



**Senior Associate Dean for Research Affairs for
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and
Vice President of Research for Premier Health**

Leadership Profile

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WittKieffer

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The Opportunity

Wright State University and Premier Health seek a strategic and entrepreneurial research executive to serve as the inaugural Senior Associate Dean for Research Affairs for the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Vice President of Research for Premier Health. This is a unique opportunity to create a unified, enterprise-wide infrastructure and lead research strategy across a recently integrated academic health system model.

Reporting directly to the Dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine (BSOM) and Chief Academic Officer of Premier Health, Dr. Raj Mitra, the SADRA/VP will have strong support across both institutions to build capacity from bench to bedside to community-engaged research, and to significantly grow clinical trials, population health and outcomes research. The incoming executive will assess current assets and opportunities, develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for growth, build infrastructure for success and grow research productivity across the enterprise.

Premier Health has enjoyed a longstanding working relationship with Wright State University and the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. In recent years, they have taken significant strides to formalize and enhance the collaboration. This endeavor has led to the establishment of an affiliation agreement between the institutions, enabling them to prioritize collaboration on shared objectives and emerging initiatives. Together, Premier Health and Wright State University will advance academic medicine, improve community health, bolster workforce and economic development, and become the destination for future health professionals through offering unparalleled academic and experiential learning environments.

As one of the largest comprehensive health systems in the region, Premier Health has five acute-care hospitals, an extensive network of physicians, numerous affiliate organizations, and more than 190 locations across eight counties. Wright State University is a national public university with more than 11,000 students. Offering 315 academic programs, the university is made up of six colleges, a medical school, and a branch campus in Celina, Ohio.

The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated history of cross-disciplinary research program building, collaboration, and an established track record of innovation and strategic thinking in navigating the evolving research funding landscape. Proven experience in leading clinical trials and/or translational research is required, with the ability to build a vision for the full spectrum of research across an academic health system, including population and outcomes research. An M.D., D.O., Ph.D., or equivalent and experience securing extramural funding is required, along with strong collaboration, communication, and relationship-building skills.

Organization Overview

Wright State University

Founded in 1967, [Wright State University](#) is a Carnegie-classified public research university serving as a catalyst for education, innovation, and economic growth across the region. The university offers a comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional degree programs designed to prepare students for leadership and success in a rapidly evolving global economy. Known for its commitment to accessibility, experiential learning, and student achievement, Wright State provides an environment where teaching, research, and community engagement intersect to create meaningful opportunities for discovery and impact.

As a cornerstone of higher education and healthcare advancement in Southwest Ohio, Wright State maintains extensive partnerships with leading healthcare systems, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations. Through the [Boonshoft School of Medicine](#) and its network of affiliated teaching hospitals and clinical partners, including [Premier Health](#), the university plays a vital role in educating the physician and healthcare workforce that serves the region and beyond. Its collaborative approach to research, clinical innovation, and workforce development strengthens regional prosperity while addressing critical societal challenges. With a mission focused on transforming lives through education and service, Wright State continues to advance knowledge, improve communities, and prepare the next generation of leaders, healthcare professionals, and innovators.

A Broad Range of Investigation

Wright State University hosts key research centers and institutes that focus on specialized studies, medical innovation, and regional partnerships. A few examples can be found below.

The [Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research \(CITAR\)](#) advances the production, dissemination, and utilization of scientific knowledge and professional technology regarding the epidemiology, consequences, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse. It conducts wide-ranging research through programs such as the Dayton Area Drug Survey (DADS) and the [NIDA National Early Warning System Network \(iN3\)](#).

