

8-10-2017

August 10, 2017 - From the President's Desk

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Schrader, C. B. (2017). August 10, 2017 - From the President's Desk. *From the Desk of the President*.
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August 10, 2017 - From the President's Desk

Walter J. Branson named Vice President for Finance and Operations,
Chief Business Officer
Walter J. Branson

Dear Campus Community,

I'm pleased to announce that Wright State University has hired Walter J. Branson as the new vice president for finance and operations and chief business officer (CBO). Currently, he is vice chancellor for finance and operations at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Branson will oversee Wright State's budgeting, planning, internal audit, human resources, business operations, and environmental management functions, as well as the campus grounds, maintenance, physical plant operations, and university police. He will join the university on September 11 and immediately begin working with Jeff Ulliman to first focus on finance and business strategies before diving deep into other units.

With this hire, we are putting an essential piece in place to ensure financial sustainability and increased budgetary and fiscal governance for the university by installing necessary finance and operations oversight.

Using a CBO to oversee the shared services that run across a university has become a common model for leadership organizations in higher education. The return on investment in operational efficiency and effectiveness gains for the university will prove invaluable.

Because of the university's financial position, Wright State did not have the luxury of conducting an extended search. Mr. Branson was hired through the university's formal search waiver process. His application was reviewed by leadership from Human Resources and the Office of Equity and Inclusion for approval as to the strength of his fit for the job requirements.

The emergency hiring committee also considered this appointment and deemed it a necessary and strategic investment in the university's future.

Mr. Branson has served as vice chancellor for finance and operations at Missouri S&T since 2013. There, he initially was tasked with overseeing nearly the same functions of the university as he will start with at Wright State. In 2017, he assumed leadership of the following additional university-wide shared service functions: strategy, planning and assessment; institutional research; human resources; and information technology.

Previously, Mr. Branson worked at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) as vice chancellor for financial affairs for 20 years. In that position, he served as the university's chief financial officer and directed six campus departments, as well as student housing and athletics. He also served as one of the university's primary legislative contacts and community liaisons and was chief operating officer of the IPFW Foundation.



Prior to joining IPFW, he was on the staff of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, as a business administrator for Purdue's computing center and fiscal planning office, as well as a senior business administrator in the School of Agriculture.

Mr. Branson holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management and a Master of Science in Industrial Administration, both from Purdue.

He and his wife, Linda Branson, will be welcome additions to our community. Mr. Branson grew up directly west of here, just over the border in Indiana. The Bransons' two adult children reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.





Please join me in welcoming Mr. Branson to the Wright State family.
Wright State University President Cheryl B. Schrader
Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader
President

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Posted Thursday, August 10, 2017

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