

# Michael Jon McKenzie, Ph. D.

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outgoing leader with value-aligned thinking and talent-focused team builder. Authentic leadership style that supports and engages both internal and external partners. Servant leader who works collaboratively in strategic planning and implementation, trusts people and shared governance, knowledge of accreditation processes, experience in institutional policy and enrollment management evaluation. Develops relationships, trust, and respect through engaging administrative colleagues, faculty, staff, students, and alumni across the institution.

Strong abilities to be adaptable, build consensus, communicate, and inspire change that engages all constituencies. Champions people first, and the institutional mission and vision through intentional advocacy with important stakeholders and influencers.

Creates a work environment where personal values are honored and aligned, people are valued, and work-life balance is critical for sustaining people.

Core leadership competencies include:

- Transforms vision and mission to action
- Encourages innovation and creativity
- Communicates to all stakeholders in a way they will understand
- Promotes transparency, shared governance
- Collaborates and engages participation across the university
- Delivers sustainable enrollment growth and quality student services
- Oversees strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Fosters diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices

## Education

**Ph.D., Kinesiology**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2006)

Dissertation: *“Effects of a Single Aerobic Exercise Bout on Gene Regulation in the Soleus Muscle of Sprague-Dawley Rats”*

**M.S., Exercise Biochemistry**

University of Florida (2002)

Thesis: *“Mechanical Ventilation Induced Protein Oxidation in the Diaphragm”*

**B.S., Athletic Training**

Appalachian State University (1999)

**Fellowships/Certifications**

**Professional Certificate in Leading Change and Organizational Renewal, Harvard University Business School, July 2025**

**Professional Certificate on Foresight, University of Houston College of Engineering, Technology Division, October 2024**

**Management Development Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Summer 2019**

**Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Claude D. Pepper Center for Aging, June 2006-June 2007**

**Career Overview**

**Appalachian State University** (July 2018-December 2024), (July 2025-Current)

Vice Provost, Program Management and Strategic Initiatives (March 2020-December 2024), (July 2025-Current)

Acting Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (January 2021-July 2021)

Dean, Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies (July 2018-December 2020)

Professor of Exercise Science (July 2018-Current)

**Winston-Salem State University** (January 2025- June 2025)

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Information Technology, Research)

**Winston-Salem State University** (August 2007-June 2018)

Interim Associate Provost (July 2017-June 2018)

Chief Research Officer (July 2017-June 2018)

Associate Dean for Student Research (August 2015-June 2017)

Director of University Honors/Scholars Program (January 2015-June 2017)

Chair, Department of Exercise Physiology (July 2013-June 2017)

Director of Student Research (July 2012-June 2015)

Professor of Exercise Science (July 2017-June 2018)  
Associate Professor of Exercise Science (July 2012-June 2017)  
Assistant Professor of Exercise Science (August 2007-June 2012)

## **Administrative and Leadership Experiences**

### **Appalachian State University**

*Founded in 1899, Appalachian State is an R2 UNC System School enrolling over 21,000 students. It is an R2 university and is in the UNC System. It is located in Boone, NC, but also offers several online programs, and is soon to be offering programs in Hickory, NC, and is well known for student success outcomes, sustainability, and innovation.*

#### **Vice Provost Program Management and Strategic Initiatives, Appalachian State University (March 2020-December 2024) (July 2025-Current)**

Responsibilities: Manage all off-site locations, Facilities and Space Management for the university, SACSCOC and accreditation, Academic program portfolio, New program development, Online programs, Online pathway completion, University Strategic Planning Co-Chair, Covid-19 Leadership, Opening of App State Hickory Campus, Project Owner of App State Project Kitty Hawk, UNC System Liaison for Programs, and various other duties. I reported directly to the Provost.

- Led App St ROI Academic Response Team
- Co-Led University Strategic Planning Group, which developed a plan for 2022-27
- Co-Led Appalachian State University Hickory Task Force in preparations for our recent opening of a new campus in Hickory, Academic Affairs Representative
- Program owner for App State and UNC Project Kitty Hawk project, targeting adult learners
- 

### **Winston-Salem State University**

*Founded in 1892, WSSU is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) within the UNC System, enrolling over 5000 students. Located in Winston-Salem, NC, WSSU focuses on minority and first-generation college students. WSSU has repeatedly been recognized as a top 10 school for social mobility. Carnegie has classified WSSU as an Opportunity College.*

#### **Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (January 2025-June 2025)**

Responsibilities: Manage Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Information Technology, All Deans, Associate Provosts, and other unit leads report directly to me, Manage Provost's Cabinet, Dean's Cabinet, Academic Council, work with Faculty Leadership on issues facing Higher Education, sit on UNC System Chief Academic Officer Council. I reported directly to the Chancellor. The UNC System appointed me to this role while WSSU conducted its national search.

