

OKWU



President Search Profile

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

okwu.edu

“

Seek the
Kingdom of
God above all
else, and live
righteously,
and he will give
you everything
you need.

”

| Matthew 6:33

Our Mission



Oklahoma Wesleyan University exists to develop and send *Servant Leaders* to Advance the Kingdom of God.

OKWU exists to develop and send biblically-centered servant leaders whose lives advance God's Kingdom long after they leave the institution.

As a vital part of **The Wesleyan Church**, OKWU models a biblically centered way of thought, life, and faith. Through rigorous study, honest questions, and critical engagement, we cultivate a vibrant liberal arts community grounded in the **Primacy of Jesus Christ, the Priority of Scripture, the Pursuit of Truth, and the Practice of Wisdom.**

Degrees, programs, campaigns, and presidents serve this purpose—but none define it. This is the greater cause that never ends.

Our ultimate measure of success is not just enrollment, rankings, or revenue—but who our graduates become and how they live, lead, and serve long after they leave campus.

The Kingdom Path

Living Out the OKWU Purpose

The Kingdom of God is the never-ending focus on God's will being done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Grounded in the love of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom Path prioritizes the importance of repentance from sin, placing faith in God alone, obeying God's Holy Word, surrendering to His plan, boldly representing Christ in every moment, and acknowledging prayer changes everything - all to bring honor to the Lord!



The Kingdom Path: A formative journey integrating faith, learning, community, and service, rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus.



Servant Leadership: Leadership shaped by creating change through service, humility, courage, obedience, and love.



Be One Sent: Every graduate understands their life as a calling—sent into the world to serve God and others.



Biblically Centered Education: Academic excellence shaped by a biblical worldview that forms both mind and character.



A Formative Community: A culture where students are known, challenged, disciplined, and spiritually formed.





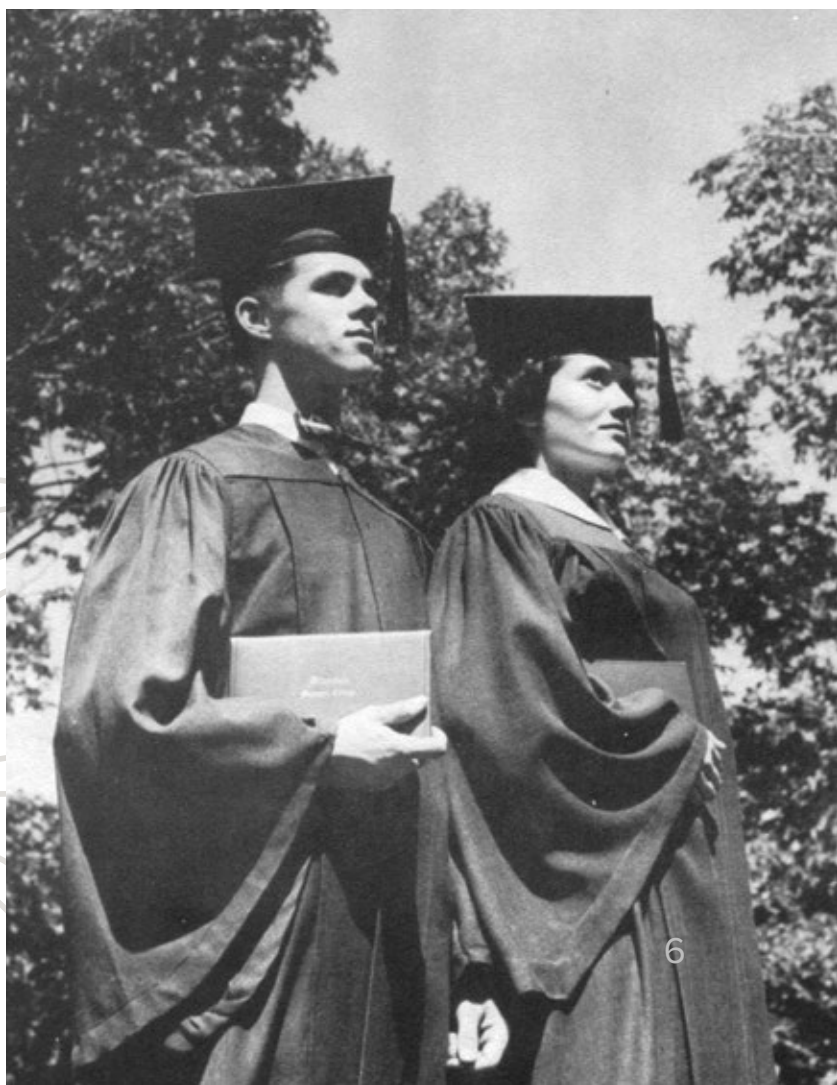
Snapshot

The Transformative Impact of OKWU

Legacy & Momentum

Founded in 1905, Oklahoma Wesleyan University (OKWU) is a Biblically-centered liberal arts institution rooted in the Wesleyan theological tradition as a vital part of **The Wesleyan Church**. The university's mission continues to shape its academic programs, spiritual life, and community culture. OKWU is known for integrating faith, learning, and vocation, preparing graduates not only for careers but for lives of purpose and service.

Discover the heart of OKWU
at okwu.edu/about



Enrollment Trends: Academic & Athletic Direction

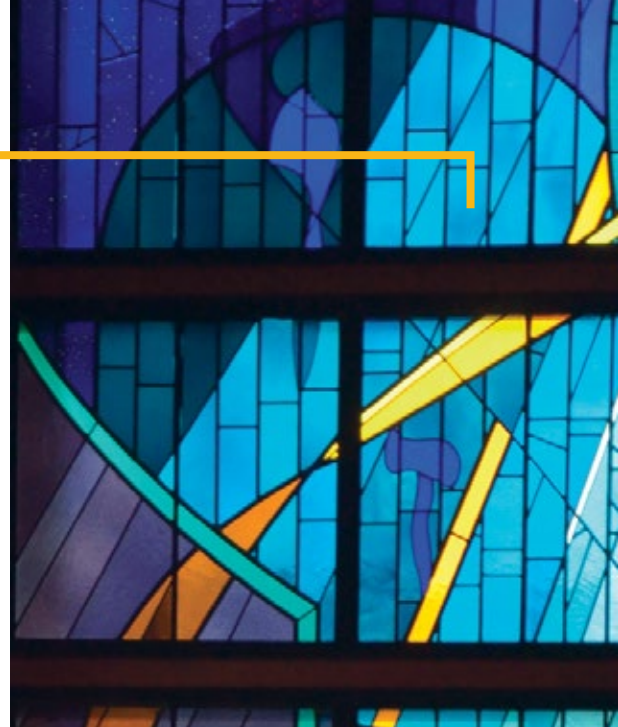
From **2019–2026**, traditional undergraduate (TRAD) enrollment has **grown consistently and exceeded institutional goals**, signaling renewed momentum in residential recruitment. By contrast, the **Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS)** division experienced a steady decline from 2016 onward, though 2025 marked the first year of modest growth in nearly a decade, suggesting some stabilization.

Recent academic expansion reflects strategic responsiveness to market demand and mission alignment. New programs include:

- **MA in Counseling Psychology**
- **MS in Sports Leadership**
- **BA in Theatre (launching Fall 2026)**
- **BSBA with Criminal Justice emphasis**
- Two new doctoral programs: **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** and **Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)**

Exercise Science is emerging as a growing pathway, spanning undergraduate through graduate levels. At the same time, the university is addressing enrollment challenges in **nursing, arts, business programs, and online GPS offerings**, with revisions underway to programs such as the **Masters in Strategic Leadership**.

Approximately **75% of students are student-athletes**, which has supported enrollment growth and campus vitality but has also increased demand for academic support services. In response, OKWU launched the **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)** to strengthen retention, academic readiness, and student success. Three new sports programs have been added: Cheer, Women's Flag Football, and Men's Beach Volleyball.



Spiritual Life & Mission

University spiritual life is experiencing renewed vitality. The hiring of the first **University Pastor** has strengthened campus ministry, with **increased chapel quality and attendance** and a rise in **student baptisms**. Faculty remain deeply committed to mission integration in the classroom, emphasizing servant leadership and faith-informed scholarship.

A significant new opportunity has emerged through a strategic partnership with the **Global Methodist Church (GMC)**, including ministry scholarships of up to 75% tuition for GMC members—expanding OKWU's influence within **pan-Wesleyan movements**.

Momentum + Impact

Intentional community engagement efforts have transformed OKWU's standing in Bartlesville, rebuilding goodwill and positioning the university as a trusted partner and cultural contributor.

Oklahoma Wesleyan University stands at a pivotal moment—financially stabilizing, spiritually vibrant, and strategically expanding academic programs while addressing enrollment and academic readiness challenges. With strong traditional enrollment growth, renewed fundraising momentum, and a clear Biblically-centered mission, OKWU is positioned for its next season of sending servant leaders..



Giving Update

Campaign Giving to Date \$18 Million (July 2025)

- \$7,500,000 Estate Plans/Beneficiary Gifts
- \$2,730,000 Foundation Grants
- \$2,655,000 Intended and Realized Gifts
- \$1,800,000 Annual Fund (FY2023-2025)
- \$1,625,000 Endowed and Pass-through Scholarships
- \$500,000 Endowed Professorship
- 2 Dorm Renovations, 4 New Roofs
- 1 of 8 Eagle Village Apartment Buildings Built
- Mission Lodge Retreat Center Renovated/Opened

Financial Health & Fundraising

OKWU is in a **cash-positive position** and nearing a **balanced budget after seven years of disciplined financial recovery**. The university's only institutional debt is tied to a newly constructed residential dormitory.

