



Dean of Academics for Business and Technology

Leadership Profile

Winter 2025-2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

***Walsh is more than a business school. We're an accelerator. A think tank.
An incubator for ideas. We're the fuel you need to take that next step.***

Walsh College, a leading private, nonprofit institution in Troy, Michigan, is committed to shaping the future of business and technology education. The College is seeking an innovative and strategic leader to serve as Dean of Academics for Business and Technology—an opportunity to drive academic excellence, foster growth, and help position Walsh at the forefront of industry-relevant education.

Founded in 1922 in Troy, Michigan, Walsh began as an accountancy institute and has grown into a specialized college offering bachelor's completion, master's, doctoral, and graduate-level certificate programs through its School of Business and School of Technology in areas such as accounting, finance, management, marketing, cybersecurity, data analytics, and information technology. Committed to a transformative business and technology education that combines theory and application to prepare graduates for successful careers, Walsh offers flexible learning options across program levels including in-person, online, and hybrid instruction. For its undergraduate program, Walsh is an upper division institution, meaning students often attend to finish their bachelor's degrees after completing their associate's degrees. Approximately 60% of students are pursuing graduate degrees, and approximately 70% of students attend courses online. Its business school is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, and its technology and cyber programs are National Security Agency-recognized and validated.

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Walsh is recognized for academic excellence and innovation. Walsh consistently earns accolades for its graduate programs, including *Forbes'* ranking of its Doctor of Business Administration as the #1 Best Online DBA Program. Located in the heart of Southeast Michigan's business corridor, Walsh offers unparalleled opportunities for networking, internships, and partnerships with leading companies.

Reporting to the Vice President and Chief Academic Officer (CAO), the Dean will lead Walsh's academic enterprise with strategic clarity, technical fluency, and entrepreneurial vision. This role will be expected to drive cross-disciplinary innovation, continuously modernize curriculum, and position the College as a catalyst for industry-relevant education and thought leadership. It may be important to emphasize that this is not a status quo position—this is an exceptional opportunity for a builder, a translator, and a systems-thinker who values the transformative power of education as an engine for possibility.

Walsh seeks a forward-thinking academic leader who embraces ethical AI integration and leverages emerging technologies to transform education and position an institution at the forefront of innovation. The ideal candidate will bring the combination of academic leadership experience and a strong record of industry engagement through consulting, executive education, entrepreneurship, or cross-sector partnerships. A doctorate in a business, data, or technology-related field is desired, with dual fluency across domains highly desirable. Additionally, the leader will embody a transparent, entrepreneurial, systems-focused, and people-first approach to leadership.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 11.

Role of the Dean of Academics for Business and Technology

The Dean is responsible for faculty and staff hiring and development; annual budgets; review of performance appraisals and decisions; outreach to the civic and professional communities; conceptualization of new curricula and methods of delivery to the marketplace; and oversight of curricular and accreditation activities. As a member of the CAO's leadership team, the Dean will collaborate across the College in support of broader institutional priorities. The Dean will oversee an operating budget of \$400,000, provide leadership for nine full-time faculty members, and manage a dynamic adjunct faculty pool that typically ranges from 60 to 90 instructors per term (up to 120 active roster).

Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Strategic Leadership and Academic Vision

- Develop and implement a strategic roadmap that advances program strength, enrollment growth, and industry-aligned innovation.
- Collaborate with the CAO, faculty, and senior leadership to ensure academic programs meet institutional goals and market demand.

Curriculum and Accreditation Oversight

- Guide curriculum development, review academic programs, and uphold standards compliant with regional and professional accreditation.
- Lead enhanced academic policies, quality assurance, and continuous improvement initiatives.

Faculty and Staff Development

- Recruit, mentor, and evaluate faculty to foster a collaborative academic culture.
- Promote faculty scholarship, instructional excellence, and professional development aligned with institutional priorities.