Wright State's [Center for Genomics Research \(CGR\)](#) provides state-of-the-art technical assistance and facilities for research projects in the areas of gene expression, flow cytometry, and genotyping. CGR supports Wright State researchers, as well as industry partners and collaborations with the 711th Human Performance Wing of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The [Proteome Analysis Laboratory \(PAL\)](#) is a Wright State facility for the analysis of protein/peptide expression in cells, tissues, and body fluids. Current investigations involve the proteome and genome of the hypothalamic, pituitary, adrenal, and pancreatic-axis (HPAP-Axis) under normal, disease, or chemically challenged conditions. One goal of the PAL is to provide high-quality proteomic services to Wright State faculty, staff, and researchers outside of the university and to provide support for intramural and extramural grants.

The [Cardio-Renal \(CaRe\) Institute](#) is a multidisciplinary research hub dedicated to advancing the understanding of the complex interplay between cardiovascular and renal health. By fostering collaboration among clinicians, scientists, and educators, the CaRe Institute strives to accelerate the discovery of innovative treatments, improve patient outcomes, and train the next generation of health professionals in the prevention and management of cardiorenal diseases.

The [Substance Abuse Resources and Disabilities Issues Program \(SARDI\)](#) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, including those who experience co-occurring behavioral health challenges. The program advances its mission through collaborative, community-engaged research; the development of

evidence-based interventions and training programs; and the dissemination of resources and best practices designed to improve health and support services for individuals with disabilities.

Key Partners

Wright State is located just minutes from [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#), one of the nation's largest military bases and home to associate units such as the Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Institute of Technology and National Air and Space Intelligence Center. Premier Health, Wright State and their Boonshoft School of Medicine both enjoy close connections to the base in areas such as collaborative research and shared resources, and medical students may receive part of their clinical training at the Wright-Patterson Medical Center.

Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine and [Dayton Children's Hospital](#) partner to provide the Integrated Pediatric Residency Program and fellowships in pediatric emergency and hospital medicine. The Wright State University Board of Trustees recently approved an expansion of its long-standing partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital to further develop and grow the pediatric clinical workforce and enhance research aimed at improving children's health outcomes in the Dayton region. Many Dayton Children's physicians also serve on the Boonshoft School of Medicine faculty.

The [Dayton VAMC](#) is a state-of-the-art teaching facility that has been serving Veterans for 150 years, having accepted its first patient in 1867. The Dayton VA Medical Center provides a full range of health care through medical, surgical, mental health (inpatient and outpatient), home and community health programs, geriatric (nursing home), physical medicine and therapy services, neurology, oncology, dentistry, and hospice. They have an active affiliation with the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and School of Professional Psychology. They train more than 275 university residents, interns, and students at the Dayton VA Medical Center each year.

Premier Health

A long-standing market leader in the region, Premier Health is a leading healthcare system dedicated to transforming the health of the communities it serves through exceptional patient care, medical innovation, education, and research. Benefitting from deep community roots, strong brand recognition, and a broad referral base supported by its employed and affiliated physician network, the organization's scale and scope enable effective population health management, expanded access across urban and suburban markets, and continued evolution toward value-based and ambulatory-focused care models.

Driven by its mission "we care, we teach, we innovate, we serve", Premier Health is increasingly advancing toward a more academically aligned and innovation-focused model, supported by its partnership with Wright State University and the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Premier's flagship academic medical center is Miami Valley Hospital. With 970 beds, it is the region's only adult Level 1 Trauma Center and serves as a major referral hub for advanced tertiary services, including burn care, neurosciences, cancer care, complex surgical programs and a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Premier Health Partnership

Wright State University and Premier Health share an established partnership rooted in their mutual commitment to advancing the health and well-being of Southwest Ohio. Over the years, the two organizations have collaborated closely to educate, train, and retain physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who serve communities throughout the region. The strengthened affiliation between the two organizations reflects a shared commitment to advancing clinical research, enhancing educational excellence, improving community health outcomes, and fostering economic growth throughout Southwest Ohio. Together, Premier Health and Wright State are helping to develop the next generation of healthcare leaders while expanding access to innovative care and improving the health and well-being of the communities they serve.

