

The Power of
Aspiration



The Inauguration
of
Dr. Tim Borchers
President
West Liberty University

Friday, April 5, 2024

Academic, Sports, and Recreation Complex (ASRC)

West Liberty, West Virginia

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Tim Borchers





Dr. Tim Borchers assumed the presidency of West Liberty University on July 1, 2023, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a commitment to student success, community engagement, and experiential learning. Prior to his tenure at West Liberty, Dr. Borchers distinguished himself as a transformative leader in higher education, serving in key administrative and faculty roles at public regional institutions.

During his time as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Peru State College in Nebraska and as Dean and Faculty at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), Dr. Borchers demonstrated a dedication to personalized student support and experiential learning. Inspired by his own undergraduate experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he benefited from close mentorship and guidance, Dr. Borchers has made it his mission to ensure that every student receives the same level of personalized support and mentorship that he once received.

Recognizing the importance of improving student success outcomes, Dr. Borchers championed initiatives such as the Peru Academic Liaison (PAL) program at Peru State College, offering tailored support to new students, and expanded career development opportunities. He has also been a leader in assessment of student learning and accreditation processes for institutions he has served.

His commitment to experiential learning is exemplified by his initiation of the Research and Creativity Expo at Peru State College, providing students with a platform to showcase their scholarly and creative endeavors. As a faculty member at MSUM, he actively engaged in mentoring student research and served as a speech coach, nurturing the talents and aspirations of future leaders and professionals.

Recognizing the pivotal role of community outreach in higher education, Dr. Borchers has been a driving force behind numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening ties between academic institutions and their surrounding communities. Under his leadership, innovative partnerships were created, such as the Corrections Leadership Program, which earned acclaim from the Nebraska Department of Corrections Services. As Dean, he pursued collaborative partnerships with organizations such as Forum Communications and the James Sewell Ballet, which created invaluable applied learning experiences for students.

In his role as President of West Liberty University, Dr. Borchers has wasted no time in implementing strategic initiatives to propel the institution forward. From leading comprehensive strategic planning efforts to enhancing the university's marketing endeavors, he has advanced the university's mission while fostering a

culture of transparency and communication within the campus community.

Beyond his leadership within academia, Dr. Borchers is engaged in the broader community, serving on the governing boards of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Economic Development (RED) Partnership, and Wheeling Hospital. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Mountain East Conference.

He is the author of the book *Persuasion in the Media Age*, which is in its fourth edition and co-author of *Rhetorical Theory: An Introduction*, now in its second edition.

Borchers holds a Ph.D. in Communication from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He also holds a Master's degree in Communication from Wayne State University and a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Dr. Borchers resides on the West Liberty campus with his spouse, Dr. Susanne Williams, in the President's residence, Colonial Heights. They enjoy welcoming students, employees, alumni, and retirees into their home. They have one adult son, Oliver. Together, Dr. Borchers and Dr. Williams look forward to immersing themselves in the "wild and wonderful" landscapes of West Virginia, while continuing to promote West Liberty University as a beacon of academic excellence and community engagement.

ORDER OF

Ceremonies

PRELUDE Mr. Henry Knutson, Morgantown, VA - Music Performance
(Piano) Major

PROCESSIONAL WLU University Band
La Morisque, Composed by Tielman Susato
Edited by Doug Torres (WLU '22)

Delegates of Colleges and Universities
The WLU Faculty
The WLU Board of Governors
The WLU Administration
The President's Platform Party
The President

WELCOME Mr. Tom Cervone, Secretary, Board of Governors

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM * WLU Hilltop Harmonic Collective
Star-Spangled Banner, Arranged by Adam Paltrow

OFFICIAL GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDENT

From Congress Video Greeting from U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R - WV

Ms. Mary Jo Guidi, Senior Advisor, Northern Panhandle and
Ms. Roseann Ferro, Regional Coordinator, Northern Panhandle
on behalf of U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, D - WV

From the Community Mr. Zach Abraham, Ohio County Commissioner

From the Faculty Dr. Steve Criniti, Professor of English

From the Staff Mr. Eric Burkle, Head Baseball Coach and
WLU Staff Senate Chairperson

From the Alumni Ms. Stephanie Shaw ('97), Vice President, Enterprise Technology,
The Wendy's Company

From the WLU Foundation Ms. Betsy Delk, Executive Director, WLU Foundation

From the Undergraduate Students Ms. Jenna Maguire, President, WLU Student
Government Association

