



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
FINALIST CANDIDATE**

Derek J. Driedger

Campus Visit Date: Friday, June 24, 2022

**See the candidate's public presentation via Zoom
at 8 a.m. CT Friday, June 24:**

<https://mayvillestate.zoom.us/j/99838221001>



Ph.D. English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
M.A. English, University of North Dakota
B.A. Journalism and English, University of North Dakota

Dr. Driedger is Dakota Wesleyan University's (SD) Associate Provost of Teaching and Learning, a position he has held for two years, preceded by serving as Associate Provost for a year and as Dean of Adult and Professional Studies (2015-2019). Dr. Driedger is tenured in Dakota Wesleyan's Department of English and is a contributing member of the university's distance education team.

See Dr. Driedger's application vitae on the pages that follow.

Dr. Derek Driedger

Associate Provost of Teaching and Learning
Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD

Professional Summary

- Utility player—an adaptable solution-seeker who is a responsive and thorough communicator.
- Change agent—experience in planning and implementing new ventures and fostering innovation in traditional, online, and hybrid student experiences.
- Operations manager—experience in growing and maintaining a wide network of on-campus and virtual teams to develop online, hybrid, off-site, and certificate programs.
- Integrator and includer—ongoing collaboration with university staff functions and procedures, including adjunct instructors, registrar, IT, admissions, and marketing. Responsible and organized to maintain a high level of detail for simultaneous functions.

Education

Ph.D. in English from the *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, Lincoln, NE 2007

Area of Specialization: American Literature

Dissertation: Writing and Circulating Modern America: Journalism and the American Novelist, 1872-1938
2009 University Libraries Influence Award Winner (One of the top 25 most downloaded dissertations/theses in the UNL Libraries' Digital Commons.)

M.A. in English from the *University of North Dakota*, Grand Forks, ND 2001

Master's Thesis: Expanding the Frontier Novel: Two Masterpieces by Willa Cather

B.A. in Communications from the *University of North Dakota*, Grand Forks, ND 1999

Majors: Journalism and English

Completed the Council of Independent Colleges Senior Leadership Academy 2018-2019

(A yearlong program for administrators in higher education who aspire to cabinet-level positions.)

Administrative Leadership Positions

Associate Provost of Teaching and Learning, *Dakota Wesleyan University* 2020-Present

- Member of the initial transition to remote learning team in early-2020 with Provost, Director of IT, and the Metadata and Digital Scholarship Librarian.
- Managed course scheduling and room assignments for all in-person courses, 2020-2021.
- Supporting all faculty to become more capable teachers and facilitators of learning with the Academic Deans, the Academic Technologist, and the program directors of online and off-site programs.
- Designed, implemented, and supervised instruction of new first-year experience seminar: UNI 101: Self, College, and Career. Managed the revision and instruction of the second year of the course, 2021.
- Interim chair of Faculty Assessment Committee, 2021-present.
- Coordinated the operations of the university and the web content for joining the Council of Independent Colleges course sharing consortium (Acadeum). 2021.
- Assisting in a series of projects appointed by the provost related to academic policy, academic scheduling, academic catalog, civic-oriented general education, assessment, faculty mentoring, rank and tenure applications, pedagogy, instructional design, and new online and hybrid programs.
- Supported faculty applying for promotion to full professor with teaching evaluating and development of their portfolio submitted to the Rank & Tenure Committee.

- Supported first-year faculty and coordinated with faculty mentors. Served as faculty mentor for professor teaching in the Pierre, SD Learn&Earn program.
- Co-wrote a proposal and accepted into the Council of Independent College summer 2022 workshop on “Deliberation & Debate: Advancing Civil Discourse through Courses for First-Year Students.”
- Co-directing with Academic Technologist for two year-long faculty institutes: information literacy and immersive learning experiences. 2022-23.
- Chosen by the student senate as one of two faculty representatives to judge the candidates for the first Honor of Distinction: Learning (student award). 2022.

