



## Associate Vice President for Student Life

**Southern Wesleyan University**, an evangelical Christian institution located in the town of Central, South Carolina, welcomes applications and nominations in the search for its next **Associate Vice President for Student Life (AVP)**.

**The Institution:** Founded in 1906, Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) embraces its mission: "...to serve as a Christ-centered, student-focused learning community devoted to transforming lives by challenging students to be dedicated scholars and servant-leaders who impact the world for Christ." SWU abides by the belief that every individual has a God-given purpose, brought to fruition by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and the challenge

**Biblical Faithfulness** – Regardless of the blowing winds of society's cultural trends and secular philosophies, faithfulness to God's Word must be the foundation, the center, and the goal of all Christian higher education. At SWU this means both allegiance to God and submission to Scripture.

**Academic Rigor** – We pursue wisdom that begins with the fear of the LORD (e.g., Prov. 9:1). We teach our students to think critically and Christianly. Rigor means, regardless of ability, we come alongside students and challenge them to love God with all their mind.

**Vocational Effectiveness** – We graduate students who succeed in the workplace and graduate school. We equip them in the classroom, through on- and off-campus experiences, mentoring, and internships. More than 90% of SWU graduates express satisfaction in their vocational and educational preparation over five, ten, and fifteen years.

**Financial Sustainability** – Too many students face insurmountable college debt. A SWU education must be affordable for students and sustainable for our University in the long-term.

In summary, SWU is committed to graduating students who love Jesus, who think critically, who are employable, and who are not in crippling debt.

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, SWU serves nearly 1,100 students in approximately 40 areas of study, which include both undergraduate and graduate programs. The main campus consists of 350 beautiful acres in the town of Central, South Carolina, and offers students access to high quality learning and living facilities, many of which are newly constructed or recently renovated. The University employs 45 full-time faculty members and boasts a robust offering of online degrees in addition to its on-campus offerings. It also offers 12 men's and women's sports programs, enjoys dual membership in the NCAA Division II and the NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association), and, since 2007, it has won 17 NCCAA national championships. For more information about the University, please visit <https://www.swu.edu> and/or view the [search prospectus](#).

**The Position:** The Associate Vice President (AVP) for Student Life reports to the VP for Student Life and University Chaplain and is responsible for the development, vision, and leadership of SWU's residential campus life and student activities. The AVP oversees a team of full-time staff including the Residence Directors (RD), Assistant Resident Directors (ARD), the Housing Director, and the Director of Campus Activities & Intramurals. Oversight responsibilities include leadership of SWU's overall residential community, commuter verification, high-level student conduct meetings, residential facilities oversight, and campus activities and intramurals including budgets for each of these areas. The AVP offers emphatically Christian, energetic, and thoughtful leadership to the formation of student life and residence life staff, policies, and programming.

The AVPs other responsibilities include directing the Residence Life staff in developing and implementing a comprehensive Residence Life mission and philosophy which embodies the mission of SWU and can be communicated clearly to the campus community; administering all aspects of the residence life program, including policy development, implementation, and evaluative processes; facility management; housing assignments; budgets; programming; and safety procedures; and overseeing the hiring, training, development, and evaluation of the RD's and ARD's. The AVP provides leadership, supervision, evaluation, and advocacy for RD's that empowers them to carry out their roles as educators and disciple-makers in the residential setting. In conjunction with the Vice President for Student Life, the AVP formulates, articulates, and oversees a residential student discipline philosophy, policy, and procedure that is consistent with the Student Handbook; ensures that all students are governed by a fair, understandable, consistent, redemptive, and educational discipline process; and coordinates the timely updating of the Residence Life portion of the Student Handbook and maintains a comprehensive and up-to-date training manual for residence life staff. The AVP will apply relevant student development theory in interactions with students while addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and social needs of students; conduct high-level student conduct meetings for repeat or more severe community offenses; and cast vision and create protocol consistent with SWU's desire to be a community of redemption and integrity. The AVP works with faculty and staff in collaborative partnerships, which promote a seamless educational environment in which learning occurs both in and out of the classroom. The AVP is expected to seek opportunities to interact with students in a variety of informal settings; model a mature Christ-centered life which challenges staff and students to follow Christ; and provide caregiving and discipleship relationships as time and opportunity afford. The AVP serves as a member of the Student Life Cabinet, which is composed of the Vice President for Student Life and the Directors of other student life programs, and will contribute to the development and implementation of the student life mission.

