

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

NSU
Florida

Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting

Leadership Profile

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WittKieffer

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Executive Summary

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the inaugural role of Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting. NSU is the largest private, nonprofit institution of higher education in Florida, and the third largest in the U.S. with a Carnegie Classification as a High Research Institution¹.

NSU consists of 15 colleges and schools offering more than 150 academic degree programs to more than 20,000 students. In addition to the main Fort Lauderdale/Davie and Oceanographic Campuses in South Florida, courses are taught at 9 regional campuses located across Florida, Puerto Rico, Colorado, and online. The university awards bachelor's, master's, specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degrees in a wide range of fields, including the humanities, biological and environmental sciences, business, counseling, computer and information sciences, conflict resolution, education, couple and family therapy, medicine, dentistry, various health professions, law, marine sciences, performing and visual arts, psychology, and other social sciences.

Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting will lead the university's efforts to transform key enterprise-wide financial and operational data into actionable insights that drive strategic decision-making. This role will partner with senior leaders in understanding business needs and translating them into data and analytic requirements, directing process enhancements where needed to support alignment of data collection and management with organizational reporting goals. The Executive Director will work closely with Finance and IT Business Intelligence to implement an integrated framework that delivers timely and comprehensive analytical reporting solutions, leveraging industry best-practices and relevant benchmarking where applicable.

The ideal candidate will be a collaborative leader, capable of building strong trusting relationships with experience leading an analytics function in a complex institution. The ability to develop, communicate and execute on a vision along with having a passion for serving the mission of higher education is essential. The Executive Director will provide strong strategic and operational management while developing and empowering the team. The Executive Director will have experience with a host of analytics tools and platforms, including Power BI and several others.

The national executive search firm WittKieffer has been retained to assist NSU in this search. Information about how to nominate a candidate, or to apply for this opportunity, may be found later in this document in the section entitled "Procedure for Candidacy." Additional information about the university may be found at nova.edu.

¹ Using 2023 fall term enrollment as a measure (the latest data available in IPEDS)

Role of the Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting

The Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting will report directly to the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and be an integral part of the university's operational leadership team. The Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting will lead the university's efforts to transform key enterprise-wide financial and operational data into actionable insights that drive strategic decision-making. The Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting will be expected to:

- Develop an integrated framework for university financial and operational data analytics and reporting, enabling a holistic view across the enterprise for trends and emerging themes, and supporting timely and informed decision-making.
- Partner with executive leadership and Institutional Effectiveness to identify key performance metrics to assess the impact and success of university initiatives and strategic goals.
- Collaborate with IT in designing, developing, and maintaining comprehensive reporting solutions that deliver real-time, data-driven insights.
- Liaise between Finance and other key operating units with IT, translating financial and operating data requirements and spearheading various reporting-related initiatives. This encompasses the incorporation of advanced data analysis and optimal visualization techniques within dashboards and reports.
- Perform collection, analysis, and interpretation of complex data sets to uncover trends, patterns, risks, and actionable insights.
- Provide data analysis support for financial modeling and realization of benefit from improvement initiatives.
- Present complex data findings and recommendations in a clear, concise manner, ensuring understanding and alignment with business goals.
- Identify opportunities to optimize and streamline processes, leveraging data insights to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency.
- Implement best practices in higher education data analytics and stay abreast of emerging trends.
- Conduct benchmarking studies and peer comparison analyses as directed by senior leadership.
- Coordinate with IT to ensure the underlying data is accurate, consistent, and used effectively to support business objectives.
- Support IT in ensuring effective data governance standards to maintain data integrity and support business intelligence initiatives.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

NSU seeks its inaugural Executive Director, Operational Data Analytics and Reporting, a leader with a distinguished record of accomplishment in the field. A bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, data analytics/science, mathematics or related field is required. A master's degree in business administration (MBA), finance, data science or related field, is preferred. The ideal candidate will have experience in higher education consulting or auditing and/or experience with the health care industry. Qualified candidates will have seven plus years of relevant experience in higher education financial and operational data analysis and reporting and at least five years of relevant experience in a leadership role influencing decisions with analytics. In addition, the university seeks a leader with the following attributes:

- *Higher Education Business Acumen* – Comprehensive understanding of the higher education sector, encompassing key performance indicators, business processes, industry trends, and benchmarking resources and practices.
- *Financial Analysis and Reporting* - Proficiency in interpreting financial data and preparing and/or reviewing financial statements and reports, identifying trends and providing insights for decision making. Ability to create and interpret complex reports, dashboards, and visualizations.
- *Data Analysis Techniques* - Proficiency in statistical analysis, data mining, and predictive modeling.
- *Business Intelligence* - Familiarity with BI tools and techniques to transform data into actionable insights.
- *Administration and Management* – In-depth knowledge of business and management principles, including strategic planning, resource allocation, budgeting, leadership technique, and/or coordination of people and resources.
- *Analytical Skills* – Exceptional ability to analyze data, consolidating information into clear and concise insights.
- *Interpersonal Skills* – Proficiency in collaborating across business lines at a senior level to influence change and achieve common goals. Possesses the qualities needed to build and maintain cooperative working relationships within a complex organization.
- *Effective Communication Skills* – Exceptional clarity and effectiveness in both spoken and written communication.
- *Complex Problem-Solving Skills* – Advanced skills in diagnosing complex problems, analyzing related information, and developing and implementing solutions.
- *Attention to Detail* - Precision in preparing and reviewing financial and operating reports to ensure accuracy and compliance.
- *Project Management* - Strong project management skills to oversee data analytics and reporting initiatives from conception to completion.
- Advanced knowledge of MS Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

