

PRESIDENT SEARCH

WOODWARD ACADEMY

Atlanta, Georgia
woodward.edu

Start Date: July 1, 2025



**WOODWARD
ACADEMY**



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

Woodward Academy is Atlanta at its very best. The Academy intentionally brings together students from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, creating a richer learning community and exceptional academic opportunities. Woodward students and graduates are caring and compassionate global citizens who are a microcosm of what the world should be.

Vision

Woodward Academy will be the national model in college-preparatory education.

At a Glance



Established
1900



Enrollment
2,685



Total Faculty
380



Endowment
\$150M



Students of color
60%



Financial aid awarded
\$10.6M



Faculty with advanced degrees
66%



Campus size
133 acres

Upper School enrollment: 1,069

Middle School enrollment: 499

Lower School enrollment: 467

Primary School enrollment: 384

Woodward North enrollment: 266

Zip codes represented: 100+

Total employees: 620

Faculty of color: 36%

Students receiving aid: 23%

Annual operating budget: \$80M

AP courses: 25

Varsity sports: 18



Overview

With a diverse community of 2,685 PK-12 students and 600 employees on two campuses, Woodward offers an unrivaled curriculum and extensive programs in athletics and the arts, an exceptional faculty and administration, and a genuine commitment to helping students develop as “global citizens who are a microcosm of what the world should be.” Indeed, at every turn, Woodward lives its mission to represent “Atlanta at its very best.”

Though one of the largest independent schools in the United States, Woodward understands community. Students and faculty praise the culture of belonging, the accessibility of teachers, the intentional connections across grade levels, and the school’s commitment to nurturing character. Alumni and current students appreciate the school’s pervasive focus on fostering personal responsibility and citizenship, and graduates look beyond themselves to make a difference in the world.

Founded in 1900 as Georgia Military Academy and located just south of Atlanta, in College Park, GA, Woodward has survived two world wars, the Great Depression, and two global pandemics. One hundred and twenty-five years later, the Academy has changed in many ways from its origins, but the founders’ vision for nurturing a culture of excellence, opportunity, and character is unchanged. From state-of-the-art buildings that evoke the history and traditions of GMA, to the Honor Guard and commitment to remembering those who gave their lives for their country, Woodward looks towards the future while building on its rich history.

Deep respect for difference is at the very core of Woodward’s identity. Families from more than 20 metro Atlanta counties, representing all racial and ethnic backgrounds, religious traditions, learning preferences, and ways of life call Woodward home. Indeed, with an enrollment and campus footprint that rivals many small colleges and abundant offerings in athletics, arts and academics, Woodward offers opportunities for everyone.

The next President will build on the successful legacy of past leaders, including Dr. Stuart Gulley, who has led Woodward since 2009. The incoming President will benefit from a deeply experienced senior administrative team, loyal alumni base, and committed parent body. With robust enrollment, a significant endowment, and a supportive and forward-thinking board of trustees, Woodward is poised for continued success in its next chapter as it continues to chart its course as a national leader in K-12 education.



Opportunities and Challenges

Woodward's diversity and complexity are central to its strength. Students and employees represent a wide range of racial, ethnic, and religious identities, and the Academy's geographic reach encompasses all of metro-Atlanta. Students thrive in robust academic programs which include four rigorous academic levels, a comprehensive slate of Advanced Placement courses, and the Transition program for students with learning differences. The Academy boasts tremendously successful and wide-ranging programs in the arts and athletics. The incoming President will need to embrace and leverage this large and complex environment, while also building the relationships that are central to Woodward's identity. Specific challenges and opportunities will include:

- Building community across grades and campuses, fostering connections and belonging for all students, families, and employees;
- Further refining and cementing Woodward's identity as an institution, recognizing that while students and families select the Academy for myriad reasons, all will benefit from a community defined shared values and excellence in academics, athletics, and arts;
- Supporting continued excellence of the college preparatory academic programs and the Transition program by ensuring faculty have the resources and training necessary to serve all learners;
- Recruiting, hiring, retaining, and supporting talented, diverse, and mission-aligned employees;
- Partnering with the Advancement Office and Governing Board to launch an ambitious capital campaign that will support capital improvements and endowment growth;
- Strengthening existing community partnerships, establishing new partnerships, and engaging meaningfully with the cities of College Park and East Point, MARTA, the Atlanta Airport and the wider metro-Atlanta community; and
- Shepherding a devoted employee base, dynamic student body, passionate parent body, and extensive alumni network.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The next President at Woodward will be an inspiring leader of leaders who fully embraces the school's mission to represent "Atlanta at its very best." The strongest candidates will offer most or all of the following qualifications and qualities:

Professional Qualifications

- Successful history of navigating the demands of a diverse, complex, multi-division educational organization;
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to inspire and communicate clearly with a wide range of audiences;
- The ability to articulate vision and strategy and the tactical skills necessary to manage the systems and processes necessary to implement change;
- Personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and the requisite skills and emotional acumen to support students, parents, faculty, staff, and programmatic growth in this area;
- Demonstrated experience as a leader in education and in school operations, fundraising, and governance;
- Experience and enthusiasm in partnering with an engaged parent community that has high expectations of the school in academics, athletics, and the arts.

Leadership Style and Personal Qualities

- A strategic thinker and creative problem solver who understands the interplay of internal and external systems, constituents, and priorities;
- A community-builder whose style is collaborative when possible and decisive when necessary, demonstrating approachability, responsiveness, trustworthiness, and transparency as well as a commitment to respecting multiple perspectives;
- A thoughtful innovator who appreciates both tradition and purposeful change;
- The courage to make challenging choices while upholding the highest standards of integrity and embodying the school's values.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Woodward Academy.

[School Website](#)

[Transition Program](#)

[School History](#)

[College Matriculation](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[About Atlanta, Georgia](#)

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are asked to submit the following materials as **separate PDF documents**:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position
- A current résumé

As the process moves forward, selected candidates will be asked to submit:

- Writing samples specific to this search
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission)

Candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence and to submit their résumé and cover letter to:

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