Student-Centered Initiatives

- Support student success programs including advising, retention strategies, and career readiness integration.
- Support and expand experiential learning opportunities such as internships, industry projects, and hybrid/online delivery modalities.

External Engagement and Partnership Building

- Cultivate strong relationships with industry partners, employers, and other academic institutions.
- Represent the College at professional and community events to enhance program visibility.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Walsh College is redefining the future of business and technology education. This is a compelling opportunity to shape cutting-edge programs, drive ethical AI integration, and help position the institution as a national leader in transformative education. Success in this role means embracing innovation, driving change, and building an academic enterprise that prepares graduates for the realities of a rapidly evolving marketplace.

Additionally, key areas of impact for the Dean include:

Strategic Priorities

The Dean will lead the School of Business and School of Technology with a forward-thinking approach that positions the College at the forefront of innovation. A key priority is guiding the College through critical accreditation processes, including ACBSP accreditation and exploring additional accreditations to support the rapid growth of doctoral programs. This leader must bring deep knowledge of accreditation standards and processes, ensuring compliance while driving program excellence.

Equally important is advancing Walsh's commitment to technology and ethical AI integration. The Dean will champion initiatives that leverage AI responsibly and embed emerging technologies into the curriculum and operations. This is not a role for traditional academia—it requires an entrepreneurial mindset and a systems thinker who is energized by the rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

Academic Innovation and Industry Alignment

Walsh is industry-focused and dedicated to practical application. The Dean will ensure research and curriculum remain relevant to market needs with an emphasis on applied learning. Success means merging academic rigor with business agility—keeping programs aligned with industry trends, advisory board insights, and evolving workforce demands.

The Dean will oversee all faculty and academic programs, driving functional responsibility for both business and technology disciplines. The Dean will rely on strong collaboration with full-time faculty and academic operations staff to maintain centralized scheduling, course refreshes, and quality assurance through KPIs.

Enrollment and Program Excellence

A major success metric will be sustaining Walsh's aggressive course refresh initiative. With 318 courses in the catalog and 55% refreshed in the last five years, the Dean will accelerate updates to ensure content remains current and engaging. Faculty engagement and innovation in teaching—especially in the age of AI—will be critical. Walsh aims to pioneer the future of faculty roles, defining what teaching looks like in a technology-driven era.

Retention and student success will remain top priorities. With 70% of learners online, the Dean must champion digital-first strategies while maintaining academic rigor and relevance.

Current State and Opportunity

Walsh is on the cutting edge, with a collaborative environment and a culture of innovation. The institution is experiencing exceptional momentum with its DBA program and is poised for growth in doctoral offerings. The next Dean will join a leadership team that has already driven transformative change—and will be expected to amplify that momentum, shaping Walsh into a national leader in business and technology education.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will possess many of the following professional qualifications and personal qualities.

Strategic Bridge Between Business and Technology

- The ideal candidate operates at the intersection of business and technology. They will be fluent in the language of technology—data, digital platforms, automation, and systems thinking—while deeply understanding business drivers such as value creation, operations, leadership, and markets.
- This leader must be able to identify and capitalize on opportunities that emerge at the convergence of these domains, applying tools and insights to unlock meaningful outcomes.

Adaptive Academic Leader with Industry Credibility

- The candidate will bring a strong academic foundation paired with a proven record of engaging with business, startups, or innovation ecosystems.
- The Dean will be able to translate industry needs into curricular relevance, lead program innovation from ideation to execution, and align faculty culture with real-world impact and learner success.
- This leader will act with agility and accountability, anticipating change and executing at speed.

Technologically Fluent

- They will understand how automation, analytics, digital platforms, and innovation frameworks shape both business and education.
- They will champion agile thinking and tech-enabled problem solving, serving as a translator between disciplines and bridging operations, analytics, innovation, and leadership.

