

CURRICULUM VITAE

Cameron Braxton Wesson

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

La Salle University
201 College Hall
Philadelphia, PA

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Senior academic leader with more than three decades of experience advancing student success, academic innovation, enrollment growth, and strategic transformation across liberal arts colleges, comprehensive universities, and R1 public institutions. Known for mission-centered leadership, data-informed decision-making, and building cultures of shared governance and institutional trust. Committed to increasing access, strengthening student belonging and persistence, and forging partnerships that expand opportunity and institutional impact.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1997

Discipline: Anthropology
Concentration: Archaeology

M.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1994

Discipline: Anthropology
Concentration: Archaeology

B.A., Auburn University, 1991

Discipline: Anthropology

B.S., Auburn University, 1990

Discipline: Architecture and Environmental Design

Additional Graduate Coursework in Project Management and Organizational Leadership, Lehigh University, College of Business, 2014-2017

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs – La Salle University; 2023 - Present

- Led academic realignment during a period of strategic repositioning to improve coordination, transparency, and long-term resource stability.

- Strengthened cross-unit collaboration and decision-making processes between academic affairs, enrollment management, and student support operations.
- Created and launched a co-located Student Success Center integrating advising, tutoring, wellness, accessibility services, and career support.
- Developed proactive advising models and persistence dashboards to identify support needs earlier and increase student retention.
- Expanded adult and professional education pathways, including hybrid, evening, and online offerings aligned to labor-market demand.
- Supported new program development in high-growth fields to strengthen recruitment pipelines and expand pathways to completion.
- Expanded partnerships with employers, healthcare providers, and community organizations to support experiential learning and talent pipelines.
- Revitalized grant infrastructure and doubled external funding submissions; advanced multi-year academic resource and hiring planning.
- Identified academic affairs fundraising priorities in preparation for a public campaign to be launched in spring 2026.
- Helped secure more than \$1.8M in new philanthropic commitments for student scholarships, academic programs, and facilities enhancements.
- Worked with faculty on a comprehensive revision of the University Handbook to clarify standards for tenure and promotion, reflect new administrative structures, and better identify key stakeholder responsibilities across the range of academic affairs functions.
- Managed the work of 11 direct reports and an annual budget in excess of \$40 million.

Provost and Dean of the Faculty - Franklin & Marshall College, 2019–2022

- Led academic operations through the COVID-19 pandemic with transparent communication, shared governance, and student-centered planning.
- Increased faculty diversity and strengthened professional development and mentoring pathways.
- Co-established a centralized advising support model and integrated student success framework.
- Expanded interdisciplinary academic programs better aligned with emerging areas of student interest, knowledge fields, and post-graduate employment opportunities.
- Created a new academic affairs strategic plan that addressed student skill development and reinforced the liberal arts foundation for student lifelong success.

- Worked with Advancement professionals to secure more than \$10M for student scholarships and campus capital projects as part of a \$200M fundraising campaign.
- Managed the work of 15 direct reports and an annual budget in excess of \$35 million.

Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences - Lehigh University, 2018–2019

- Implemented enrollment-responsive academic staffing models supporting anticipated 25% growth in undergraduate and 50% growth graduate programs.
- Partnered with advancement professionals to secure \$13M+ in 15 months as interim dean to support endowed chairs, program development, and experiential learning. These efforts were part of a \$1B fundraising campaign.
- Expanded community-engaged research, internship networks, and public-facing scholarship initiatives.
- Revised Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development programs. Resulted in 30% increase in student participation.
- Co-chaired Inclusive Excellent Committee in development of an innovative curricular and co-curricular certificate program.
- Managed the work of 12 direct reports and an annual budget in excess of \$30 million.

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs - Lehigh University, 2014–2018

- Designed and launched the “Lehigh in Three” accelerated degree pathway, reducing student time-to-degree and educational debt burden. This program is now part of the emerging “Degree in Three” pathway advocated by Dr. Bob Zemke.
- Implemented proactive advising and academic support models that increased retention by 8% and graduation rates by 5% over the first four years. This new approach also increased student satisfaction by more than 30% in the first year of implementation.
- Co-chaired MSCHE Standard V committee in preparing institutional self-study. Our report was praised by the visit committee for transparency and data integration.
- Managed the work of 3 direct reports and an annual budget in excess of \$1.4 million.

Chair, Department of Anthropology - University of Vermont, 2006–2011

- Led curriculum modernization effort that resulted in a 150% increase in majors and a 100% increase in minors over five years. Focus shifted from primarily a preparation for graduate education to career-readiness learning outcomes given the diminished opportunity for graduate education in the social sciences.
- Strengthened undergraduate research experiences and community partnerships.

- Managed the work of 1 direct report and twelve full-time tenure-track faculty members, with an annual departmental operating budget in excess of \$100 thousand.