- Manage a total budget of \$105 million across all units
- Hired two new Academic Deans (Graduate School and Business), and a Vice Provost for Student Success
- Met and presented monthly to the Faculty Senate and the General Faculty

- Active Member of Chancellor's Cabinet and University Emergency Response Team

### **Appalachian State University**

#### **Acting Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (January 2021-August 2021)**

Responsibilities: Manage all faculty issues, including Faculty Senate, Faculty Grievance, Tenure and Promotion, Interpret Faculty Handbook, Manage all disciplinary issues, frequently working with HR and the Office of General Counsel, Supervise Office of Disability Resources and Office of Title IX, Campus Free Speech Representative to UNC System. I reported directly to the Provost.

- Provost representative to the faculty senate and the council of chairs
- Tenure and Promotion Processes and presentation to App State BOG
- Title IX and Disability Services Management

#### **Dean, Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies (July 2018-December 2020)**

Responsibilities: Manage 70 doctoral, specialists, masters, and certificate graduate programs, Manage enrollment, Graduate Assistantship allocation (roughly \$5,000,000), Academic policies and procedures, Graduate Faculty status, Represent Graduate School on Dean's and Provost's Council, Graduate Student professional development, Graduate records, registration, and analytics, Fundraising, Graduate events, Graduate student government association, Inclusive excellence liaison, manage 12 staff, UNC Graduate council. I reported directly to the Provost.

- Grew enrollment by over 13%
- Increased underrepresented student enrollment by 25%
- Graduate School went test-optional for admission, Holistic Admission

### **Winston-Salem State University**

#### **Associate Provost and Chief Research Officer, (July 2017-June 2018)**

Responsibilities: Curricular coherence, Research environment on campus, Graduate dean functions, Student scholarships, Internal research awards, High-impact practices on campus, Assist with policies and procedures, Faculty and program evaluation, UNC System wide representation, EAB Student Success Collaborative Program Implementation Director, and many other duties working with the Provost, Manage Office of Sponsored Programs, manage 5 staff. I reported directly to the Provost.

- Led implementation of student success collaborative
- Increased total sponsored research by \$5,000,000
- Co-led curricular coherence project

#### **Associate Dean for Student Research (August 2015-June 2017)**

Responsibilities: Manage student research environment on campus, Research initiative program, Assigning of student research assistants, Student research celebration, Departmental honors. I reported to the Senior Associate Provost.

- Started and implemented Student Research Day Celebration
- Managed Summer research grant process
- Funded and planned student research on campus

**Department Chair, Exercise Physiology, Human Performance and Sport Sciences**  
(July 2013-June 2017)

Responsibilities: Faculty and staff management, 23 TT, 7 instructors, 10 adjunct, 3 staff, 700 majors, Course scheduling, Curriculum mapping and management, Faculty and Staff review, Budget, Strategic planning. I reported directly to the Dean.

- Managed transition from school of education to school of health sciences
- Implemented first honors in the major program on campus
- Developed a direct pathway to DPT and MSOT program for our majors, improving diversity of our graduate programs

**Director of University Honors/Scholars Program** (January 2015-June 2015)

Responsibilities: Scholarship allocation, Honors Orientation, Honors Programming, Research Experiences, Advising, Honors Council, Honors Seminars. I reported to the Senior Associate Provost.

- Opened honors college to existing students
- Planned week long honors orientation experience
- Co-led scholarship allocation for incoming students, and scholarship events

**Director of Undergraduate Research** (July 2012-June 2015)

This position transitioned to Associate Dean for Student Research and I reported directly to the Senior Associate Provost.

- Planned and implemented Student Research Day Celebration
- Student Research Approvals and Funding

### **Selected Awards and Honors**

**UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award** (May 2015) The Board of Governors gives this award to a tenured faculty member on each campus of the UNC System for excellent and exceptional undergraduate teaching over a sustained period of time.

