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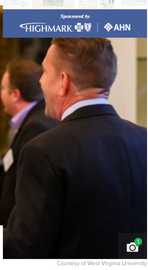

Courtesy of West Virginia University

WVU hires cell biologist and veteran administrator Beverly Wendland as next provost

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JAN 9, 2026 | 5:16 PM

West Virginia University hired a seasoned scientist and university administrator to serve as the flagship school's next provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Beverly Wendland will assume the role on July 1 after WVU leaders embarked on a monthslong national search, the university announced Thursday.

Ms. Wendland has worked as a provost, dean and professor throughout her career. She is also a nationally recognized cell biologist.

WVU President Michael T. Benson said he believes Ms. Wendland's background as a scientist will complement his as a historian.

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"This balance will ensure all academic disciplines — from STEM to the arts — are prioritized at the highest levels of leadership as we drive the academic mission of West Virginia University into a new and impactful era," Mr. Benson said in a statement.

Ms. Wendland is the senior adviser to the chancellor at Washington University in St. Louis. Previously, she worked as the provost of that institution from July 2020 to July 2025. During her leadership there, the university opened a new School of Public Health, which welcomed its inaugural class in the fall.

She also spent 22 years at Johns Hopkins University, serving as a dean, department chair and professor.

Now, she looks forward to building on WVU's strengths. The provost oversees academic programs, deans, curriculum development, student support services, and faculty engagement and recruitment at the university.

"Serving as provost at West Virginia University is a very meaningful opportunity to help advance a land-grant research institution at a pivotal moment in its historical arc," Ms. Wendland said in a statement.

A first-generation college graduate, Ms. Wendland earned her doctorate at Stanford University and her bachelor's degree at the University of California, San Diego.

Her research as a cell biologist focuses on studying endocytosis in yeast to better understand heart disease and cancer.

The arrivals of Mr. Benson — who began his tenure as president last summer — and Ms. Wendland come just a few years after the university board made the controversial decision to cut 28 majors and over 140 faculty positions.

First Published: January 9, 2026, 5:16 p.m.
Updated: January 9, 2026, 7:11 p.m.

Maddie Aiken covers higher education for the Post-Gazette. Previously, she covered education and other community-related topics for the Tribune-Review and The Daily Times in Salisbury, Md.

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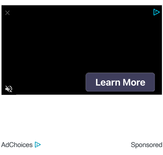

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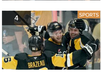
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