



# Whitman Today

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

2020-2021

## Presidential Search

*From Danielle Garbe Reser '97, chair of the Presidential Search Committee*

We started this presidential search six months ago with a charge from the Board of Trustees to lead with academic and inclusive excellence and to manage a process that results in the hire of our 15th president for the academic year beginning July 1, 2022. Today I am pleased to send you this update to let you know that not only are we where we need to be, but also exactly where we want to be.

The length of time for a search of this nature allows for robust community participation at the outset, a broad and deep recruitment period, and a thoughtful and deliberate referencing and selection process. We are in this third phase now, focused on delivering the very best results for our community. At every stage, we have ensured a diverse and talented pool of candidates, and we are holding ourselves, our process, and our candidates to the highest standards.

[Read more.](#)

### Staying Safe Around Campus

As we move through fall and into winter, the increasingly early sunset makes it more likely that you will be walking or biking in the dark. Taking the following precautions can help you move through campus and around town safely at night:

- Wear reflective or light-colored clothing
- Use marked crosswalks with flashing pedestrian lights or cross the street at brightly lit intersections
- Save the number for Whitman Security in your phone (509-527-5777) and call if you would like a Security escort (available within a two block radius of campus)
- Practice good situational awareness, not using earbuds or looking at your phone while you walk
- [Familiarize yourself with the quickest way to call 911](#) or access other emergency features on your phone

### Announcements



#### Understanding Whitman's Strategic Core Messaging

What does Whitman's strategic core messaging really mean and how do we demonstrate that in the many ways that we talk about our campus community? Come to the Olin Auditorium at 9 a.m. tomorrow, Oct. 20 to hear from Interim Vice President for Communications Gina Ohnstad and Director of Content Margie Reece as they introduce Whitman's Strategic Core Messaging Guide and unpack how to highlight key characteristics of our community in your own conversations and messages.

#### Now Accepting 2022 Commencement Speaker Nominations

While we don't know what the spring will bring, we hope we will be able to gather in person with the graduates, their families and friends, and the faculty and staff for a traditional commencement ceremony. However the ceremony might be structured, we are looking for a dynamic speaker to celebrate and send off the Class of 2022 to the next phase of their journey. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit names of candidates they know personally for consideration by Friday, November 5, 2021, through the [online nomination form](#).

### Get Your Flu Shot!

The Washington State Department of Health is urging the public to get a flu vaccine this year to keep themselves and others safe and out of the hospital.

Flu activity may be more common this year compared to last year because the closures that were in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been lifted. People are more active and mobile. Many adults have returned to in-person work and most children are back in school.

"Preventing the spread of flu will be critical in the months to come because it will reduce additional strain on our hospitals, which are currently extremely stressed due to COVID-19," said Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, chief science officer for the Washington State Department of Health. "If you haven't received your flu vaccine yet, now is the perfect time. It will help protect you, your family and friends, and your community as we get back to doing the things we love."

Make an appointment now to get your flu vaccine at [Safeway](#), [Rite-Aid](#) or [Albertsons](#). The flu vaccine is usually free with most insurance plans.

### Happening Today

- 8:30–10 a.m. **Weekly Required COVID-19 Testing for Vaccine-Exempted Students and Employees**
- 3:30–8 p.m. [Academic Majors Fair](#)  
*The Academic Majors Fair is a time to explore the majors available here at Whitman College. Each table will be staffed by student department liaisons who will offer information about the majors.*
- 6 p.m. [ESTEEM Information Session with Riley Ellingsen '19](#)  
*The University of Notre Dame's ESTEEM graduate program allows students with technical backgrounds to explore the world of business and entrepreneurship, learning how to combine their current skills with new ones to become leaders in their chosen fields.*
- 7:30 p.m. ["Life of Brian" Movie Night](#)  
*Join the Classics Club for tea, cookies and this hilarious Monty Python movie about the Roman world.*

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have an event you'd like to share with campus? Submit the information to the [Events Calendar](#).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu). Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).

