Palm Beach Atlantic UNIVERSITY

Dean of the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences



About Palm Beach Atlantic University

Founded in 1968, Palm Beach Atlantic University is a Christ-centered university experiencing a season of remarkable growth, momentum, and expanding influence. PBA now enrolls more than 4,200 students across more than 100 academic programs and draws students from all 50 states and more than 80 countries.

In September 2025, PBA celebrated its fourth consecutive year of record-breaking enrollment, ranking third nationally in application growth compared to pre-pandemic levels. Rooted in a Christ-first mission and guided by biblical conviction, the University stands at a defining moment, expanding its campus footprint and elevating its role as a premier Christian university shaping the next generation of healthcare, marketplace, and ministry leaders.

> **Palm Beach Atlantic University equips students to grow in wisdom, lead with conviction, and serve God boldly.**

4,271
TOTAL ENROLLMENT

100+
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

13:1
STUDENT TO FACULTY

84%
FACULTY WITH HIGHEST DEGREE

20,000+
ALUMNI

80
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED





Mission, Vision & Purpose

MISSION

Palm Beach Atlantic University equips students to grow in wisdom, lead with conviction, and serve God boldly.

VISION

To be the premier Christian university developing Christ-first leaders by educating the mind, heart, and soul of students from around the globe to address the challenges of their day with godly character and a servant's heart.

PURPOSE

Palm Beach Atlantic University is a Christian university that equips students to lead fulfilling lives through learning, leadership, and service.

Academics

Encompassing eight schools, seven academic centers of excellence, institutional effectiveness, PBAOnline, and the library, the Academic Division cultivates an environment where the Christian faith permeates every dimension of university life. The curriculum is infused with a Christian worldview across all disciplines, anchored by a group of core courses entitled Faith, Roots, and Reason.

PBA has attracted faculty with terminal degrees from distinguished programs who embrace a primary call to mentor their students while making scholarly contributions to their disciplines. With 20 Fulbright recipients earning 21 awards in the last eight years and an exceptional honors program, PBA demonstrates a deep commitment to academic excellence.

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

- School of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- School of Education & Behavioral Studies
- College of the Arts
- Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy
- Rinker College of Business
- School of Ministry
- School of Nursing
- School of Health Professions

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- LeMieux Center for Public Policy
- Center for Global Leadership
- Gregory Center for Medical Missions
- Rinker Center for Experiential Learning
- Titus Center for Franchising
- Center for Financial Literacy
- Raney Center for Free Enterprise

13:1
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

84%
FACULTY WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE IN THEIR FIELD

Palm Beach Atlantic University President Dr. Debra Schwinn and Executive Vice President for Advancement Laura Bishop explore the vision, growth, and Christ-first mission shaping the future of PBA. **Watch that conversation here.**