In April 2024, Wright State University and Premier Health strengthened this relationship through an agreement designed to more closely align their operations in support of academic medicine, community health improvement, and regional economic development. This expanded affiliation is guided by a shared vision: together, Wright State University and Premier Health will advance academic medicine, enhance community health outcomes, strengthen workforce and economic development, and establish the region as a premier destination for future healthcare professionals through nationally recognized academic programs and immersive experiential learning opportunities.

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Nationally Recognized Research

Clinical research is essential to advancing medical knowledge, developing innovative treatments, and improving health outcomes for individuals and communities. Through the partnership, Wright State University and Premier Health bring together the cutting-edge biomedical research expertise of the Boonshoft School of Medicine and the extensive clinical resources of one of Ohio's largest health systems. This collaboration creates a dynamic environment where experienced clinician-investigators lead research efforts that generate meaningful data and insights, helping to shape the future of medicine.

By integrating research into clinical practice, Premier Health and Wright State University accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into real-world patient care improvements. From pioneering therapies and innovative treatment approaches to advanced technologies, the partnership is committed to expanding access to leading-edge care. Through these efforts, the organizations strive to improve patient outcomes, enhance quality of life, and provide hope through the development of better treatments and healthcare solutions.

The [Wright State University and Premier Health Clinical Trials Research Alliance \(CTRA\)](#) conducts clinical research across Southwest Ohio in a wide range of healthcare disciplines. Through the development and implementation of clinical trials, the Alliance evaluates the safety and effectiveness of emerging medical treatments and therapies. These research efforts play a vital role in advancing patient care, improving health outcomes, and bringing new hope to individuals and communities locally and around the world. The CTRA has completed trials for such leading sponsors and CROs as Abbott, AbbVie, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Gilead Sciences, Inc., Quintiles, Pfizer, PPD, PRA, Parexel, and Sanofi. There are currently more than 25 active trials managed by the CTRA.

Designated as a University System of Ohio Center of Excellence, [Wright State University and Premier Health Neuroscience Institute](#) represent a groundbreaking public-private partnership that unites the Dayton region's most advanced biomedical research institution with the clinical resources of its largest hospital system. The institute's research component is located in a cutting-edge Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building that opened in 2015 on the Wright State campus, with facilities dedicated to patient care and clinical research located at Miami Valley Hospital. In addition, the partners created a new clinical Department of Neurology and affiliated Neurology Residency Program within the Boonshoft School of Medicine. The institute already has a core cadre of NIH-funded neuroscientists.

Research Strategic Plan

Wright State University and Premier Health have recently undergone a joint strategic planning process with the intention to establish a fully integrated academic-clinical research enterprise that advances discovery, improves patient outcomes, strengthens health equity, and drives regional economic impact. They have identified four

research pillars, which include 1) Clinical Trials, 2) Population Health, Community Research & Implementation Science, 3) Basic & Translational Science, and 4) Innovation, Commercialization & Technology Transfer. While opportunities are strong across all four pillars, it is expected that the first two pillars will be immediate areas for growth and focus for the next SAD/VP.

In total, across Premier Health and Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, there is close to \$13 million in extramural research funding annually, approximately half of which is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine is located in Dayton, Ohio, and serves the Miami Valley region of Southwest Ohio. Its educational programs include:

- Medical education leading to the [M.D.](#), [M.D./Ph.D.](#), [M.D./M.B.A.](#), or [M.D./M.P.H.](#) degree for about 520 medical students.
- [13 residencies and 15 fellowship programs](#) in seven different disciplines for about 420 resident and fellow physicians.
- Multiple dual degree, graduate and undergraduate degree programs, including master's degree programs in [pharmacology/toxicology](#) and [public health](#).
- A wide variety of [continuing medical education](#) programs for practicing physicians in the community.

Wright State is affiliated with [eight major teaching hospitals](#) in the region, including Premier Health, and has formal affiliation agreements with more than 25 other health care institutions in the Miami Valley. This model exposes medical students and resident physicians to a diverse range of patients and health care facilities. Medical educators believe this real-world experience is excellent preparation for medical careers in a rapidly changing health care system.