As of January 2026, the **NOW Campaign** has raised **\$22.6 million toward a \$68 million goal by 2030**, funding academic innovation, campus facilities, and student support initiatives. Learn more at okwu.edu/now. A new VP of Advancement is being hired in 2026 to give more focus to this campaign.

The **Eagle Campus Expansion**, a strategic plan under the NOW Campaign, aims to prepare OKWU for a new era of sports and wellness. The vision goes beyond new fields to include a dynamic field house that will serve as a versatile space for classrooms, training, hospitality, and athletic activities. A **\$590,000 grant** was recently awarded to construct a **new softball field**.

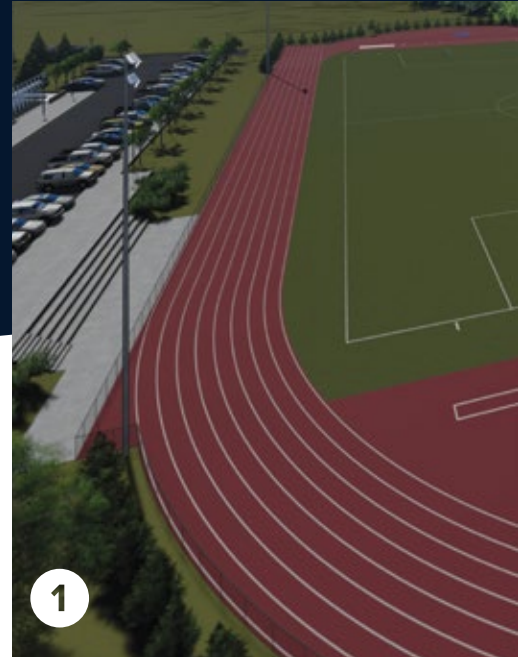
Progress Fully Funded

1. **Fields & Track Project** — New outdoor track, cross-country course, and turf fields for soccer, baseball, and softball. (\$500K intended; \$3 Million needed for Track)
2. **Parsons House** — New apartments in Eagle Village, set to open Fall 2025. (\$500K grant from the Parsons Foundation; \$1,900,000 still needed)
3. **Scott Hall** — Renovated summer 2025, expanded amenities and revitalized community spaces. (\$365,000 raised; \$35,000 still needed) ✓
4. **Wert Hall** — Renovating summer 2026. (\$100,000 raised; \$300K still needed)
5. **Spiritual Life Room** — Opened in March 2025, creating space for discipleship and connection. ✓
6. **Colaw Hall & Chapman Hall** — Roofs replaced in 2024-2025. ✓
7. **Wesley Hall** — Renovated summer 2024, providing modern, welcoming living spaces for our students. ✓
8. **Parking Lot** — Completed Spring 2024, expanded for growing enrollment. ✓

Explore more at okwu.edu/now

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Your giving is an investment in OKWU's mission.



The Calling to Presidency

The President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University is not simply a CEO, fundraiser, or academic administrator. The President is the chief steward of OKWU's mission, purpose and WHY.

The President leads the mission and purpose by example—shaping culture as much as strategy—and ensures that growth, innovation, and sustainability always serve the deeper purpose of spiritual formation and Kingdom impact. This leader understands the presidency not as a personal legacy to build, but as a calling from God to prepare and send others for the good of The Wesleyan Church and a world that desperately needs Jesus.

The President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University serves as the chief executive and spiritual leader of the institution, accountable to the Board of Trustees. The President safeguards the University's Biblically-centered identity, advances its mission, and leads the campus leaders and community in forming and sending servant leaders who live the way of Jesus in every calling, culture, and community.

The President must embody the Kingdom Path and champion a biblically centered vision of higher education that integrates faith, learning, community, and service. Every institutional decision—academic, financial, organizational, and relational—must reinforce OKWU's commitment to developing servant leaders for Kingdom impact and service to the Wesleyan Church.

