WPI was founded in 1865 to create and convey the latest science and engineering knowledge in ways most beneficial to society.

WPI's founding motto of *Theory and Practice* continues to underlie our academic programs. WPI graduates emerge ready to take on critical challenges in science and technology, knowing how their work can impact society and improve the quality of life.
INTRODUCTION

Worcester Polytechnic Institute has been at the forefront of engineering, technology, and science education for nearly 150 years. The nation’s third-oldest technological university, it first changed the course of American education by introducing a radical new curriculum in 1865, becoming the first school in America to focus its education on equal parts theory and practice.

WPI led another dramatic shift in education in 1970 when it implemented the renowned WPI Plan. This experiential learning approach represented a new type of engineering education, one built around collaborative, team-based global projects. This ground-breaking method gave students and faculty greater levels of control and collaboration and helped create today’s strong focus on innovation, exploration, and real-world competency. Today, WPI’s pioneering approach is widely emulated by science and engineering schools around the globe.

As a champion of an interdisciplinary, project-based, experiential education, WPI invested in a range of new programs over the past decade, including bioengineering, life sciences, interactive media and game design, environmental studies, learning sciences, architectural engineering, and robotics engineering. Other recent initiatives include establishment of the School of Business and the introduction of academic deans to the university. Since 2004 WPI’s research funding has grown nearly threefold.

ABOUT WPI

WPI is a premier mid-sized teaching and research university, deeply rooted in engineering, science, and technology, and dedicated to innovation and the application of knowledge toward critical real-world problems. A recognized pioneer in higher education, WPI provides a distinctive education that is highly responsive to today’s rapidly changing world.

WPI creates and conveys the latest science and engineering knowledge in ways that are most beneficial to society. The university offers more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, management, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts.
WPI's research, led by its renowned faculty, is internationally recognized for breakthroughs and innovations in robotics engineering, biotechnology, fuel cells, nanotechnology, information security, fire protection, and much more.

The WPI community is alive with activity. Students participate in nearly 200 extracurricular activities, such as music, theatre, Greek life, and more than 50 varsity, club, and intramural sports. WPI's New England campus is set on a bucolic hilltop in Worcester, a city home to 13 colleges and a full range of arts and entertainment options. For additional activities, WPI's campus is just an hour's drive from Boston.

In the National Survey of Student Engagement, WPI ranked first for student-faculty interactions, a measure of the quality and quantity of time spent by faculty with undergraduate students. WPI is also ranked sixty-second among all national universities by U.S. News & World Report; first for its part-time M.B.A. program in the nation by BusinessWeek; and ninth for “best career prospects” for M.B.A. graduates by The Princeton Review.

CHARACTERISTICS

Ideal candidates for WPI's presidency will possess excellent academic credentials, extensive administrative leadership experience, and a superb ability to communicate institutional strengths and a global vision to a variety of constituencies and external audiences.

Consistent with WPI’s appreciation of theory and practice, leaders from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines may be considered for the role. Candidates from higher education should possess an earned doctorate, a distinguished research and publication record, attainment of tenure as full professor or its equivalent, and senior-level leadership experience. Nonacademic candidates should bring an understanding of undergraduate and graduate education gained through personal activity, as well as substantial leadership experience in a complex organization.

In addition, all candidates should possess the following:
A strong commitment to setting and meeting exceptional scholastic and research standards in undergraduate and graduate education.

Demonstrated ability in management and administration, including strategic planning, program development and evaluation, and financial management.

Experience as the spokesperson for an institution or cause, with a successful record of obtaining external financial support and driving greater levels of awareness and appreciation.

A record of attracting, mentoring, and retaining high-quality talent.

Experience enhancing diversity in all forms among faculty, staff, and students.

Exposure to and appreciation for the value of technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in higher education.

Experience strengthening and promoting international programs.

The WPI community has high expectations for its next president. Though its perspective will continue to evolve throughout the search process, it is clear the following competencies will be critical in determining WPI’s next leader:

WPI’s president must embody an unwavering commitment to excellence in the university’s core activities and, in particular, WPI’s mission to create, preserve, disseminate, and apply knowledge.

The president must be prepared to capitalize upon and further develop WPI’s longstanding leadership position in experiential and project-based learning, and to understand the community’s commitment to the value of our educational model.

The president must exercise an engaging leadership style and be prepared to make decisions in close consultation with key constituencies. The president must be gifted in building consensus while having the courage, when needed, to make decisions in the absence of universal support. The president must be able to communicate significant decisions clearly and consistently.

The president must have the capacity to oversee a complex organization, delivering on WPI’s commitment to fiscal and operational discipline and overseeing the evolution of requisite institutional structures. WPI’s president must also protect and enhance the
financial resources of the university through fundraising initiatives and careful stewardship of the endowment.

- The president must have the imagination and intellect to develop and execute an effective strategy for the university in the midst of significant change in higher education.
- WPI possesses national and international stature, but its overall excellence is under-recognized outside of science and engineering fields and New England. The president must comfortably and effectively engage diverse audiences, build relationships with a wide range of internal and external constituencies, and serve as a forceful advocate for the value of WPI’s teaching and research.

THE SEARCH PROCESS

WPI's search committee welcomes comments, questions, and nominations or expressions of interest. To contact us, please send an email, in confidence, with supporting materials to WPIpresident@spencerstuart.com.

To enrich education through diversity, WPI is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer