



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Position Description

Wayne State University (“WSU”), founded in 1868, is a nationally recognized public urban research university in Detroit. Wayne State is Michigan’s only urban research university, and is known internationally for its contributions to the arts and sciences. Committed to educational opportunity, research, and community enrichment, Wayne State serves a critical role in Michigan’s higher education landscape. It is one of only two Michigan public universities holding the Carnegie Classification’s designations of both “Highest Research Activity” and “Community Engagement”. Just as the city of Detroit is undergoing a renaissance, the university itself is in a time of significant transformation that will strengthen its ability to serve students from Detroit and around the world.

Wayne State University’s campus, located in the University Cultural Center and Historic District in the heart of Detroit’s Midtown neighborhood, encompasses approximately 200 acres. The university enrolls nearly 28,000 students, making it the third largest among Michigan’s 15 public universities and one of the 50 largest in the nation. Wayne State boasts the most diverse student body among Michigan’s public universities, with students from nearly every U.S. state and 60 countries. Fifty-four percent of Wayne State Students are white; 18 percent are African- American; and 28 percent are other race/ethnicity groups. In a recent survey, Wayne State University students ranked the campus diversity highest among a list of campus strengths.

Wayne State University is Detroit’s seventh-largest employer, with more than 7,600 regular employees and more than 2,000 student employees. Wayne State has 2,701 faculty members — of whom 1,729 are full-time — and nearly 5,000 staff members. Approximately two-thirds of faculty and staff are represented by one of the 13 unions on campus. The university’s financial statements are available [here](#). Moody’s has assigned Wayne State’s General Revenue Bond a rating of Aa3. Wayne State University has more than 250,000 alumni spread throughout the country, of whom about 75 percent live in Michigan.

The university's comprehensive academic offerings are divided among 13 schools and colleges: the School of Business Administration; the College of Education; the College of Engineering; the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; the Graduate School; the Law School; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the School of Library and Information Science; the School of Medicine; the College of Nursing; the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; the Irvin D. Reid Honors College; and the School of Social Work.

Students attending the School of Medicine have access to a variety of educational resources through 11 affiliate hospitals, including Detroit Medical Center Hospital, Henry Ford Health System, and Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Such diverse partnerships enable students in the university's health profession schools to gain knowledge and experience in a variety of disciplines.

Wayne State University ranks 64th among public American universities, according to the 2013 National Science Foundation Research rankings; its medical sciences, physics, chemistry, physical science, and psychology programs rank in the top 100 nationwide. The university's annual research expenditures are nearly \$224 million.

Wayne State's advancement of its research mission is augmented by collaboration with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University in the University Research Corridor, an alliance that brings in 94 percent of all federal research dollars attracted to Michigan each year. Wayne State also has a thriving research and technology park, TechTown Detroit, and a number of partnerships with government, industry, and business.

Wayne State is home to the Perinatology Research Branch, the only National Institutes of Health clinical research center located outside of Bethesda, MD. WSU also houses one of 41 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers — the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute — and the new Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors funded by the National Institutes of Health in 2014.

Wayne State University commits to its urban research mission by continuing to provide access and opportunity to higher education for students of all backgrounds. This commitment helps nurture the next generation of professionals — who will use their education to advance the causes of civil rights and social justice in all threads of society — and helps meet the needs of Detroit and its surrounding communities.

Detroit

Detroit is the largest city in Michigan and a major port on the Detroit River, an international waterway that connects the western Great Lakes to Lake Erie and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. In 2014, the city itself had a population of approximately 680,000, while the population of the surrounding metropolitan area is more than five million. The city's population is primarily African American and is increasingly diverse, with new residents eager to participate in Detroit's transformation representing a spectrum of ages, races, and

cultures. The southwest Detroit area has vibrant and growing Latino/a American communities and the city of Dearborn has the largest Arab American community outside of the Middle East. The combined Detroit–Windsor (Ontario) metropolitan area, a critical commercial center on the Canada–U.S. border, has a total population of 5.7 million. Known as the nation’s traditional automotive center, Detroit is synonymous with the American automobile industry and an important source of popular music legacies, as celebrated in the city’s two familiar nicknames, “The Motor City” and “Motown.”

Detroit’s Midtown neighborhood is home to Wayne State as well as excellent museums, theatres, libraries, concert halls, and professional sports venues. Among the cultural institutions within walking distance of the main campus are the main branch of the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Michigan Science Center, the Fisher Theatre, Detroit Children’s Museum, and the Detroit Historical Museum. As Detroit has undergone a historical resurgence, Midtown has been at the heart of the growth. In 2014, *USA Today* named it one of its “10 Up-and-Coming Neighborhoods around the USA.”

Wayne State promotes cooperation among Midtown’s three anchor institutions: Wayne State, Henry Ford Health System, and the Detroit Medical Center. Wayne State has assumed leadership roles in collaborations designed to ensure public safety, promote local transportation, boost economic development, and beautify the area. Since 1999, the university has committed nearly \$700 million to projects on and adjacent to the campus, changing Midtown’s landscape and ambience. This includes the new Integrative Biosciences Center (IBio), which is pushing the frontiers of multidisciplinary health sciences and attracting faculty and economic development from across the nation. The \$90 million facility is dedicated to studying and eliminating the many health disparities that plague the city’s residents. IBio includes faculty with expertise in environmental sciences, bio and systems engineering, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and biobehavioral health. It will eventually house more than 400 individuals within 200,000 square feet of lab and clinical space designed to foster a collaborative and flexible team science approach to research.

Detroit Future City (DFC), a think tank and policy advocate, recently released a report called [139 Square Miles](#) which shows that for the first time in 60 years, Detroit is moving toward population growth, with an economy on the rise and neighborhoods beginning to stabilize.

University Leadership

President

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., was unanimously elected [president of Wayne State University](#) by its Board of Governors on June 5, 2013. He assumed the presidency on August 1, 2013. Prior to joining Wayne State, Dr. Wilson served as deputy director for strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and

Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Previously, Dr. Wilson was dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for health sciences at Creighton University, president of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and, concurrently, chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and chair of the board of directors of the University of Colorado Hospital.

Dr. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College, an M.S. in epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He was selected for the list of Best Doctors in America for a consecutive 14 years by Best Doctors Inc. and was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Healthcare CEO of the Year in 2011. In 2003, he was elected as a lifetime member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the field of Medicine.

His additional honors include the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Senior Achievement Award, the Distinguished Physician Award from the Minority Health Institute, the Herbert W. Nickens Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the NIH Director's Award, the President's Award from the American Glaucoma Society, and the W. Montague Cobb Distinguished Research Career Award.

Provost

Keith E. Whitfield became [provost of Wayne State University](#) on June 1, 2016. Previously, he was vice provost for academic affairs at Duke University, and held appointments as professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, research professor in the Department of Geriatric Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, and senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. He also was the co-director of the Center on Biobehavioral Health Disparities Research.

An expert on aging among African Americans, Dr. Whitfield has published 200 articles, books and book chapters on cognition, health, and individual development and aging. He is a longtime member of the advisory board of Wayne State's Institute on Gerontology, has participated in a number of committees for the National Academies of Sciences and Medicine, and has served on several study sections for the National Institutes of Health.

As Wayne State's chief academic officer, Dr. Whitfield is the second-ranking executive officer and responsible for all matters related to the instructional mission of the university including faculty matters, student performance and retention, and academic personnel policies and decisions, among other duties.

Dr. Whitfield earned a bachelor's in psychology from the College of Santa Fe, a Ph.D. in lifespan developmental psychology from Texas Tech University, and received postdoctoral training in quantitative genetics from the University of Colorado Boulder.

The College of Engineering

About the College

With its unique balance of research activities and education degree programs, Wayne State University's College of Engineering strives to provide its students with the technical and leadership skills to immediately serve them in a diversified, high-tech global marketplace. Wayne State's engineering curriculum leads the nation in game-changing fields like electric-drive vehicle technology and alternative energy. The College offers more than fifty engineering and computer science degree and certificate programs, with more than 130 full-time faculty members serving 3,700 undergraduate and graduate students in the following areas:

- Alternative Energy Technology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Computer Science
- Cyber-physical Systems
- Data Science and Business Analytics
- Electric-drive Vehicle Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Engineering Technology Division
- Entrepreneurship and the Anderson Institute
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Nanoengineering

The College of Engineering's diverse student population includes more than 200 international undergraduate and 1000 international graduate students from 37 countries. Additionally, the College houses 25 student organizations and offers more than \$350M in financial aid and scholarships.

More information about the College of Engineering can be found [here](#).

About the Department of Biomedical Engineering ("BME")

Founded in 2002 following a 65-year history as a Bioengineering Center, the Department of Biomedical Engineering is housed jointly in the College of Engineering and the School of Medicine. The BME Department has 13 primary and 16 joint faculty members and a tradition of excellence in research and graduate and undergraduate education. The department has annual research expenditures of over \$3M and enrollments of 50 Ph.D. students, 130 M.S. students, and 120 undergraduate students.