The school's [academic departments](#) include basic science departments located on the Wright State University campus and clinical departments based throughout the community. Wright State and Premier Health's clinical faculty teach and provide medical care for almost half a million patient visits annually. In addition to almost 485 full-time faculty, Wright State's voluntary faculty includes more than 1,280 physicians in private practice and other health care professionals in the community. Voluntary faculty provide an invaluable service by donating their time and expertise to the training and development of both medical students and residents.

Innovative [educational programs](#) have made the Boonshoft School of Medicine a national leader in generalist medicine, particularly in family medicine, primary care, academic general internal medicine, community service, and student body diversity. [Research programs](#) are distinguished by interdisciplinary teamwork and community collaboration, and include nationally recognized centers of excellence in genomics, toxicology, neuroscience, substance abuse and treatment, and human growth and development.

The school's key facilities include the Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research, the first university research laboratory in Ohio to be awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-New Construction (LEED-NC) Gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council. In addition, the school is home to a fully accredited laboratory animal resources facility, a Biosafety Level 3 Facility, a chemical surety facility (XCSM), a genomics core facility with advanced gene array systems, proteomics analysis, and nuclear magnetic resonance laboratories with multiple mass spectrometers and related equipment, and a [confocal and electron microscopy imaging core facility](#).

Position Summary

Reporting to the Dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine (BSOM) and Chief Academic Officer of Premier Health, the Senior Associate Dean for Research Affairs BSOM and Vice President of Research, Premier Health, serves as the chief research officer for a unified research enterprise, as a key member of the Dean's senior leadership team, and part of the leadership team for Premier Health. This role is responsible for advancing, integrating, and expanding the research mission across BSOM and Premier Health, BSOM's primary academic and clinical partner.

The Senior Associate Dean for Research Affairs & Vice President of Research will lead the execution of a unified research strategy across both organizations, working closely and collaboratively with faculty, department chairs, and staff, as well as university and hospital system research leadership and our external partners.

Reporting Relationships

Reporting to the SADRA/VP, direct reports include:

- System Director of Research for Premier Health
- Director of the Clinical Trials Research Alliance
- Office of Research Affairs, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Responsibilities, Goals and Objectives

- Build a **nationally recognized research program** within a community-based academic medical center.
- Lead the research enterprise at BSOM and Premier Health, including the development and implementation of a robust and comprehensive **system-wide research strategy** aligned with institutional priorities and community health needs.
- Directs both the BSOM Office of Research Affairs and Premier Health research units, including the supervision of personnel, and oversee the Clinical Trials Research Alliance (CTRA).
- Responsible to the Dean for promoting and coordinating research at all levels – faculty, fellows, residents, and students. Leads relevant Research Committees.
- Serve as a liaison between BSOM and the Wright State University Office of the Vice Provost of Research and Innovation, and other research enterprises, particularly major external research partners, such as the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton Veterans' Administration Hospital.
- Expand **clinical trials portfolio of the healthcare system**, including growth of extramural funding (industry, federal, philanthropy).
- Provide system-level strategic oversight for the development of infrastructure in population health, clinical trials, basic science, and commercialization, innovation, and technology transfer.
- Work collaboratively with BSOM academic department chairs, Premier Health institute chairs, as well as individual faculty members to seek new research initiatives and funding opportunities.
- Expand and strengthen the faculty research base and encourage multi-disciplinary collaborations and mentor faculty on research career development opportunities.