**Fellow, American College of Sports Medicine** (2014-Present)

I am currently recognized as a Fellow (FACSM) by my professional organization for my contributions to the field, and the organization

**UNCG School of Kinesiology Pacesetter Award** (2016) (Young Alumni Award)

This award was given to me as the outstanding Young Alumni from the Department of Kinesiology

## **Selected University and Professional Service**

### **UNC Kitty Hawk Academic Advisory Board (2023-Present)**

#### **Chair (2025-Current)**

I am the Appalachian State University member on this UNC System initiative to target adult learner recruitment.

### **App State at Hickory Task Force (2022-Present)**

In preparations for our recent opening of a campus in Hickory, NC (August 2023), I co-led a task force charged with opening the campus for students that included all units on campus. I additionally led academic planning, and academic budgeting, as well as led community listening sessions to ensure we were serving students and the community appropriately.

### **UNC System Return on Investment Advisory Council (2022-2024)**

I was the App State representative on this system wide ROI group that worked to establish the ROI to the state, student, and the university for each and every academic program. I now lead the App St ROI Response Team for this initiative.

### **Appalachian State University Planning and Priorities Council (Co-Chair)**

Co-Chair the university's strategic plan development group to establish the Strategic Plan for the university.

### **North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools President (2020-2021)**

Served as President of the NCCGS. This group represents all graduate schools in North Carolina (Public and Private) and advocates for Graduate Education the state.

### **Appalachian State University Project Management Implementation Team Co-Chair (2020)**

Co-Chaired the University's COVID Response Team. This 5-person committee met weekly during covid and made recommendations directly to the chancellor's cabinet on how to safely remain open and function during the COVID-19 Pandemic

### **SEACSM President (Elect, President, Past President) (2016-2019)**

Three-year term (elect, current, past) of the largest regional chapter of the American College of Sport Medicine. Over 1000 attendees attend the annual conference yearly. This position plans the meeting, as well as runs the executive board.

### **SFIA National Health Through Fitness Capitol Hill Day (2014-2016)**

Yearly meetings with Congressional members through ACSM to advocate for health legislation.

### **Vice-Chair Faculty Senate (2011-2013)**

At WSSU, I was Vice-Chair of the senate and met regularly with the Provost and Chancellor to advocate for Faculty related issues.

## **Selected Publications (of 25)**

Hornbuckle, LM, **McKenzie, MJ**, Whitt-Glover, MC. Effects of High-Intensity Interval Training on Cardiometabolic Risk in Overweight and Obese African-American Women: A Pilot Study. *Ethnicity and Health*. 2017, Mar 1: 1-15.

Price, AA, Whitt-Glover, MC, Kraus CL, and **McKenzie MJ**. Body Composition, Fitness Status, and Health Behaviors Upon Entering College: An Examination of Female College Students From Diverse Populations. *Clin Med Insights Womens Health*, 2016, June 1; 9(Suppl 1): 23-9.

**McKenzie, MJ**, Goldfarb AH, Garten Oxidative Stress and Inflammation Following Aerobic Exercise: Role of Ethnicity. *Int J of Sports Med*, 2014, Sep; 35(10): 822-7.

**McKenzie, M.J.**, Goldfarb, A.H., and Kump, D.S. Gene Response of the Gastrocnemius and Soleus Muscles to an Acute Aerobic Run in Rats. *J of Sport Sci and Med*. 2011, June; 10(2): 385-392.

Hand, J, Betters, C, **McKenzie, M**, and Gopalan, H. Increasing Academic Engagement at HBCU's Through the Implementation of an Undergraduate Research Showcase. *Mountainrise.*, 2011, June; 6(3): 1-13.

**McKenzie, M.J.**, S. Yu, S.J. Prior, R.F.Macko, C.E.Hafer-Macko. Hemi-Paretic Stroke Alters Vastus Lateralis Myosin Heavy Chain Profiles Between the Paretic and Non-Paretic Muscles. *Res Sports Med*. 2009 Jan-Mar;17(1):17-27.

**M.J. McKenzie** and Goldfarb, A.H. An Aerobic Exercise Bout Effects on Gene Expression in Soleus Muscle from Rats. *Med. Sci. Sport and Exer*. 2007, Sep;39(9):1515-21.

Zergeroglu MA, **McKenzie MJ**, Shanely RA, Van Gammeren D, DeRuisseau KC, Powers SK. Mechanical ventilation-induced oxidative stress in the diaphragm. *J Appl Physiol*. 2003 Sep;95(3):1116-24.