Builder of Teams, Culture, and Momentum

- This role requires a systems-minded builder—not just of programs, but of culture.
- The Dean will inspire faculty across disciplines to collaborate and experiment, build strong teams that innovate within constraints, and guide a community of educators, learners, and industry partners toward shared outcomes.

Entrepreneurial, Outcomes-Focused, Vision-Aligned

- The ideal candidate will be comfortable discussing value creation, market positioning, and ecosystem building.
- They will view the College not as an ivory tower, but as a platform to drive growth, reputation, and opportunity.
- They will lead with measurable outcomes—enrollment, engagement, impact, and partnerships—and inspire investment from faculty, students, alumni, and industry alike.

About Walsh College

Mission

Walsh provides a transformative business and technology education that combines theory, application, and professional experience to prepare graduates for successful careers.

Vision

Walsh will exceed expectations and change lives through education.

Values

- Excellence: We operate at the highest level and seek continuous improvement in a collaborative manner.
- Integrity: We practice ethical behavior that demonstrates fairness and reliability.
- Respect: We embrace our diverse society and provide opportunities for all.
- Accountability: We are responsible for our actions and are answerable to each other and the communities we serve.
- Collaboration: We create and sustain partnerships and believe that collaboration fuels innovation.
- Dedication: We are committed to our mission and passionate in our advocacy.

Academics

Walsh College offers a focused portfolio of business and technology programs through its School of Business and School of Technology. At the undergraduate level, Walsh confers the **Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)** in majors such as Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing, Human Resource Management, and International Business, as well as the **Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** in Information Technology with specializations in Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, and Project Management.

Graduate offerings include the **Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)**, and Master of Science (M.S.) degrees in Accountancy, Finance, Management, Marketing, Taxation, Information Technology, Data Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning. Walsh also provides dual-degree options and graduate certificates in high-demand fields.

At the doctoral level, Walsh offers the **Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.)** and **Ph.D. programs** in Organizational Leadership and Technology, with specializations in AI, Cybersecurity, and Data Analytics. Flexible online and hybrid formats make Walsh ideal for working professionals.

Undergraduate Programs

- [Bachelor of Accountancy](#)
- **Bachelor of Business Administration** with majors in:
 - [Business Analytics](#)
 - [Entrepreneurship](#)
 - [Finance](#)
 - [General Business](#)
 - [Human Resource Management](#)

- [Information Systems Management](#)
- [International Business](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Marketing](#)
- [Operations](#)
- [Project Management](#)
- **[Bachelor of Science in Applied Management](#)**
- **[Bachelor of Science in Information Technology](#)** with concentrations in:
 - [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning](#)
 - [Automotive Cybersecurity](#)
 - [Business Information Systems](#)
 - [Cybersecurity](#)
 - [Data Analytics](#)
 - [General Information Technology](#)
 - [Programming](#)
 - [Project Management](#)

Graduate Programs

- **[Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#)**
- **Master of Science** in:
 - [Accountancy](#)
 - [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning](#)
 - [Data Analytics](#)
 - [Finance](#)
 - [Information Technology](#)
 - [Management](#)
 - [Marketing](#)
 - [Taxation](#)

Doctoral Programs

- **Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)** tracks:
 - [Accounting](#)
 - [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Leadership](#)
 - [General Business](#)
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** in:
 - [Organizational Leadership](#)
 - Technology, with specializations in:
 - [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning](#)
 - [Cybersecurity](#)
 - [Data Analytics](#)

Graduate-level Certificate Programs

- [Automotive Cybersecurity](#)
- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Data Analytics](#)
- [Global Project and Program Management](#)
- [Human Resources Management](#)
- [Strategic Business Communication](#)

Research Centers

Walsh College has four research centers: the Center for Complex and Strategic Decisions, the Center for Cyber Security Leadership, the Information Assurance Center, and the Mark Solomon Tax Research Center.