From the Graduate Students Mr. Ross Salvatori, President, Toppers Association of
Graduate Students

INTERLUDE	WLU University Band <i>First Suite in E-flat</i> , Composed by Gustav Holst <i>I. Chaconne</i>
INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT	Dr. Dan Hanson, Former President, Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska
INVESTITURE	Mr. David McKinley, Chair, Board of Governors
INAUGURAL ADDRESS	Dr. Tim Borchers, President
CLOSING REMARKS	Mr. Tom Cervone, Secretary, Board of Governors
THE ALMA MATER *	WLU Hilltop Harmonic Collective <i>Sing of our college, old West Liberty High in the hills she stands; higher still her standards Pride of the young and old; worthy our devotion Hail to West Liberty!</i> <i>Many thy sons and daughters who have carried Thy name to greater heights in the fields of service May we uphold thy cause, as have those before us Hail to West Liberty!</i> <i>Though we must leave thee, we shall e'er be loyal True to thy high ideals and the bonds of friendship Striving to serve thee in thy great endeavor Dear old West Liberty!</i>
RECESSIONAL *	WLU Concert Band <i>Recessional Finale</i> , Composed by Gervaise Edited by Doug Torres (WLU '22)

* Those who are able are asked to please stand.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION IN THE COLLEGE UNION BALLROOM.
WE WILL CELEBRATE WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AND
STEEL PAN MUSIC FROM THE WLU WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE,
DIRECTED BY DR. MITCHELL J. GRECO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC.

SPECIAL THANKS

For Your Contribution

Ms. Sarah Davis, Associate Professor of Graphic Design
Ms. Nancy Goplerud and the staff of Aladdin Campus Dining
Dr. Matthew Harder and the faculty of the Department of Music and Theater
Mr. Joe Mills, Mr. Bob Saas, Ms. Michelle Heath, and the staff of the WLU Physical Plant
Mr. Rex Lancaster, Mr. Logan Watson, Mr. Alex Schoof, and the staff of the WLU Department of Athletics
The WLU Resident Assistants
WLU Foundation
WLU Alumni Affairs
Dr. Chad Kuhns
Mr. Marty and Ms. Patti Adams
Mr. David Beck

INAUGURATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Tim Borchers, President
Ms. Betsy Delk, Executive Director, WLU Foundation
Ms. Cyndi Galloway, Executive Assistant to the President
Ms. Kate Billings, Director of Student Activities
Ms. Ingrid Loy, Instructor of Marketing
Ms. Amanda Welsch, Director of Alumni Affairs
Ms. Theresa Gretchen, Executive Producer, WLTV
Ms. Courtney Ellifritz, Student Representative
Dr. Susanne Williams, President's Spouse

UNIVERSITY BAND

Dr. Alvin F. Simpson, III, Director

Lillian Back, Bellaire, OH - Music Education
Bailee Beckett, Shadyside, OH - Music Education
Rachel Bennett, Fairmont, WV - Zoo Science
Chase Burdick, Wheeling, WV - Music Education
Natalie Burke, Bel Air, MD - Zoo Science
Morgan Charley, Wheeling, WV - Music Education
Cameryn Colley, Wellsburg, WV - Music Education
Andrew Dalton, Warwood, WV - Marketing and Entrepreneurship
Hailey Deagel, Moundsville, WV - Music Education
Lydia DiBiagio, New Cumberland, WV - Zoo Science
Aiden Ferguson, Bloomingdale, OH - Computer Information Systems-Cybersecurity
Luke Hedrick, New Martinsville, WV - Elementary Education
Greg High, Weirton, WV - Music Technology
Marissa Lammie, Pittsburgh, PA - Music Education and Music Performance (Flute)
Ashley Law, Lost Creek, WV - Speech Pathology-Audiology
Kamryn Mayhew, Wellsburg, WV - Music Performance (Voice)
Payton Mechling, Wellsburg, WV - Music Technology
Ciaran Moyer, Arthurdale, WV - Social Studies Education
Frank McAleavey, Brilliant, WV - Visual Communication

