

Brant L. Wright

Professional Experience

Piedmont University, Demorest, Georgia

\$52 million general budget, 2,550 students

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, 2019-Present

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, 2021-Present

Reporting directly to the President, lead all aspects of the financial life of the college. Oversee the management, direction, control and coordination for the administrative and financial activities of the college including operational and capital budgets, controller, student accounts, payroll, financial systems and policies, human resources, title IX, campus police, facilities management - including housekeeping and grounds, environmental health and safety, renovation and building projects, information technology, financial aid, strategic planning, institutional effectiveness and assessment. Key role in Board of Trustees finance committee, audit committee, and institutional resources committee as well as presentations to the full Board.

- ◆ Aligned the departments within Administration & Finance to foster greater communication and productivity.
- ◆ Assumed oversight of strategic planning for the institution, reestablishing a committee and realigning the strategic goals identified by the Board of Trustees several years ago.
- ◆ Improved the use of the Colleague system by providing training, implementing additional untapped modules. Also created a power user's group to develop procedures for use of the modules.
- ◆ Implemented self-service budgeting.
- ◆ Revitalized the use of the P-card ensuring increased utilization for more efficiency of processing receipts electronically rather than through paper reimbursement.
- ◆ Re-aligned the account structure to allow comprehensive reporting.
- ◆ Moved payroll from human resources to the controller's area for internal control purposes. This has allowed for improved control in the processing, and implementation of additional account codes to differentiate between full time faculty, part time faculty, and adjuncts.
- ◆ Implemented cost saving measures reducing the use of adjuncts by 40% and reducing release time for full time faculty. This has resulted in an overall savings of approximately \$1.2MM per year.
- ◆ Outsourced grounds and housekeeping, implementing a three-year campus beautification plan.
- ◆ Developed a deferred maintenance list and implementation plan focusing on safety and ADA issues on campus.
- ◆ Led the sale of the Athens campus and selection of a new facility, including design and selection of construction manager. This shift will save the college operating costs of \$450,000 per year.
- ◆ Changed leadership of IT and relocated staff to a central location allowing us to implement a robust help desk, implementing a computer/technology replacement cycle, and consolidated the purchasing and oversight of all software and technology.
- ◆ Chair of the Committee overseeing the college name change to Piedmont University.

Montana Tech University, Butte, Montana**\$96 million general budget, 2,600 students****Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, 2017-2019**

Reported directly to the Chancellor, served as a member of the Chancellor's cabinet, and the Executive Council. Provided leadership, vision and direction for the administrative functions of the campus, overseeing the financial health of the organization and clearly communicating the financial position of the organization to the Executive leadership team and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Ensured that the institution protected its human, financial and physical resources. Lead the annual campus budgeting process for campus units in a transparent and inclusive manner. Provided financial oversight and leadership to all campus units to ensure that growth opportunities were fiscally sound and were developed in accordance with all associated policies. Provided financial forecasts, capital budgeting, long-range development plans, and financial planning for major and minor projects. Fostered human resources management throughout the institution in concert with current best practices to improve recruitment, retention, employee development, employee engagement, and employee recognition. Provided strategic leadership and direction to the University in all facets of the institutional initiatives related to enrollment management and recruiting functions. Functional areas of responsibility and oversight included budgeting, payroll, human resources, sponsored programs and grant accounting, purchasing, accounting, institutional research, information technology, physical facilities, network and telecommunications, risk management, bookstore, mail/copy center and Digger Card Center.

- ◆ Orchestrated a mid-year 10% budget reduction due to mandated State appropriation reduction. Accomplished this by having open and transparent dialog with campus leaders and department heads.
- ◆ Initiated program prioritization in preparation for developing the next fiscal year budget.
- ◆ Restructured Information Technology Services and Auxiliary departments resulting in higher customer services and long-term cost savings.
- ◆ Fostered an environment of teamwork through open communication with staff and university.

Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho**\$241 million general budget, 14,000 students****Controller, 2014-2017**

Provide leadership and strategic management of financial operations of the University through program administration and coordination of the Banner financial related systems, as well as other auxiliary financial systems and activities. Major oversight responsibility for University wide financial transactions and the related control environments, including compliance with external accounting and government related rules and regulations. Direct all central financial accounting and related systems, internal and external financial analysis and reporting, student financial services and systems and fee allocations, student loans and refunds, cashiering, grant and contract accounting, payroll, accounts payable, and travel accounting. Four direct reports and oversee a staff of 35 employees.

- ◆ Developed and shaped interactions with staff, fostering teamwork and improving customer service leading to received 5 customer service awards for staff during the time period.

- ◆ Master Audit Schedule was revised with expected completion dates and distributed responsibilities among key employees. This has resulted in 2 years of unqualified audit opinions with no findings and all deadlines were met as established by the State Board of Education (SBOE).
- ◆ Oversaw record financial year for the University despite declining enrollment. This has resulted in Standard & Poor's increasing the bond rating from A to A+.
- ◆ Completed and negotiated new Federal Indirect Cost Rates under the long form.
- ◆ Implemented automated Travel & Expense system along with Travel P-card. This included new policies and procedures.
- ◆ Negotiated new contract for ISU's Family Medicine Residency program with Portneuf Hospital and Health West clinics.
- ◆ Implemented GASB 68 and the external auditors, Moss Adams, reported to the SBOE that we had implemented more smoothly than any of their other higher education clients.
- ◆ Developed new quarterly financial and analysis reports for both the SBOE and internal management. Some of these include: fee analysis and benchmarking; enrollment analysis of historical statistics, evaluating trends and identifying assumptions and key drivers for projections and potential fiscal impacts.
- ◆ Directed the development of an alternative budget modeling tool utilizing hybrid of performance based budgeting and formula funding to simulate financial results for different scenarios based on varying growth targets and expense parameters.
- ◆ Directing the streamlining of various process improvements to serve the University community more effectively. This includes automating journal voucher process, fixed asset processing and procedures, cashiering and student tuition payment options.
- ◆ Interact extensively with Academic Affairs, Human Resources, Facilities Services, Information Technology, and General Counsel.
- ◆ Served on the SBOE Audit Selection Committee.

Walsh College, Troy, Michigan**\$30 million general budget, 4,200 students****Controller & Director of Accounting, 2001-2014**

Directed accounting functions including financial reporting, general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, and all subsidiary records. Provided all financial reports and analysis for the Board Committees and presented provided information. Managed the accounting information system, oversaw testing and implementation of upgrades and developed reporting and provided user training. Supervised ten accounting/business office staff members. Directed and communicated to cost center directors regarding budgeting, variance analysis, and accounting issues. Directed all preparation of the budget and provided forecasts and management reports in conjunction with officers and department heads. Participated in strategic planning and integrated strategic action plan into budget. Prepared for and coordinated internal and external audits.

- ◆ Instrumental in cost cutting efforts during 2001, taking a forecast loss of \$1.5 million to breakeven.
- ◆ Developed new board financial reports and developed contribution margin reporting system.
- ◆ Implemented encumbering system to improve budget reporting process.
- ◆ Through cost controls, had highest net profit returns in Walsh's history for five years.
- ◆ Managed multiple bond refinancing and issuance of new debt for construction of new building.
- ◆ Evaluated hedge strategy for bonds and completed swap transaction.
- ◆ Implemented digital imaging in the Business Office, improving efficiency and strengthening internal controls.
- ◆ Key member of the capital budget committee working closely with the department of Institutional Technology and Facilities on all projects.
- ◆ Serve on the Colleague Executive Group setting college wide policies for the administrative departments.
- ◆ Received NACUBO's 2012 Innovation Award for Social Engineering and Data Loss Prevention Initiative.
- ◆ Presenter in NACUBO's Higher Education Analytics and Data Driven Decisions Webcast
- ◆ Chaired both the Higher Education Act Compliance Group and the Identity Theft Prevention Committee.
- ◆ Integral member of the Scholarship Committee and the Tuition Refund Committee.