**Qualifications:** The next AVP for Student Life will have deeply held commitments consistent with the University's mission and values, characterized by holiness and servanthood. They must possess excellent communication, organizational, problem-solving, and management skills as well as creativity, initiative, a high level of integrity, and the ability to manage confidential issues and build effective relationships with students and staff. Interested candidates should be enthusiastically willing to embrace and serve within the context of a flexible schedule. With the understanding that students are the University's work, and some work in the evenings and weekends will be required at varying times, this role emphasizes an appropriate balance between the flexible time needed to devote to student care and to healthy work-life boundaries. The AVP at Southern Wesleyan is expected to be intentionally engaged across the Southern Wesleyan campus community, i.e. the cafeteria setting, various athletic and fine arts events, chapel, etc. in their role. A bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree in a related field strongly preferred. A minimum of five years of full-time student life experience is strongly preferred.

Southern Wesleyan University is a Christian liberal arts institution in the Wesleyan-Holiness theological tradition. In light of SWU's unapologetically Christ-centered mission, all employees are expected to embrace the University's

Statement of Faith, respect its Wesleyan heritage, and adhere to its lifestyle expectations. The selected candidate will be required to sign the University's [Doctrinal Statement](#) and [Community Expectations](#) forms upon hire.

**Location:** Central, South Carolina, is a town of 5,000 situated in the northwest part of the state, in the nearly 1 million resident Greenville Metropolitan Area. The region sits along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and offers a wealth of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, including hiking and biking trails, waterfalls, and lakes. Residents also enjoy an exceptional quality of life and a vibrant arts and culture scene, complete with diverse dining options, visual and performing arts venues, and lively annual festivals. Greenville, a vibrant and growing city, is only 30 miles away, and other great cities of the Southeast, including Atlanta, Asheville, and Charlotte, are close enough for day trips. Also worth visiting is South Carolina's beautiful coastline, which includes the historic city of Charleston, beautiful Hilton Head Island, and lively Myrtle Beach.

**Application:** Candidates should submit only a cover letter and resume to RPA Inc. at [SWUStudentLife@rpainc.org](mailto:SWUStudentLife@rpainc.org). For a confidential discussion about this opportunity or to make a nomination, please contact Jim Barnes, Senior Consultant, or Dana Cohick, President, at the email address above. While applications will be accepted until the position is filled, please apply by March 27, 2024.

*It is the policy of Southern Wesleyan University to provide and maintain equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions (including but not limited to lactation), disability, genetic information, veteran status, age, or any other classification protected by state, federal, or local law, unless a bona fide occupational qualification applies. The University reserves its right to operate as a church-related institution and to develop policies consistent with the religious tenets of its sponsoring denomination, The Wesleyan Church, and is permitted and reserves the right to prefer employees on the basis of religion (Title VII, Section 702-703, United States Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended).*

*Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (amending the Higher Education Act of 1965) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. Sexual harassment, which includes sexual violence and other forms of nonconsensual sexual misconduct, is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited under this law. Southern Wesleyan University is fully committed to the Biblical Standard of sexual integrity as defined and practiced by The Wesleyan Church. At no time should any discussion of sexual behaviors be construed as endorsement of inappropriate sexual activity. For more information, visit SWU's [Title IX page](#).*



[www.rpainc.org](http://www.rpainc.org)