Sav Nelson, McMechen, WV - Music Technology
Nicholas Reidmiller, Parkersburg, WV - Music Performance (Percussion)
Kayla Robare, Belle Vernon, PA - Medical Laboratory Science
Gavin Rocchio, Wellsburg, WV - Chemistry
Isaac Salva, Bellaire, OH - Music Technology
Alyssa Stock, Wellsburg, WV - Music Education
Aaron Thorn, Paden City, WV - Music Performance (Trombone)
Logan Thorp, Shadyside, OH - Music Technology
Beau Wyatt, Pine Grove, WV - Music Education
Ashlyn Williams, Martins Ferry, OH - Music
Shea Wimberley, New Cumberland, WV - General Business
Maria Yates, Weirton, WV - Music Education and Music Performance (Percussion)
Ryan Zumpano, Shadyside, OH - Computer Information Systems

HILLTOP HARMONIC COLLECTIVE

Dr. Douglas McCall, Director
Dr. Matthew Harder, Acting Director

Chase Burdick, Wheeling, WV - Music Education
Edward Engle, Martinsburg, WV - Music Performance
Calista Hall, Philippi, WV - Music Education
Ken Kittell, Coshocton, OH - Music Performance
Marissa Lammie, Beaver Falls, PA - Music Performance
Kris Marosz, Weirton, WV - Music Technology
Waylon Moore, Saint Marys, WV - Business Administration and Cybersecurity
Sav Nelson, McMechen, WV - Music Technology
Rachel Price, Paden City, WV - Music Education and Music Performance
Zoey Russell, St. Clairsville, OH - Music Education
Alex Shepherd, Wheeling, WV - Visual Communication Design
Tiffany Sites, Ridgeley, WV - Music Technology
Mason Stoll, Steubenville, OH - Music Education

WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Dr. Mitchell J. Greco, Director

Chase Burdick, Wheeling, WV - Music Education
Natalie Burke, Bel Air, MD - Zoo Science
Meghan McAleavey, Rayland, OH - Biology
Sav Nelson, McMechen, WV - Music Technology
Rachel Price, Paden City, WV - Music Education
Nicholas Reidmiller, Parkersburg, WV - Music Performance
Alexia Schmader, South Park, PA - Elementary Education
Jason Sivert, Wheeling, WV - Music Performance and Music Technology, WLU alum
Daphney Tanner, Weirton, WV - Music, WLU alum
Kaylin Templeton, Wheeling, WV - Music Education, WLU alum
Maria Yates, Weirton, WV - Music Education

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Ms. Stephanie L. Shaw
Hon. Erikka Storch
Dr. Robert Kreisberg, Faculty Representative
Ms. Lourdes Karas, Staff Representative
Ms. Jenna Maguire, Student Representative

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Dr. Tim Borchers, President
Dr. Cathy Monteroso, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Katie Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Ms. Lori Hudson, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs
Mr. Joe Rodella, Chief Information Officer and Chief Operations Officer
Mr. Brad Forshey, Interim Athletic Director
Mr. Jacob Manning, General Counsel
Ms. Betsy Delk, Executive Director, WLU Foundation
Ms. Cyndi Galloway, Executive Assistant to the President

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Dr. Anissa Anderson, Secretary
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Dr. John McCullough
Mr. Donald Nickerson
Mr. E. Alex Paris
Ms. Denise Penz
Mr. Clifton Spinner
Mr. Samuel Stone
Ms. Beth Weaver

WLU PAST LEADERSHIP

Nathan Shotwell, 1838-1854
A. F. Ross, 1857-1861
James Tyler Bradbury, 1862-1863
John Allen Brown, 1864-1867
John Creighton Frazier, 1867-1870
F. H. Crago, 1870-1873
James E. Morrow, 1873-1875
J. Clinton Gwynne, 1875-1879
Robert McPheeters, 1879-1881
Daniel T. Williams, 1881-1884
J. A. Cox, 1884-1886
Robert Allen Armstrong, 1886-1893
J. N. Deahl, 1893-1898
W. B. Cutright, 1898-1899
J. M. Skinner, 1899-1901
W. L. McCowan, 1901-1903
Lorain Fortney, 1903-1908
John C. Shaw, 1908-1919
Clinton T. Bogus (Acting), 1919-1920
Howard J. McGinnis, 1920-1925
Earl C. Bowman (Acting), 1925-1926
John S. Bonar, 1926-1933
John C. Shreve, 1933-1935
Paul N. Elbin, 1935-1970
James L. Chapman, 1970-1984
L. H. Talley (Interim), 1984
Clyde D. Campbell, 1984-1995
Donald Darnton (Interim), 1995-1996
Ronald M. Zaccari, 1996-2001
John P. McCullough (Interim), 2001
Richard H. Owens, 2002-2005
John P. McCullough (Interim), 2005-2007
Robin C. Capehart, 2007-2015
John P. McCullough (Interim), 2015
Stephen G. Greiner, 2016-2020
W. Franklin Evans, 2021-2022
Cathy Monteroso (Interim), 2023