The University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio**\$241 million general budget, 21,200 students****Assistant Comptroller for Accounting and Financial Reporting, 2000-2001**

Directed accounting functions including financial reporting, general ledger, and all subsidiary records for a \$308 million operation. Supervised eight employees. Directed and oversaw the development and implementation of accounting systems, including training and development.

- ◆ Developed new board financial reports.
- ◆ Chair of GASB 34/35 implementation team. Chair of two personnel search committees.
- ◆ Instrumental in negotiating new federal indirect cost rate.

Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri**\$111 million general budget, 10,800 students****Director of Accounting Services, 1999-2000**

Directed accounting functions including financial reporting, general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and all subsidiary records for a \$145 million operation. Acted as information systems coordinator for department; worked with programmers to develop, install, and test systems; interfaced with vendors to improve systems performance and ensure user training. Supervised 4 managers with a total of 26 employees. Liaison to 55 cost center directors regarding budgeting, variance analysis, and

accounting issues. Coordinated accounting related activities of finance division including purchasing, payroll and revenue offices.

- ◆ Tested and implemented extensive version upgrade and adhoc reporting software.
- ◆ Developed and coordinated training for 125 cost center directors and managers.

Oakland Community College, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**\$106 million general budget, 29,000 students****Financial Services Manager, 1992-1999**

Prepared financial statements and budget versus performance reports for a \$107 million operation. Performed financial analyses such as variance analysis using Excel. Prepared capital and other budgets totaling \$25.5 million. Managed financial information system; coordinated with programmers to modify and implement system changes. Determined indirect costing and allocated expenditures to appropriate cost centers. Coordinated financial external audit. Supervised four staff members.

- ◆ Completed annual audit two months shorter than in previous college history.
- ◆ Automated accounts receivable system.
- ◆ Eliminated unnecessary reports and improved report job flows.
- ◆ Implemented and delivered training to 60 staff members on extensive version upgrade.
- ◆ Restructured staff reporting to streamline operation and improve performance.
- ◆ Elected by peers to chair group of 100 managers, interacted with Chancellor and Council to facilitate communication.

Oakland General Hospital, Madison Heights, Michigan**\$51 million general budget****Accounting Manager, 1988-1992**

Prepared monthly financial statements and various reports summarizing financial condition. Managed cash and investments in government bond funds and with stock investment firms. Assisted in the development and implementation of a \$70 million budget. Managed fixed asset system. Prepared comparative labor reports. Coordinated and prepared audit schedules for independent audit. Supervised employees of accounts payable and payroll. Worked extensively with Lotus and PC Focus.

- ◆ Converted manual financial reporting to automated financial statements and support schedules.
- ◆ Evaluated, selected, and implemented automated Time and Attendance System.
- ◆ Implemented and maintained Chi Quality/Productivity Management Reporting System.
- ◆ Improved relationship between accounting and other departments by providing needed financial reporting and expense reports.

**Computerized Security Systems, Inc., Troy, Michigan
Assistant Controller, 1988**

Prepared monthly financial statements. Analyzed accounts and prepared journal entries. Prepared payroll and payroll tax returns. Administered pension and employee benefits plans. Prepared sales and use tax return. Supervised accounts receivable department.

**Leaseway Transportation Corporation, Birmingham, Michigan
General Ledger Accountant, 1985-1988**

Prepared monthly financial statements, journal entries, and various monthly reports using computerized accounting system. Reconciled and analyzed accounts. Calculated foreign exchanges and restated financial statements accordingly. Identified, analyzed and resolved internal problems with accounts receivable function. Prepared monthly revenue report.

- ◆ Reduced receivables over 90 days by over 400% in 8 months.
- ◆ Streamlined and reorganized billings by use of self-taught electronic spreadsheets resulting in: an increase in revenue from the labor billings, a significant decrease in work time needed, and greater customer satisfaction.

Education

Walsh College, Troy, Michigan
Master of Science in Finance, 1997

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan
Bachelor of Science ◆ Major: **Accounting**, 1984

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office Ellucian Banner & Colleague Argos Reporting