Center for Complex and Strategic Decisions (CCSD)

Established by the Management Department of Walsh College, the Center for Complex and Strategic Decisions (CCSD) assists leaders in government, business, and other organizations in making better decisions. Management research in “complexity, judgment and decision sciences” is occurring at the Center, for the benefit of a wide variety of federal, state, and local government agencies and departments, and multinational corporations headquartered in Michigan and across the country. Other organizations of various types and sizes will also participate in the research, so that the research tools in the CCSD can be tested and further developed. This project-based Center is establishing partnerships with many organizations to conduct the research. For more information, visit: ccsd.walshcollege.edu.

Center for Cyber Security Leadership (CCL)

The Center for Cybersecurity Leadership (CCL) was established through collaboration between the Management and Information Technology Departments of Walsh College, with strong support from business, military, and government leaders. Solving cybersecurity challenges requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, and the goal of the Center is to bring together experts from government, armed services, business, and academia to examine and address cybersecurity issues and provide guidance and solutions. For more information, contact Professor Dave Schippers at 248-823-1369, or dschippe@walshcollege.edu.

Information Assurance Center (IAC)

The Walsh College Information Assurance Education Center offers organizations education, information, and training on responding to cyber threats, protection, compliance, and privacy issues. Walsh College is designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For more information, contact Professor Dave Schippers at 248-823-1369 or dschippe@walshcollege.edu, or visit the IAC webpage to learn more information.

Mark Solomon Tax Research Center

The Mark Solomon Tax Research Center is home to the Walsh College tax library, a comprehensive tax collection with more than 5,000 tax titles and almost 3,000 tax serials for research, accessed by many local tax professionals. The print and online collections include federal, state, and local taxation, estate planning, pension and benefits, payroll, and international taxation. Students have access to primary and editorial content (including BNA tax portfolios), legislation, news, and current awareness via newsletters and tax journals, and specialized treatises of various topics in taxation.

Faculty

Walsh’s top-flight faculty are comprised of individuals who are academically credentialed and highly respected with professional expertise. The faculty consists of 9 full-time positions and a pool of 117 adjunct faculty members. Adjunct faculty members teach the majority of course sections. As a group, the faculty holds over 55 different professional certifications. Walsh does not offer faculty tenure.

Student Life

Walsh's total fall 2025 enrollment was 1,001 students (472 undergraduate, 432 graduate, 97 doctoral). Walsh's reputation for providing a forward-thinking, competitive education has led to steady enrollment growth in recent years. For information about student profiles, student data, and graduate employment information, [click here](#).

As Walsh expanded online programs, student life became an important strategy in creating student affiliation and affinity. Therefore, Walsh has invested resources in building a student life program. Nine student organizations provide opportunities for students to network and socialize, explore and prepare for careers, and develop leadership skills. Additionally, the student services and support staff take pride in delivering personalized, knowledgeable services to help students achieve their academic and career goals. Walsh offers many of the student services found in a large university setting. Nearly all services are available remotely through videoconference, online chat, online transaction services, and via email. Free individual and group tutoring sessions are available to all students.

Awards and Rankings

- Tier One Global Online MBA by *CEO Magazine*
- #6 Online MBA in the U.S. by *Online Schools Report*
- Forbes – Best Online Master's in IT Programs (2024)
 - Walsh's MS in Information Technology was named one of the top programs nationwide
- Forbes – #1 Best Online DBA Program (2024)
 - Recognized as the leading online Doctor of Business Administration program
- Top 10 Promising U.S. Colleges for Computer Science & IT (2025) by *Higher Education Review*
- "Best for Vets Business College" by *Military Times*

Governance

The Board of Trustees is the primary governing body responsible for overseeing the strategic direction, financial health, and institutional policies of Walsh College. These trustees bring deep expertise across corporate finance, risk management, and regional leadership, contributing to the College's oversight and governance.