- Work aggressively to increase external collaborative research activities regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Provide system-level strategic leadership in partnership with institutional leaders to design, strengthen, and scale the research infrastructure. Collaborate closely with the Dean, institute leadership, and academic department chairs to advance and expand:
 - Basic science research
 - Clinical and translational research, including clinical trials and outcomes research
 - Population health, public/community health, and health services and systems research
 - Commercialization of research discoveries, innovations, and technology transfer
- Collaborate with the Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration – BSOM, on all aspects of research administration, including compliance and financial issues, and expansion of grant support resources and related financial plan.
- Compliance & Regulatory Oversight: Ensure compliance with:
 - FDA
 - NIH
 - Office for Human Research Protections
 - Maintain high standards in human subjects' protection, data integrity, and ethics
- Facilitate and encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity through the application and dissemination of knowledge that leads to the discovery of new opportunities for sponsored programs and scholarships.
- Academic & External Partnerships:
 - Serve as primary liaison with academic institutions (e.g., affiliated medical schools, universities)
 - Develop collaborations with NIH, foundations, and industry partners
 - Support joint faculty appointments and research integration across systems
- Pursue multiple channels for the broad-based communication of BSOM research activity, discoveries, achievements, and impact.
- Operational oversight of:
 - Research administration
 - Clinical trials office
 - IRB coordination (in partnership with affiliated institutions)
 - Grants and contracts management
- Advance development of multi-site research operations with common infrastructure.

Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

- A related terminal degree is required (M.D., D.O., Ph.D., or equivalent) with a distinguished research portfolio consistent with appointment at the professor level.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- Demonstrated experience leading or contributing to a research enterprise within a teaching hospital or academic health system.
- Prior senior-level leadership experience in complex healthcare organizations affiliated with a medical school.
- Proven experience in clinical trials and/or translational research.
- Established track record of innovation and strategic thinking in navigating the evolving research funding landscape.
- Documented success in securing external funding and building sustainable research programs.
- Demonstrated commitment to mentoring and developing faculty engaged in research.
- Working knowledge of federal grant administration, financial management, and regulatory compliance.
- Experience in the evaluation and oversight of research proposals and programs.
- Leadership and management experience within an academic medical or university-based environment.
- Desired research or collaboration experience with a Department of War laboratory or the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Strategic and systems-based leadership, with the ability to ensure development and execution on concrete operating plans.
- Passion for excellence: Believes in exceptional patient care, education, research, and service to the community.
- Strong collaboration, communication, and relationship-building skills.
- Excellent judgment with advanced problem-solving and decision-making capabilities.

The Community

Dayton, Ohio and the Miami Valley Region

The Dayton, Ohio region offers more than a compelling professional opportunity—it offers a lifestyle defined by accessibility, innovation, and a strong sense of community. Located in the heart of the Miami Valley, Dayton combines the energy of a growing metropolitan area with the warmth and connectivity of a “right-sized” city. With proximity to Cincinnati and Columbus, the region provides access to major urban amenities while maintaining a manageable pace of life that appeals to both individuals and families seeking balance and impact.



Rooted in a legacy of ingenuity as the birthplace of aviation, Dayton continues to foster a culture of progress and collaboration. The region’s economy is anchored by a powerful combination of healthcare, education, and federal and military presence, creating a stable and forward-looking environment. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, one of the most significant economic engines in Ohio, along with leading health systems and universities, supports a vibrant ecosystem of research, innovation, and career opportunity. This foundation makes Dayton particularly attractive for leaders who are energized by the opportunity to drive meaningful change in a community that values both tradition and transformation.

Outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking an active lifestyle will find Dayton uniquely appealing. The region is defined by its natural assets, including the Five Rivers MetroParks system, which offers nearly 16,000 acres of protected green space, trails, waterways, and recreational opportunities just minutes from downtown. Whether exploring scenic bike paths, enjoying riverfront activities, or spending time in the region’s parks and nature preserves, residents benefit from year-round access to outdoor experiences that support both physical well-being and quality of life.

Families are drawn to the Dayton region for its combination of affordability, community engagement, and educational opportunity. The area offers a range of public and private school options, as well as access to higher education institutions such as the University of Dayton, Wright State University, and Sinclair Community College, all of which contribute to a strong talent pipeline and a culture of lifelong learning. The affordability of housing and overall cost of living—consistently below national averages—allow residents to enjoy more space, flexibility, and financial stability compared to larger metropolitan markets.