In short, the President is expected to:



Live a Christ-like life marked by a posture of servant leadership



Protect the mission above metrics



Lead institutional growth without mission drift
Shape mission-based culture intentionally, not incidentally



Balance conviction with compassion, especially in seasons of change



Empower others to lead rather than centralize authority



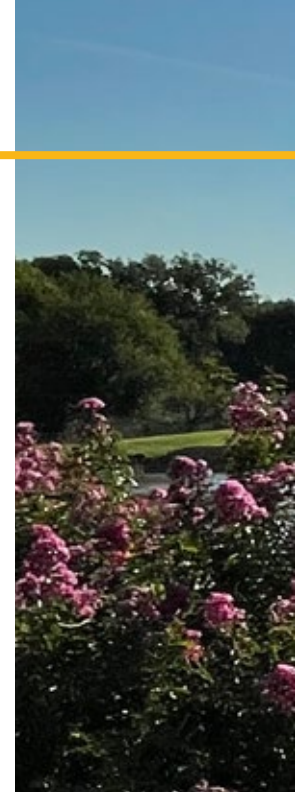
Champion the spiritual, emotional, and academic well-being of OKWU students and team members.



Lead the entire institution with godly and fiscal responsibility.



Lead the innovation conversations needed to help the university thrive into the future while championing the mission and ethos with conviction and clarity.





Key Presidential Responsibilities

- Serve as the chief representative and ambassador of the University
- Provide spiritual, strategic, and executive leadership consistent with the mission and theological commitments of OKWU and The Wesleyan Church. As an institution of Christian higher education, OKWU is privileged to be an integral part of The Wesleyan Church and serves under its ultimate authority. The Wesleyan Church, through its General Board, is not empowered or authorized to contravene, override or set aside a decision of OKWU's Board of Trustees except as provided and specifically stated in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church (2362:1-4).
- Partner with the Board of Trustees in shaping vision, policy, and long-term strategy
- Lead and develop a strong senior leadership team
- Oversee on-campus, online, and graduate programs consistent with mission and quality standards
- Champion academic excellence within a biblically grounded liberal arts education
- Foster a vibrant campus spiritual life and culture of discipleship
- Advance healthy enrollment, retention, formation, athletic, financial, and innovation endeavors
- Provide sound financial stewardship, budgeting, and long-range fiscal planning
- Facilitate advancement efforts, including capital projects, donor relations and institutional partnerships
- Strengthen and establish relationships with alumni, churches, community leaders, accrediting bodies, and governmental authorities

Qualifications and Calling

Mission-Driven Leader

- Demonstrate a clear, articulated calling to Christian higher education and servant leadership
- Live a Biblically-centered life marked by humility, obedience, and spiritual maturity
- Exhibit deep alignment with OKWU's theological convictions and Wesleyan ethos as a vital part of The Wesleyan Church
- Understand leadership as stewardship rather than self-promotion
- Articulate and embody a theology of "sending" (Be One Sent)

Experienced Leader

- Proven ability to lead organizations through growth and change without mission drift
- Experience shaping healthy institutional culture
- Demonstrate ability to cast and facilitate vision and new initiatives
- Ability to build trust across faculty, staff, students, donors, and church, and community partners
- Proven strategic, visionary thinker with sound organizational and financial judgment

Visionary Leader

- Think conceptually beyond the University to long-term Kingdom outcomes
- Understand the University's role in the Church, society, and global mission
- Demonstrate ability in developing and empowering leaders who serve faithfully and effectively



Oklahoma Wesleyan University

Invitation Letter

from the BOT Executive Committee / Chair



Dear Presidential Candidate,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, I extend to you our warm greetings and sincere gratitude for your interest in the role of President of OKWU. This is a pivotal moment in the life of our university, and we are prayerfully seeking the leader whom God is preparing to guide our Christ-centered institution into a new season of strength, innovation, and faithfulness. After thoughtful reflection and continued discernment, the Board invites you to prayerfully consider submitting the required materials for formal consideration in our presidential search process. We believe that effective leadership at Oklahoma Wesleyan University begins with a deep commitment to Scripture, a passion for academic excellence, and a heart for transforming students to impact culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you sense that the Lord may be calling you to explore this opportunity, we would be honored to receive your information.

We ask that you provide the following documents for review:

- Resume and or Vita (indicating an earned doctorate)
- Cover letter addressing calling and alignment with OKWU's mission
- One-page personal statement of faith.

These materials may be submitted to boardchair@okwu.edu. We kindly request that all documents be received by **May 15, 2026**. As you reflect on this invitation, please know that our Board and broader community are actively praying for discernment, wisdom, and clarity—for you and for us. We trust that God, in His perfect timing, will direct our steps and reveal the leader who will continue to strengthen Oklahoma Wesleyan University's witness and purpose.

Thank you again for your prayerful consideration. Should you have questions regarding the process, please feel free to contact boardchair@okwu.edu. May the Lord bless and guide you as you seek His will.

With gratitude and prayer,
Dr. Yorton Clark
Chairman, Board of Trustees Oklahoma Wesleyan University



President Search Profile

Prepared by the
Executive Board of Trustees
2026

Contact

boardchair@okwu.edu

Learn More

okwu.edu/president-profile



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