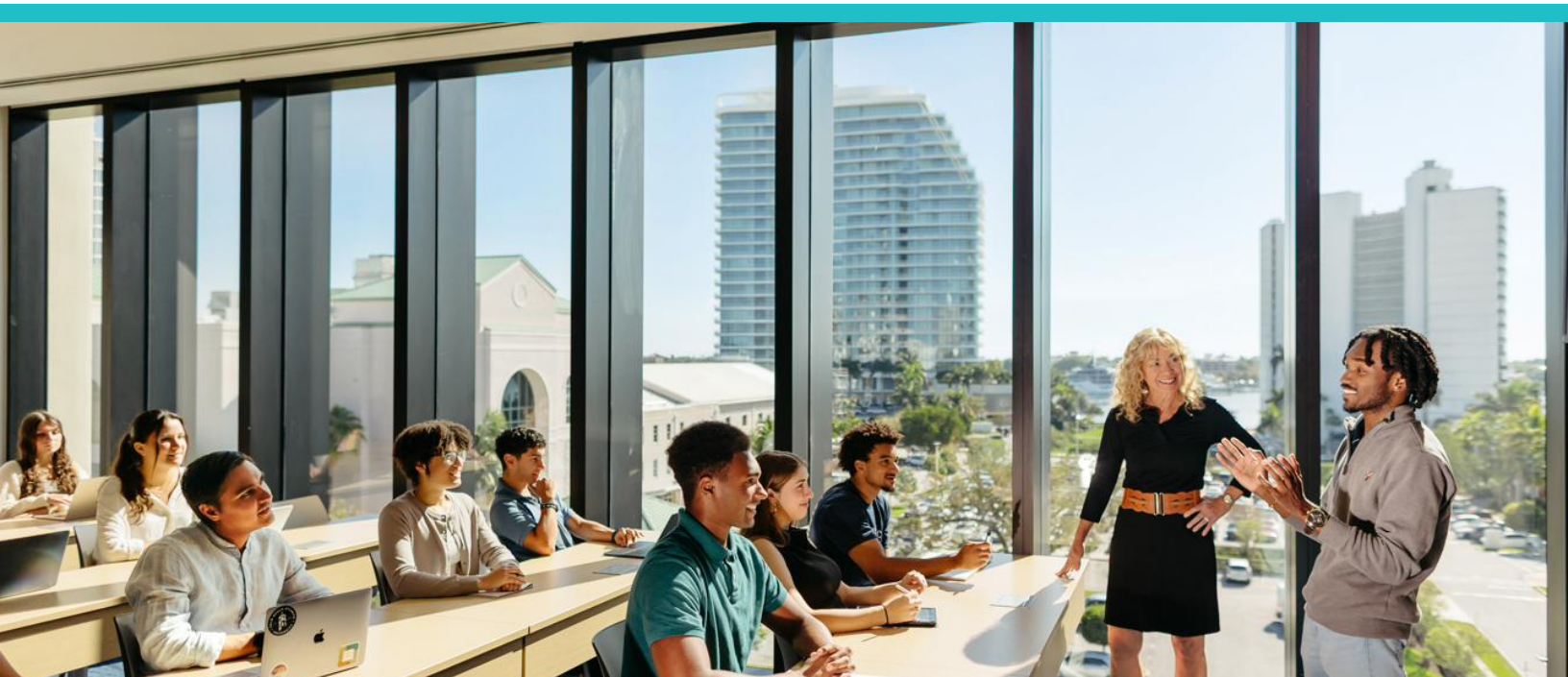
A Transformative Leadership Opportunity

Palm Beach Atlantic University invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the role of Dean of the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, an opportunity to lead a thriving academic division at a Christ-first institution ascending in size, stature, and influence.

The next Dean will lead one of PBA's largest and most foundational academic schools into a season of purposeful growth, innovation, and strategic impact. Undergraduate enrollment is rising for the fourth consecutive year, graduate enrollment has surpassed 900, and millions in capital investments include a new world-class business hall that opened in spring 2026, a 25-story residence hall for fall 2027, and plans for more academic buildings that reflect the University's bold vision for the future.

As the chief academic and administrative leader of the School, the Dean will build systems that support excellence in teaching and scholarship, develop and unify faculty across disciplines, and model faith-integrated academic leadership that prepares students for lives of influence in a complex world.

As the intellectual and curricular cornerstone of the University, the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences integrates the humanities, natural and physical sciences, and social sciences to prepare students for lifelong learning and leadership. It oversees ten departments, anchors the Faith, Roots, and Reason core curriculum, and powers interdisciplinary experiences from marine biology research in the Galapagos to internships in Washington, D.C.



The Role

The Dean reports to the provost and serves on the University's senior academic leadership team. The Dean is responsible for all aspects of the School's academic life and culture, and will cast a compelling academic vision that aligns with the University's overall vision and strengthens the liberal arts and sciences as the heart of PBA's intellectual and spiritual formation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation, cultivating a culture of faculty excellence and collegiality by hiring well, mentoring wisely, and evaluating with consistency and care.
- Unify a wide-ranging portfolio of disciplines and departments, fostering meaningful integration across campus while respecting the depth of each field, seeing synergy rather than silos.
- Direct strategic planning, curricular refinement, and student outcomes across ten departments and a robust slate of undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Champion faculty scholarship as a missional calling, advancing both the academic reputation of the School and the spiritual influence of its faculty, staff, and students.
- Work closely with colleagues in enrollment, marketing, and advancement to fuel sustainable growth and improve the operational excellence that supports the success of the School.
- Represent the School externally with confidence and clarity, engaging donors, alumni, and strategic partners committed to excellence in Christian liberal arts and sciences.

LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

Cast a Unifying Vision

Strengthen the liberal arts and sciences as the center of intellectual and spiritual formation, and increase cross-school collaboration across the University.

Build Faculty Excellence

Hire and develop high-impact scholar-teachers with clear expectations, mentoring rhythms, and consistent, caring evaluation.

Advance Student Outcomes

Deliver measurable gains in program health, including honors, undergraduate research, and graduate placements.

