President

Opportunity and Challenge
The Board of Trustees invites nominations and applications for the 15th President of Davis & Elkins College. At a time when nearly all institutions of higher learning are being challenged, Davis & Elkins is at a pivotal moment. As noted in two major feature stories in The Chronicle of Higher Education, the College is – by nearly all counts – in the strongest position of its 111-year history as a Presbyterian-related institution of higher learning. At the same time, it faces the same serious challenges confronting most small, independent, liberal arts-based colleges. Achieving the opportunities before us and overcoming those challenges will depend primarily on continued extraordinary presidential leadership going forward.

The College Today
With inspired help from Trustees, faculty, staff and members of the wider community, D&E has enjoyed a seven-year renaissance. Full time enrollment increased 61% from 2008 to 2014. Also, since 2008, academic and student life programs have been greatly enhanced, the College’s spiritual life has been strengthened, facility improvements valued at more than $12 million have been completed, gift support has reached record levels and operating budgets balanced. Most importantly, the College is now among a handful of colleges that are free of all external debt.

Presidential Qualities We Seek
Visionary/Forward Thinker: The President must be a visionary with a deep commitment to and passion for the liberal arts and religious dimension of the College. From that fundamental position, he or she must be fully capable of and dedicated to moving the College forward to a more secure platform in a rapidly changing, technological world. This means being able to construct, communicate, and implement a 3, 5 and 10-year plan with clear and obtainable objectives.

Financial/Business Acumen: The President must understand that the College is revenue-driven and be financially astute, possessing strong financial skills and capable of building the critical revenue life streams of the College (enrollment and gifts) in order to sustain and secure the financial future of the College.

Fund Raising: The College is engaged in a 10-year (2008-2018) Secure the Future Campaign with an ultimate goal of $100 million. The President must be capable of and passionate for leading and bringing the Campaign to a successful conclusion by June 30, 2018.

Ethical: The President must be a person of high moral principle and personal habit who believes in the hope and care of students, faculty, staff and others associated with the College, demonstrating integrity in word and deed at all times.

Ability to Inspire: The President must be a person of generous spirit who delights in meaningful interaction with others – especially students – and who has high capacity to listen and to inspire in person, as a writer and as a public speaker all members of the college community, including students, faculty, staff, Trustees, alumni and donors.

Nomination of Candidates
The Presidential Succession Committee will be accepting nominations and applications on a rolling basis for the remainder of the summer and early fall. The candidate pool will be narrowed by late September/early October. Although nominations will be accepted until a new president is selected, credentials should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 for the most favorable consideration. The new president will be invited to begin work as soon as practicable after appointment by the Board of Trustees.

Nominations and applications should be submitted to:

Mr. Dick Seybolt, Chair
Presidential Succession Committee
pricer@dewv.edu

Materials should include a letter of candidacy that responds to The College Today and The Presidential Qualities We Seek as outlined above, a CV or resume, and the names and contact information (phone and email) of three references, none of whom will be contacted until a later stage of the succession process and not without the permission of the candidate. All nominations and applications will be received and treated in full confidence.

Davis & Elkins College is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer.

Davis & Elkins College – 100 Campus Drive – Elkins, West Virginia – (304) 637-1243