Dayton's community is characterized by its authenticity, resilience, and welcoming nature. Residents take pride in their city's rich history, diverse neighborhoods, and shared commitment to growth and revitalization. Cultural assets such as Dayton Live (which hosts more than 300 touring Broadway shows, concerts, comedians, educational experiences, and family shows year-round), the Dayton Art Institute, festivals, and nationally recognized attractions like the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force contribute to a vibrant and engaging environment. At the same time, the region's scale fosters meaningful connections—professionally and personally—allowing leaders to engage deeply with the community and see the tangible impact of their work.

With its unique blend of affordability, accessibility, innovation, and community spirit, the Dayton region offers a compelling environment for those seeking not only professional advancement, but also a high quality of life and the opportunity to make a lasting difference.



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest. Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled.

Please direct all nominations and applications to Jeff Schroetlin, Andy Bean, or Jillian Williams through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). Candidates can also find this portal via the WittKieffer website at www.wittkieffer.com and selecting the "Become a Candidate" button.

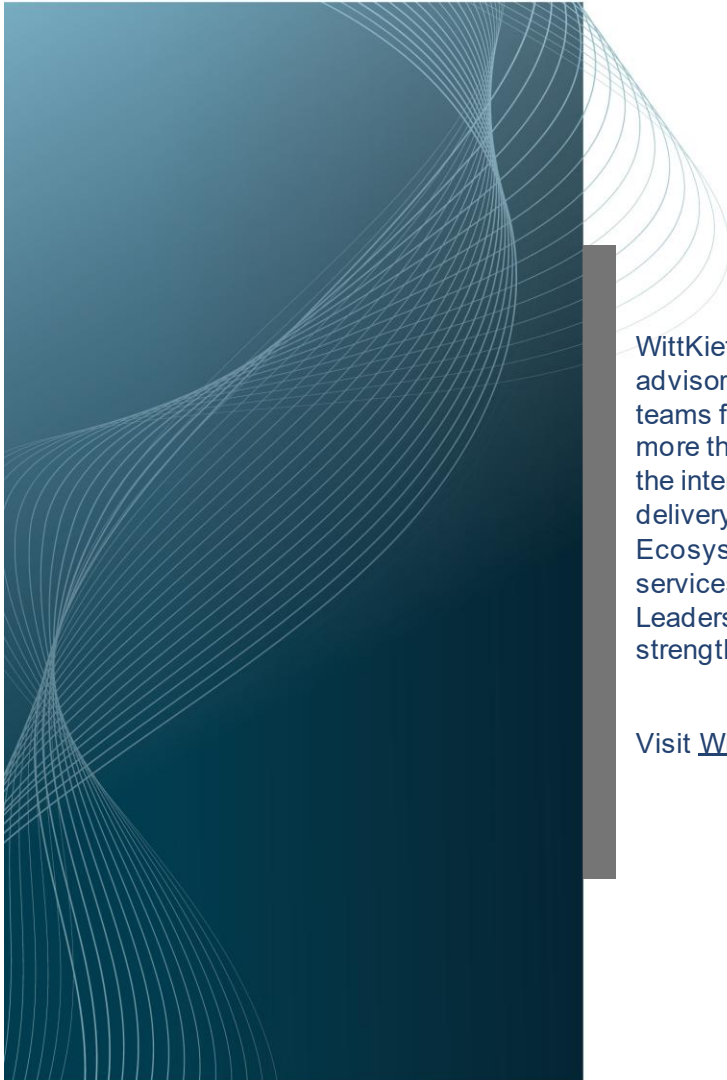
You may also reach the consultants assisting Wright State University and Premier Health with this recruitment, via e-mail to jwilliams@wittkieffer.com.

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Wright State University and Premier Health values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status or any other status protected by law.

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