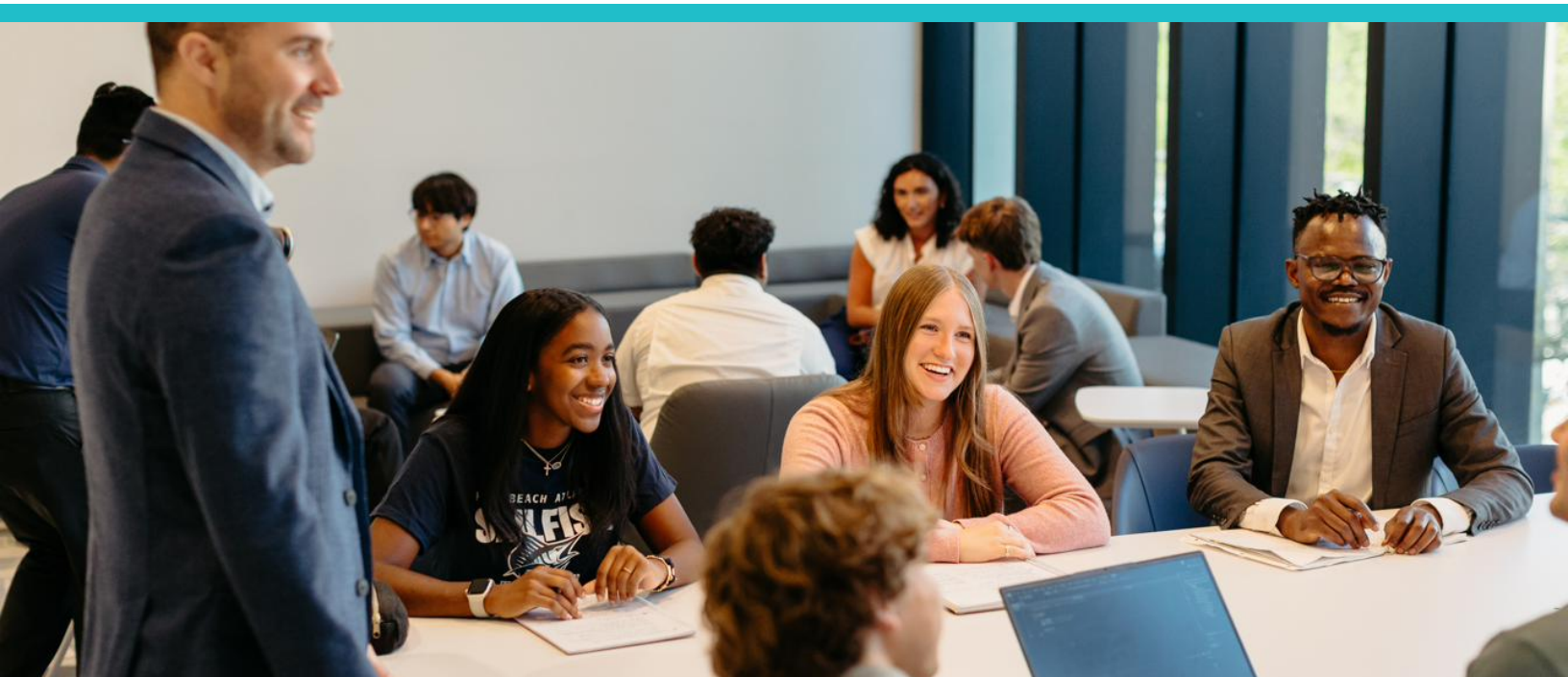
Align Resources to Strategy

Bring systems-thinking and executional follow-through to budget, space, teaching loads, and staffing in service of mission.

Strategic Leadership Priorities

The next Dean will be called to cast and implement a compelling academic vision that aligns with the University's overall vision and strengthens the liberal arts and sciences as the heart of PBA's intellectual and spiritual formation. Rooted in a robust Christian intellectual tradition, the Dean will serve as an architect, advocate, and bridge-builder who sees synergy, not silos, as the future of faith-informed higher education.

- Cast a compelling academic vision that unifies a wide-ranging portfolio of disciplines and departments, fostering meaningful integration across campus while respecting the depth of each field and elevating the humanities and sciences in equal measure.
- Cultivate a culture of faculty excellence and collegiality, hiring well, mentoring wisely, and evaluating with consistency and care, with attentiveness to the diversity of disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Champion faculty scholarship as a missional calling, advancing both the academic reputation of the School and the spiritual influence of its faculty, staff, and students.
- Lead with authenticity, transparency, and a clear eye toward building trust, attentive to the diversity of expressions within the Christian tradition.
- Partner with enrollment, marketing, and advancement to fuel sustainable growth in undergraduate and graduate programs, bringing systems-thinking and executional follow-through to align resources, space, and workload to strategy.
- Represent the School externally as a thoughtful public voice and institutional ambassador, engaging donors, alumni, and strategic partners and bringing in best practices from aspirational peers.



Qualifications

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Ph.D. or terminal degree in a relevant discipline, with a record of scholarship sufficient for appointment as full professor.
- Prior leadership experience at the dean, associate dean, or department chair level.
- Demonstrated success leading faculty, managing budgets, and overseeing academic operations.
- Experience navigating faculty governance, academic innovation, and institutional complexity.
- Understanding of the distinctiveness of Christian higher education in a pluralistic world.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- A mature and deeply rooted Christian faith in alignment with the mission, vision, values, and commitments of PBA.
- A demonstrated commitment to the integration of faith and academic discipline.
- Relational intelligence, emotional maturity, and institutional humility.
- An authentic and compelling communicator who leads with transparency and builds trust.
- A builder and shepherd with a high view of academic calling and collegial culture.