More information about the department can be found [here](#).

Dean

Dean Farshad Fotouhi became the [11th dean of the College of Engineering](#) on Feb. 15, 2011. He joined the Wayne State University Department of Computer Science faculty in 1988 and was appointed chair in 2004 after serving as associate chair.

Dean Fotouhi received a WSU College of Science Teaching Excellence Award in 1996 and several Best Paper Awards at various national and international conferences. Before joining WSU, he was a faculty member of the Michigan State University Lyman Briggs College.

Dean Fotouhi's research interests include Biomedical Informatics, the Semantic Web and Multimedia Systems. He has published more than 180 papers in journals and conference proceedings. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor, the Ford Motor Company and other companies. While at WSU he has secured more than \$9 million in research funding and contributions.

Since joining WSU, Dean Fotouhi has graduated 25 Ph.D. and 30 M.S. students. More than half of his Ph.D. graduates are tenure-track or tenured faculty at institutions in Michigan and across the country. Many of his graduates hold executive positions in industry and corporate America.

Dean Fotouhi has been a program committee member for various conferences related to his research interests and is a member of the Editorial Board of IEEE Multimedia Magazine, chair of the Steering Committee of IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, and a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Semantic Web and Information Systems. In recent years, Dean Fotouhi has organized several workshops including the Workshop on Privacy in Information Society, the IEEE Workshop on Scientific Workflow and the ACM Workshop on the Many Faces of Multimedia Semantics.

He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Western Michigan University and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the College of Engineering at Michigan State University.

The Position

Responsibilities of the Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Reporting to the Dean of the College of Engineering, the Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering holds the following responsibilities:

- Review and monitor department funds and approve expenditures within established university guidelines;
- Recommend and establish priorities for budget and expenditures;
- Recruit, evaluate, and direct faculty;
- Plan, coordinate, and supervise department programs and activities and ensure accreditation requirements are met;

- Facilitate curriculum updates and amendments to reflect the constantly evolving field of BME;
- Act as liaison to other units within the university as well as community, government, and private organizations, representing department to donors and industry;
- Serve on committees and disseminate information regarding department activities;
- Prepare and provide information and reports regarding departmental activities;
- Actively pursue and assist faculty in pursuing external funding through research projects aimed at obtaining grants/contracts; and
- Teach graduate and upper level undergraduate courses.

Opportunities and Challenges for the next Chair

The incoming BME Department Chair will ensure the continued growth of the department in research and teaching excellence, expanding ties with the WSU School of Medicine and industry and advancing Wayne State's mission as a preeminent, public, urban research university. Key opportunities and challenges for the next Chair include:

- Create and cultivate partnerships both internally and externally, including those with the School of Medicine as well as with external industry leaders to advance and deepen research and scholarship;
- Continue to foster academic excellence through the recruitment and development of a strong and diverse faculty; and
- Develop and implement a creative vision for the department, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration and new program development.

Qualifications

Applicants should hold an earned Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering or a related field along with demonstrated achievements in research and teaching. Applicants should merit the rank of full professor, have a record of outstanding scholarship, and demonstrate proven talent for leadership and administration. Additionally, the incoming Chair should demonstrate the following:

- A creative academic vision and the ability to move the department forward around a shared direction;
- A collegial and collaborative managerial style;
- Strong financial acumen;
- The ability to serve as a model and a champion for faculty;
- An unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion;
- A deep understanding of the field of Biomedical Engineering and the possibilities for new courses and programs;
- Exceptional communication skills and the ability to represent the department both internally and externally;
- A commitment to excellence in teaching and research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;

- Understanding of how to successfully navigate an accreditation process;
- A research record reflecting national prominence and success in securing external research funding;
- A commitment to student success and achievement; and
- The highest professional and personal integrity.

Contact

For best consideration, please send all nominations, applications, and inquiries to:

R. Thomas Fitch, Partner
Julia Patton, Consulting Associate
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates LP
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Wayne State University is a premier, public, urban research university located in the heart of Detroit where students from all backgrounds are offered a rich, high quality education. Our deep-rooted commitment to excellence, collaboration, integrity, diversity and inclusion creates exceptional educational opportunities preparing students for success in a diverse, global society. WSU encourages applications from women, people of color and other underrepresented people. WSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.