Financial Position

The College is in an excellent financial position, thanks to the leadership team's efforts to strengthen financial stability. The College values an agile, forward-thinking approach and takes pride in operating lean budgets, ensuring resources are used wisely. As growth continues, the focus will shift to strategic innovation, rather than simply adding positions, with an openness to leveraging AI to enhance internal operations. Having navigated substantial changes over the past two years, the College is well-positioned for the future and continues to embrace new ideas as part of its ongoing evolution.

Leadership

Suzanne (Suzy) Siegle, Ed.D., J.D., President and Chief Executive Officer



Suzy Siegle was appointed Walsh's interim president and CEO in April 2022 and later president in August 2022. She joined Walsh College in 2020, initially serving as Executive Vice President and Provost, and later as Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Siegle's academic and professional background combines her passions for business, law, and higher education, with a specific focus on the value and importance of business and technology education in today's world.

A licensed attorney, Dr. Siegle has experience in business law, real estate, technology transfer, intellectual property, higher education law, risk management, Title IX compliance, and corporate insurance. She has also counseled numerous startups and small businesses on a broad range of legal matters.

Prior to joining Walsh in 2020, Dr. Siegle served as the Assistant Vice President for Legal Affairs and Operations, Campus Dean for the Haab School of Business, and Professor of Business and Leadership at Concordia University Ann Arbor.

Dr. Siegle holds a doctorate in higher education leadership and management from Regent University, where her dissertation focused on alternative and innovative operating models for higher education in the 21st century. She earned her juris doctor from Ave Maria School of Law, an MBA from Western Governor's University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

Dave Schippers, Sc.D., CISSP, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer



Dr. Dave Schippers brings decades of industry experience in information technology, cybersecurity, and project management to Walsh. In industry, he has worked on large core system designs, quality assurance testing, and system implementations, impacting regional, national, and international business operations nearing a billion dollars.

From a technology support perspective, Dr. Schippers has been responsible for the technology operations team, ensuring system operations in environments responsible for over \$300 million in sales. As a technology leader, he directed a technology group and security operations, supporting 25 sites, three operations, and thousands of users in a technologically diverse infrastructure.

In academia, Dr. Schippers has published research on the convergence of information technology and operational technology in Industry 4.0. He designed and created the first automotive cybersecurity degree concentration. He helped develop and pilot the first Automotive Cybersecurity Training program for the global automotive industry. Dr. Schippers is also a frequent speaker on cybersecurity trends at regional, national, and global conferences.



Troy, MI

Troy, Michigan is a thriving hub of education, innovation, and community. Located in Oakland County, one of Michigan's most prosperous regions, Troy combines academic excellence with economic vitality. Home to top-ranked schools and situated near leading institutions such as Oakland University and Walsh College, the city cultivates a culture that values learning and research.

As part of Automation Alley, Troy is at the forefront of advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, and business innovation. This dynamic environment offers academic leaders unparalleled opportunities to collaborate with industry partners and drive impactful research. With a highly educated population and strong economic base, Troy provides a fertile ground for thought leadership and institutional growth.

Beyond its professional advantages, Troy delivers an exceptional quality of life. Ranked among the safest cities in the U.S., it boasts over 1,000 acres of parks, cultural attractions, and diverse dining options. Its strategic location—just 22 miles from Detroit—ensures access to global markets, major airports, and vibrant urban amenities, while maintaining a welcoming suburban atmosphere.

For more information about this dynamic community, visit <https://troymi.gov>.

Procedure for Candidacy

WittKieffer is assisting Walsh College in this search, which will remain open until an appointment is made. Review of applications will begin immediately. All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume, and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

Nominations, inquiries, and applications can be directed to:

Amy Crutchfield and Bronwen Pelaez, Ph.D.

WalshDean@wittkieffer.com

Walsh College is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants are considered without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, ancestry, physical/mental disability, medical condition, military/veteran status, genetic information, marital status, ethnicity, citizenship or immigration status, or any other protected classification, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Walsh College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and consider reasonable accommodation measures that may be necessary for qualified applicants/employees to perform essential job functions.