About Nova Southeastern University (NSU)

NSU is a top-ranked, private, national research university that provides high-quality professional educational and research programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional/doctoral degree levels. Established in 1964 as a small college with some revolutionary ideas, the university today includes 15 colleges and schools, with a beautiful, 314-acre main campus in Fort Lauderdale, and additional campus locations as previously described. NSU's Shark family includes over 20,000 students at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, as well as 2,000 students in the NSU University School (pre-school through grade 12 programs). The wider Shark Nation includes more than 216,000 alumni in all 50 U.S. states and in 118+ countries.

More information about the university may be found here:

- [NSU At a Glance | NSU Florida - Nova Southeastern University](#)
- [Annual Report FY24](#)
- [NSU Vision, Mission, and Core Values | Nova Southeastern University](#)



Academics-Colleges and Schools

NSU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. NSU's [academic units](#) are as follows:

- Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice
- Halmos College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Dental Medicine
- College of Computing and Engineering
- College of Optometry
- Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy
- College of Psychology
- Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine
- Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
- Farquhar Honors College
- H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing
- Shepard Broad College of Law
- University School (JK-12 college preparatory school)





Procedure for Candidacy

Inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Candidates should provide a resume/curriculum vita and a letter of application. These materials should be sent electronically via email to Nova Southeastern University's consultants Claudia Teschky or Diane Smith at NSUData@wittkiewer.com. Application materials may also be submitted via WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#) which can be accessed here.

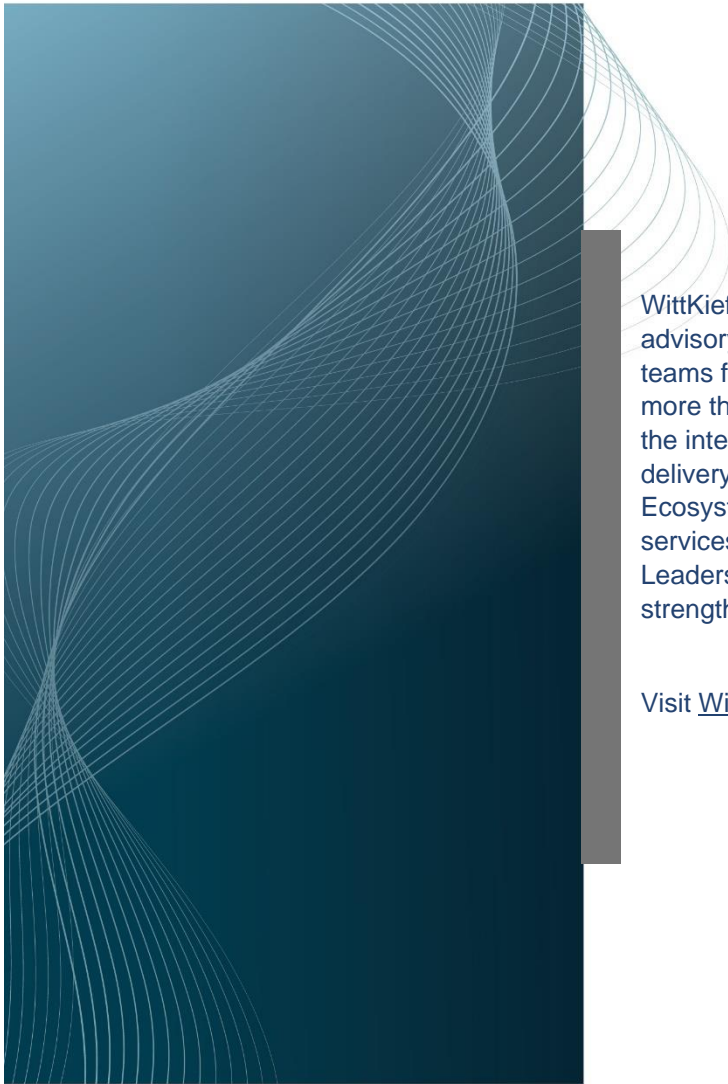
Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Claudia Teschky, Diane Smith

NSUData@wittkiewer.com

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from Nova Southeastern University documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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WittKieffer is the premier executive search and advisory firm developing inclusive, impactful leadership teams for organizations that improve quality of life. For more than 50 years, we have operated exclusively at the intersection of not-for-profit and for-profit healthcare delivery, science, and education – the Quality of Life Ecosystem. Through our expert executive search services as well as our Professional Search, Interim Leadership, and Leadership Advisory solutions, we strengthen organizations that make the world better.

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