, West Virginia, Marshall is situated in the tri-state region bordering Kentucky and Ohio, with a **population of 365,000 in the Huntington-Ashland-Ironton metropolitan area.**

Huntington is 50 minutes west of the state capital in Charleston and offers many amenities, including a **symphony orchestra, a museum of fine arts, and an artists series.** In 2012, the American Planning Association named the city's 100-acre-plus Ritter Park one of the country's 10 Great Public Spaces. Huntington also features **movie theaters, a pedestrian trail system, shopping, fine restaurants, public libraries, and excellent medical facilities.**

Although Huntington is only a few hours' drive from major metropolitan areas, West Virginia's population density is considerably less than the national average and the state is considered one of the nation's safest. The cost of living here is, on average, lower than the rest of the country.

West Virginia is known as the **outdoor recreation capital of the eastern U.S.,** with easy access from Huntington to skiing and snowboarding, whitewater rafting, camping, zip lining, rock climbing, and mountain biking.

The relationship between the university and Huntington is extraordinarily positive and mutually beneficial. Marshall serves as a culture center, while also playing a major role in rural health care delivery, improvement of elementary and secondary education, and regional economic development.

Marshall's **economic impact in the region is estimated at more than \$1.2 billion annually—a 18:1 return on public dollars invested in the university.**

ADVANCEMENT

More than \$176 million was raised during the recently completed Marshall Rises campaign, and a new **\$350 million Marshall for All comprehensive campaign** will kick off in 2026, positioning Marshall at the tip of the spear for the coming revolution, in which higher education becomes lifelong education. The university's **total endowment of \$212 million** supports more than 2,700 privately funded scholarships, with more than \$6.5 million awarded annually in scholarships and awards for Marshall students.

The [Marshall University Foundation Inc.](#) has been a key aspect of this success. The foundation was chartered on January 3, 1947, as an independent non-profit organization to receive, invest, administer, and disburse private resources on behalf of Marshall University. Gifts to the foundation add a margin of excellence over and above the appropriate level of state support and are not intended to replace state funds. The foundation plays a crucial role in providing the support critical to the continuing success of a nationally prominent university. The foundation is dedicated to providing this service in a professional and personal spirit of respect, honesty, cooperation and goodwill for the benefit of the university.

Marshall's alumni have also been key in these efforts. The university boasts a loyal and **active alumni population**, 64 percent of whom reside in West Virginia and make key contributions to the state's economy and civic life. University alumni have gone on to lead Fortune 500 companies, win Pulitzer Prizes, and become captains of industry, science, education, and the arts.

RESEARCH

Marshall has seen **exceptional growth in research funding** in recent years, from \$23 million in 2015 to \$73 million now. The university is developing collaborative interdisciplinary research clusters in biomedicine/biotechnology, transportation technology/logistics, engineering, advanced manufacturing, the physical sciences, and the liberal arts. Marshall is a leader in advanced, high-performance computing and Internet2® connectivity, positioning the university to partner and compete globally.

The [Marshall University Research Corporation](#) (MURC) is committed to an active, growing and successful research enterprise that will help address today's challenges, improve the quality of life in the community and provide an engine for economic development. A not-for-profit corporation, MURC delivers services like pre-award grant and contract development and post-award grant administration to members of the university community.

Researchers at the [Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research](#) (MIIR) are exploring new treatments for cancer and heart and kidney disease. Through their studies to learn more about the molecular mechanisms by which cellular signaling occurs, MIIR investigators are working to translate research from their labs into discoveries that will help improve human health and stimulate economic development in the region.



Requirements and Preferred Qualifications of the Next Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Marshall University places a premium on attracting a Provost with the skills and experiences to complement and serve with a non-academic President. The selected candidate must be committed to facilitating and pioneering innovative change in the shifting landscape of higher education.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate the following achievements and attributes:

1. Proven track record of advancing innovation in higher education:

- a. A demonstrated ability to guide an academic enterprise as the higher education landscape evolves and changes.
- b. A record of ambitious ideas and the collaborative ability to achieve clear results in areas of foundational, future-focused, and in-demand programs that are delivered through effective traditional and hybrid learning environments (including classroom, online, worksite, asynchronous, interdisciplinary, and experiential modalities).
- c. A track record of generating progressive approaches and ideas to foster faculty development, support, and rewards.

2. Previous success in leading a large, complex entity such as a college, school, or research enterprise:

- a. The ability to provide effective and collaborative leadership with a record of research, teaching, and engagement sufficient to qualify for full professor and tenure.
- b. A demonstrated commitment to faculty governance, including the recruitment, hiring, and review of academic administrators, and the successful implementation of programs to achieve the department or division's academic, research, and engagement priorities.

- c. The knowledge and appreciation of enrollment management, academic affairs, student life and belonging, graduate programs, libraries that advance student success, and optimal use of resources.
- d. Knowledge of and appreciation for fundraising, with experience securing grants and interacting with major donors.

3. An experienced change agent who can build followership while driving transformational change.

- a. Progressive experience in university administration.
- b. A creative and innovative spirit with excellent listening and communication skills and a demonstrated ability to form interdisciplinary teams.

How to Apply

Marshall University is being assisted by Academic Search. Applications should consist of a substantive cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to:

MarshallProvost@academicsearch.org

The position is open until filled but only applications received by August 19, 2025, can be assured full consideration. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants [Ann Die Hasselmo](#) and [Chris Butler](#).

Marshall University and the Marshall University Research Corporation are committed to providing equal opportunities to all prospective and current candidates. We do not condone discrimination, in particular based on race, color, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. Our commitment also applies to all educational programs and activities covered under Title IX which prohibits sex discrimination in higher education. We neither affiliate with nor grant recognition to any individual, group or organization having policies that discriminate.