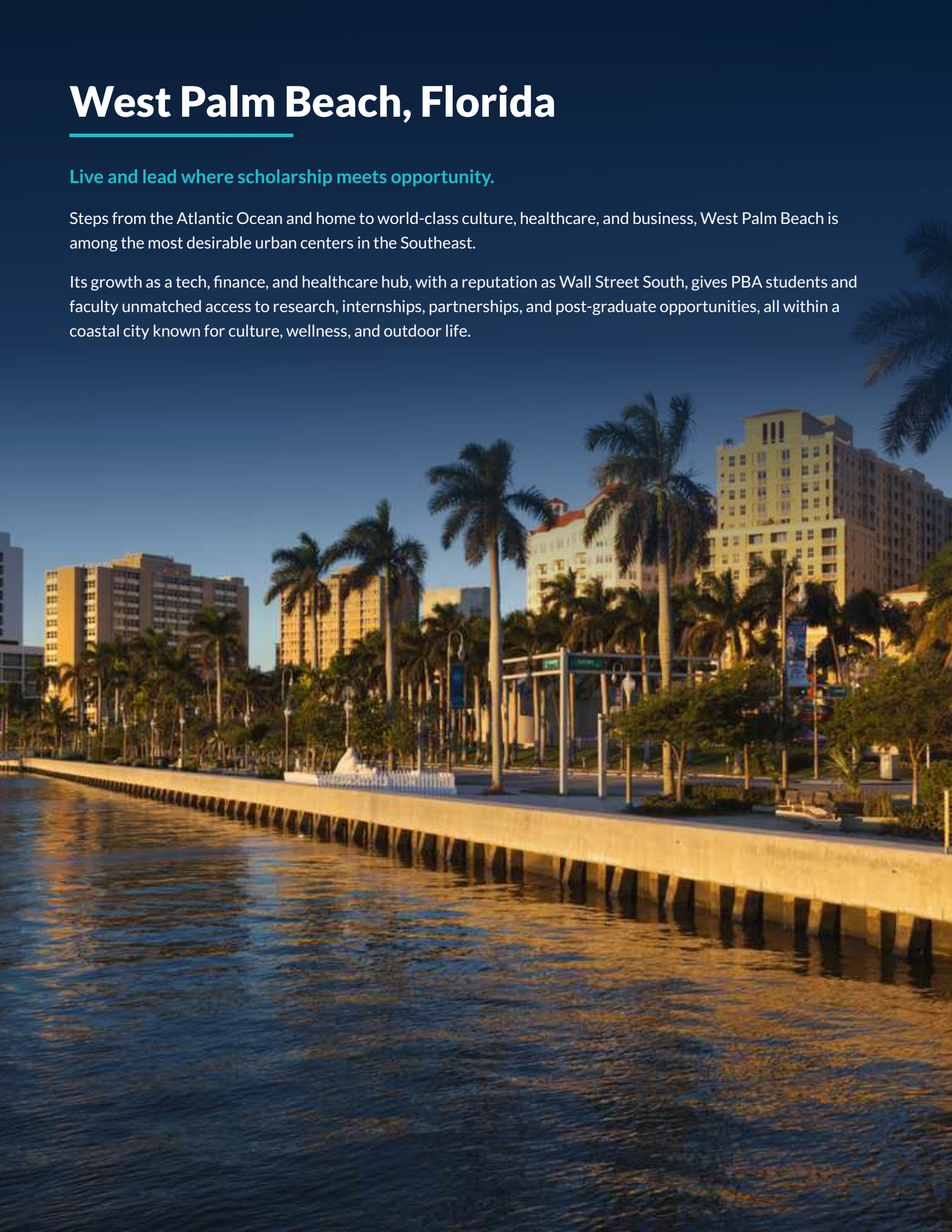


West Palm Beach, Florida

Live and lead where scholarship meets opportunity.

Steps from the Atlantic Ocean and home to world-class culture, healthcare, and business, West Palm Beach is among the most desirable urban centers in the Southeast.

Its growth as a tech, finance, and healthcare hub, with a reputation as Wall Street South, gives PBA students and faculty unmatched access to research, internships, partnerships, and post-graduate opportunities, all within a coastal city known for culture, wellness, and outdoor life.





Applications and Nominations

Palm Beach Atlantic University invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for this opportunity to lead the intellectual heart of a rising Christian university. All conversations and submissions will be handled with complete discretion.

Bill Peterson

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Application materials should include a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest outlining the candidate's faith commitment, leadership philosophy, and qualifications for the role, addressed to the Dean Search Committee. Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications should be submitted to PBADeanSLAS@carterbaldwin.com.

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