### **Selected Professional Poster Presentations (of 40)**

**McKenzie MJ** and Quadir F. Hot Topic: Supporting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Graduate Students Who Aren't in Residence. Presented at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Virtual Summer Workshop and New Deans Institute (July 2020).

Kliszczewicz B, Markert C, Bechke E, Williamson C, and **McKenzie M**. Variations of Acute Bouts of High-Intensity Programming Minimally Influence Biomarkers of Growth. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, 2018, Volume 50(5) S P2276.

**McKenzie MJ**, and Lau RP. Effects of 1 Month of CrossFit on Markers of Aerobic Fitness, Anaerobic Fitness, and Traditional CrossFit Lifts. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, 2014, Volume 46(5) S 199 (928).

**McKenzie MJ**, Goldfarb AH, Garten RS , Gomashe C. Ethnicity Responses to Aerobic Exercise in Untrained Females: Oxidative Stress Markers. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, 2011, Volume 43(5) S 297 (1795).

A.M. Zergeroglu, **M. McKenzie**, R.A. Shanely, D. Van Gammeren, and S.K. Powers. Mechanical ventilation-induced oxidative stress in the diaphragm. American Thoracic Society Meeting; Am J Respir Crit Care Med 167:A27, 2003.

R.A. Shanely, D. Van Gammeren, M. Zergeroglu, **M. McKenzie**, K.E. Yarasheski, and S.K. Powers. Protein Synthesis and myosin heavy chain mRNA in the rat diaphragm during mechanical ventilation. Experimental Biology Meeting; FASEB J 17:A435, 2003.

### **Selected Professional Oral Communications (of 9)**

D Fuentes, **M McKenzie**, J Roach. Leveraging a systems-thinking strategy and mindset to secure a university-level leadership role in higher education organizations. Presented at the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA) Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (October 2024)

**McKenzie MJ.** Peeling back the Curtain- A Pre-Conference Symposium on the Fellowship Application from a Reviewer. Presented at the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN (February 2018)

**McKenzie, M.J.** Ethnicity Responses to Oxidative Stress Following a Single Bout of Aerobic Exercise. Presented at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Network 2011 Annual Meeting.

**McKenzie, M.J.** Acute Changes in Gene Expression in Soleus Muscle to Aerobic Exercise. Symposium presented at the American College of Sports Medicine 2008 Annual Meeting.

### **Selected Grants**

UNC System Digital Transformation Grant (\$1,800,000) 2024-2026

Role: PI

Title: Supporting Appalachian State's Adult Learner Initiative

This UNC System award is assisting App State with its start-up costs to partner with Project Kitty Hawk to launch 5-degree programs fully online to target adult learners in an eight-week, asynchronous format.

UNC System Offices Inter-Institutional Planning Grant (\$24,500) 2018-2019

Role: PI

Title: Envisioning HeART

This UNC IPG award assisted WSSU and UNC School of the Arts in establishing a joint institute at the Center for Design and Innovation. HeART was the intersection of art and medicine and established a research center.

UNC System Offices Student Success Grant (\$225,000) 2018

Title: EAB Student Success Collaborative



Role: Co-I

This award was to purchase the EAB Student Success Collaborative. This advanced data analytics package is used to help WSSU improve measures of student success. I was the Project Manager of the EAB SSC and saw this from proposal to implementation.

NIH Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities R21 (\$179,836), 2018

Role: Co-I

Title: Implementing Evidence-Based Interventions to Prevent Chronic Disease through HBCUs. This NIH award was used to identify health barriers to high-risk communities and explore the use of HBCUs in these communities to assist them.

UNC General Administration Undergraduate Research Award (\$29,000) 2018

Role: Co-I

Title: Using e-portfolios for Mentoring and Assessment of Underserved Undergraduate Researchers

This award will be used to plan and schedule a faculty learning seminar to promote the high-impact practice of E-Portfolios into their curriculum in collaboration with NC State.

CUR Transformations Project (\$8000) 2017-2020

Role: Co-PI

Title: WSSU CUR Transformations

This project was part of an NSF funded CUR Project. This grant provided funding and consultants for a 4 year period to increase and change our BIO and CHE curriculum to be more student research based. WSSU was one of 12 institutions chosen from 90 applicants.

UNC General Administration Undergraduate Research Award (\$26,728) 2017

Role: Co-I

Title: Undergraduate Scholars Planning Institute

This award was used to plan an event with NCSU in which faculty within the humanities will be trained, and an instructional portal developed to increase undergraduate research participation. Students who are underrepresented and first-generation will be the target of research participation.