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

History and Traditions

What is now known as West Liberty University was founded in 1837 as West Liberty Academy, making the school the oldest institution of higher education in West Virginia. In 1870, the school became West Liberty State Normal School and came under state control. With a strong history of teacher education training, the school was renamed West Liberty State Teachers College in 1931. Under the leadership of President Paul Elbin, the institution's mission grew beyond teacher training, and in 1943 its name was changed to West Liberty State College. The college became West Liberty University on May 3, 2009.



THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

Until the mid-1960s, the college's seal was that of the State of West Virginia with "State of West Virginia" replaced with "West Liberty State College." The seal was redesigned in 1965 by Roy Everson, an art and speech major, for an assignment in a course taught by Professor William T. Martin. The new seal was officially approved for use that same year.

The iconic column symbolizes classic civilization, and the book is a symbol of knowledge. The torch is a symbol of the quest for learning, and 1837 is the year the college was founded. The seal was updated to "West Liberty University" following the institution's change in status in 2009.



THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The medallion, also known as a Chain of Office, is one of the oldest symbols of authority, worn by leaders dating back to the Roman Empire. The tradition was passed down through the Middle Ages and coincided with the rise of the university system in Europe. Symbolizing the Office of the President, the presidential medallion is integral to the president's academic regalia worn for official ceremonies such as convocation, commencement, and inauguration.

The WLU version is a 3-inch diameter pendant cast in antiqued bronze, featuring the West Liberty University seal.



THE UNIVERSITY MACE

In medieval and Renaissance Europe, maces were used as weapons of war. Centuries later, maces are ceremonial and symbolize authority. In higher education, maces are used during the official ceremonies such as commencement, convocation and presidential inaugurations.

At the Dec. 14, 1996, inauguration of President Ronald M. Zaccari, Faculty Senate presented the college's first mace in honor of Dr. Lawrence H. "Larry" Talley, emeritus professor of chemistry, dean and vice president. Crafted in walnut, the mace stands 30-inches high by 4-inches wide. Each side features an antique bronze casting - 1837 (the year of the institution's founding), a statement dedicating the mace in Dr. Talley's honor, and the seal on two sides.

THE ALMA MATER

West Liberty University's alma mater was created by Paul and Helen Elbin. Dr. and Mrs. Elbin wrote the lyrics, setting them to a European hymn entitled "Father in Heaven," composed by Friedrich Flemming. In 1935, the song officially became the institution's alma mater. The lyrics can be found on page 4 of this program.

ABOUT

Academic Regalia

Source: *An Academic Costume Code and An Academic Ceremony Guide* by Eugene Sullivan, American Council on Education 5th Edition / © 1997 Walter de Gruyter, Inc.

Higher education's ceremonial regalia is rich with symbolism used to identify different levels of academic achievement and degree-conferring colleges and universities. The academic regalia you see today evolved from the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. Most likely to keep warm, teachers and students at that time dressed in long gowns with hoods covering tonsured heads. It was in the days of Henry VIII of England, that Oxford and Cambridge Universities began prescribing a specific academic dress code.

Much later, the use of color and symbolism emerged. In the 19th century, a code of academic dress became standardized only in the United States. An Intercollegiate Commission made up of representatives of leading institutions was convened to establish a suitable system of academic apparel. The Commission met at Columbia University in 1895 and adopted a code of academic dress, which besides regulating the cut and style and materials of the gowns, prescribed the colors which were to represent the different fields of learning. The American Council on Education revised the academic dress code only three times — 1932, 1959, and 1986.

GOWNS

Gowns recommended for United States colleges and universities have the following characteristics. The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves, while the master's degree has an oblong, square-cut sleeve, and the gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves.

HOODS

The hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree; more than one color is shown by division of the field color in a variety of ways, chevron or chevrons, equal division, etc. The various academic costume companies maintain complete files on the approved colors for various institutions.

The binding or edging of the hood is velvet or velveteen, two inches, three inches, and five inches wide for the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees, respectively; the color should be indicative of the subject to which the degree pertains (see above). In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the dark blue color is used to represent the mastery of the discipline of learning and scholarship in any field that is attested to by the awarding of this degree and is not intended to represent the field of philosophy.