Graduate Director, Department of Anthropology - University of Illinois-Chicago, 2004–2006

- Led transition of graduate program from MA to PhD-granting status. Increased graduate applications by 75% and enrollment by 37% within two years.
- Revised funding model to better support a wider range of graduate students. Led to improved yield and retention rates.
- Managed the work of 1 direct report, overseeing 45 graduate students, and an annual financial aid allocation of \$700 thousand.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

La Salle University, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice,
Professor, 2023 – Present

Franklin & Marshall College, Department of Anthropology
Professor, 2019 - 2023

Lehigh University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Lucy G. Moses Distinguished Professor, 2011 - 2019

University of Vermont, Department of Anthropology
Professor, 2011
Associate Professor, 2006 - 2011

University of Illinois-Chicago, Department of Anthropology
Associate Professor, 2004-2006
Assistant Professor, 1999-2004

Field Museum of Natural History, Division of Archaeological Science
Adjunct Curator, 1999-2006

University of Oklahoma, Department of Anthropology
Assistant Professor, 1996-1999

Auburn University, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology, and Social Work
Visiting Instructor, 1995-1996

Kankakee Community College, Department of Social Sciences
Instructor, 1994-1995

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP

Research Specialization: Social inequality, political economy, household, colonialism, cultural change, remote sensing, archaeometry; Eastern United States and British Isles.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Wesson, Cameron B.

2008 *Households and Hegemony: Early Creek Prestige Goods, Symbolic Capital, and Social Power*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

2004 *Historical Dictionary of Early North American*. Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland.

Wesson, Cameron B., and Mark A. Rees (editors)

2002 *Between Contacts and Colonies*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

Wesson, Cameron B., and John W. Cottier

2014 Big Sites, Big Questions, Big Data, Big Problems: Scales of Investigation and Changing Perceptions of Archaeological Practice in the Southeastern U.S.. *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* 24:1-11.

Wesson, Cameron B.

2013 Rumors of Our Demise Have Been Greatly Exaggerated: Archaeological Perspectives on Culture and Sustainability. *Sustainability* 5:100-122.

2012 de Soto (Probably) Never Slept Here: Archaeology, Memory, Myth, and Social Identity. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 16:418-435.

2010 When Moral Economies and Capitalism Collide: Creek Factionalism and the Colonial Southeastern Frontier. In *Across the Great Divide*, edited by L.L. Scheiber and M. Mitchell, pp. 61-78. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Loren, Diana DiPaolo, and Cameron B. Wesson

2010 Current Archaeologies in the American Southeast. *Native South* 3:39-64.

Wesson, Cameron B.

2008 Mixed Metaphors: Dynamic Modernities in Southeastern North America. *Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Conference*. 4:67-86.

2002 The Prehistoric-Historic Transition: Prestige Goods, Symbolic Capital, and Social Power in Southeastern North America. In *Between Contacts and Colonies*, edited by C.B. Wesson and M.A. Rees, pp. 110-125. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Wesson, Cameron B., and Mark A. Rees

2002 Protohistory and Archaeology: An Overview. In *Between Contacts and Colonies*, edited by C.B. Wesson and M.A. Rees, pp. 1-11. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Wesson, Cameron B.

2001 Creek and Pre-Creek Revisited. In *The Archaeology of Resistant Traditions*, edited by T.R. Pauketat, pp. 94-106. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

2001 The Origin of Maize. In *Chata Anompa: Choctaw Language and Culture*, edited by M. Haag and H. Willis, pp. 258-260. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

2001 Houses and Public Buildings. In *Chata Anompa: Choctaw Language and Culture*, edited by M. Haag and H. Willis, pp. 267-271. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

2001 European Contact and Trade. In *Chata Anompa: Choctaw Language and Culture*, edited by M. Haag and H. Willis, pp. 272-275. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Wesson, Cameron B., James A. Wall, and David W. Chase

2001 A Spaghetti Style Gorget from the Jere Shine Site (1MT6), Montgomery County, Alabama. *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* 47:132-152.

Wesson, Cameron B.

1999 Chiefly Power, Household Production, and Food Storage in Southeastern North America. *World Archaeology* 31:145-164.

1998 Mississippian Sacred Landscapes: The View from Alabama. In *Mississippian Towns and Sacred Spaces*, edited by R.B. Lewis and C.S. Stout, pp. 93-122. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Lewis, R. Barry, Charles S. Stout, and Cameron B. Wesson

1998 The Design of Mississippian Towns. In *Mississippian Towns and Sacred Spaces*, edited by R.B. Lewis and C.S. Stout, pp. 1-21. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Encyclopedia Entries

Wesson, Cameron B.

2016 America in 1492. *Oxford Handbook of American Indian History*, edited F. Hoxie, pp. 17-39. Oxford, New York.

Gordon, Robert, and Cameron B. Wesson

2013 Max Gluckman. *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*, edited by R. Warms & J. McGee, pp. 336-340. Sage, New York.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

Archaeology Division

Anthropological Sciences Interest Group

Society for American Archaeology

Dissertation Awards Committee (2012-15)

Meetings Committee (1999-00; 2013-14)

Native American Affairs Comm. (1999-03)

History of Archaeology Interest Group

Digital Data Interest Group

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

Society for Historical Archaeology

Midwestern Archaeological Conference
Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

World Archaeological Congress
Newsletter Guest Editor (10/2009)

Eastern States Archaeological Federation

Alabama Archaeological Society

Vermont Archaeological Society

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available upon request