CAPS

Black mortarboards are generally recommended, but the doctor's degree may wear a 4-, 6- or 8-sided velvet cap. A long tassel is to be fastened to the middle point of the top of the cap only and to lie as it will thereon. The tassel should be black or the color appropriate to the subject, with the exception of the doctor's cap that may have a tassel of gold.

TRIMMINGS AND COLORS

Gowns for the bachelor's or master's degrees are untrimmed. For the doctor's degree, the gown is faced down the front with black velvet, and three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. While not specified in the academic code, it has become tradition that only the president of the college or university shall have four velvet bars across the sleeves. For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors' gowns, edging of hoods, and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different disciplines are as follows:

Agriculture – Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities – White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business – Drab
Dentistry – Lilac
Economics – Copper
Education – Light Blue
Engineering – Orange
Fine Arts, including Architecture – Brown
Forestry – Russet
Journalism – Crimson
Law – Purple
Library Science – Lemon
Medicine – Green
Music – Pink
Nursing – Apricot
Oratory (Speech) – Silver Gray
Pharmacy – Olive Green
Philosophy – Dark Blue
Physical Education – Sage Green
Public Administration, including Foreign Service – Peacock Blue
Public Health – Salmon Pink
Science – Golden Yellow
Social Work – Citron
Theology – Scarlet
Veterinary Science – Gray

INAUGURATION CELEBRATION

Events

Thursday, April 4

Imagination

Center for Arts and Education Open House

9 – 11 a.m. and 1 – 4 p.m., Main Hall

Zoo Science Open House

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Arnett Hall

Art Exhibition Opening featuring Cheryl Harshman and Vivian Silver

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Nutting Gallery, Fine Arts Building

Hughes Lecture Series presenting Silas House

4 p.m., R. Emmett Boyle Conference Room, ASRC

"Puffs" presented by The West Liberty Hilltop Players

7:30 p.m. in Kelly Theatre, Fine Arts Building

Friday, April 5

Celebration

Campus Tours

9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Shaw Hall Visitors Center

Presidential Inauguration: Investiture Ceremony

2 p.m. in Academic, Sports, and Recreation Complex (ASRC)

Reception follows, College Union Ballroom

"Puffs" presented by The West Liberty Hilltop Players

7:30 p.m., Kelly Theatre, Fine Arts Building

Saturday, April 6

Wellness

5K Fun Run/Walk

10 a.m. on the WLU Campus

Groundbreaking Ceremony

for the Belmont Savings Bank Softball Complex

12 noon, Belmont Savings Bank Softball Complex

Hilltoppers Softball vs. Glenville State University

2 and 4 p.m., Belmont Savings Bank Softball Complex

Sunday, April 7

Community

Organ Invitational Concert

featuring WLU Alumni, Faculty, and Students

3 p.m., WLU Interfaith Chapel. Reception follows, College Union Ballroom

Monday, April 8

Wonder

Partial Solar Eclipse Viewing and Science Panel Narration

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on the Quad of WLU

Ecliptic Trivia Night

6:30 p.m., R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center, ASRC

Tuesday, April 9

Legacy

Student Success Center Opening Celebration

10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Paul N. Elbin Library

WLU Time Capsule

11 a.m., Paul N. Elbin Library

WLU Blood Drive

11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center, ASRC

Historical Reflections

with Dr. Clyde Campbell and Dr. John McCullough

2 p.m., Kelly Theatre, Fine Arts Building

Ohio Valley Alumni Reunion

5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Brew Keepers, 2245 Market St. in Wheeling, WV

Wednesday, April 10

Impact

Topper Day Of Giving



The WLU Foundation's 8th Annual 24-hour online giving event. *The Aspire Fund* supports student experiential learning at WLU. To contribute, scan the QR code or visit wlufoundation.org/dayofgiving/

REsearch, Creative Activity and Performance (RECAP) Awards

3 p.m., College Hall



Aspiration

West Liberty University, established in 1837, was the first institution of higher education in West Virginia. Today, we are a dynamic, inclusive, student-centered community that cultivates scholarly exploration, experiential learning, creative expression, and global citizenship.

WLU is a public university committed to providing students with a comprehensive education from undergraduate to advanced degrees while serving as the region's leading advocate for the arts, education, research, and economic opportunity.