Associate Provost, Dakota Wesleyan University

2019-2020

- Managed the day-to-day operations and curriculum revisions of online, hybrid, off-site, and certificate programs offered in business, education, nonprofit administration, and nursing.
- Co-leader of strategic planning theme team related to the future of the College of Adult and Professional Studies, its programs, and its operations.
- Assisted in the research and development, community outreach, and implementation of a “Learn and Earn” associate degree and workforce development program in Pierre, SD.
- Assisted in a series of projects appointed by the provost relating to articulation agreements, academic calendar, course schedules, and general education.

Dean of Adult and Professional Studies, Dakota Wesleyan University

2015-2019

- Planning team member for DigitalDWU roll-out, including the review and selection of Canvas LMS and managing the iPad 1-to-1 mobile learning initiative with the Provost, Director of IT, and Apple Learning Specialist.
- Served as academic dean for all online, off-site, and hybrid programs.
- Administered adjunct recruitment, training, and retention for general education and support courses in nursing.
- Monitored course scheduling, process management, and quality assurance measures for all online, off-site, and hybrid programs.
- Coordinated the transition from an online service provider to in-house operations for all online programs with the Provost and the Executive VP for Marketing and Admissions, 2018-2019.
- Supported program directors in business, education, and nursing.
- Supported outreach opportunities, including articulation agreements with local tech school and corporate leadership academy in Sioux Falls.

Program Director for graduate education programs, Dakota Wesleyan University

2014-2018

- Administrator for Principal Certification, Secondary Certification, STEM Instruction, Educational Policy & Administration, and English as a New Language certificate program.
- Prepared and submitted State Department of Education accreditation report for Principal Certification and Secondary Certification in 2018.
- Lead academic advisor for all students in graduate education.
- Administrative internship university liaison with South Dakota schools.
- Thesis and comprehensive exam committee chair.
- Led the curriculum revision approved by full-faculty in 2015.
- Established a six-credit practicum experience sequence for students in the EPA program.
- Supervised practicum experience for all students in coordination with other university departments and area schools.
- Taught research methods, teaching & learning, and special projects courses.
- Supported new program director through transition and first year.

Associate Dean of Digital Learning, Dakota Wesleyan University

2013-2015

- Led a Digital Learning Task Force developed to oversee DWU's successful Higher Learning Commission's Quality Initiative project requirement as part of university accreditation. Lead writer on the proposal and the subsequent review for HLC Quality Initiative.
- Digital Learning Task Force established procedures for online student lifecycle from marketing, admissions, IT, business office, financial aid, and registrar.
- Managed the day-to-day operations of online programs in coordination with online vendors.
- Lead developer of an adult learner general education program that received approval from the General Education Committee.
- Assisted program directors in business, education, and nursing in creating an infrastructure to support online programs in their departments.
- Assisted program directors in curriculum development and receiving approval from faculty and the board of trustees.
- Established procedures for recruiting and retaining adjuncts.
- Promoted an expansion of online teaching to faculty.
- Administered orientation courses for faculty and students.
- Researched and managed state-by-state compliance procedures before the establishment of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).
- Collaborated with provost and president on a proposal and received approval for a new non-traditional academic college.
- Monthly presentations to full faculty, 2013-2016.
- Attended administrative and faculty committee meetings.

Chair, Department of English and Languages, Dakota Wesleyan University

2010-2013

- Revised curriculum in 2012; added professional writing major and minor.
- Managed department budget, course rotation, course evaluations, and assessment.
- Chair of hiring committee for new tenure-track faculty member in English.
- Designed the assessment plan and wrote the English Education accreditation report for the State Department of Education in 2010.

University Council and Task Force Appointments

Dean's Council member.

2013-present

- Analyzing, developing, and supporting various academic initiatives and infrastructure as it relates to students, faculty, academic programs, and academic policy.
- Attended NetVUE conference in 2022.
- Attended CIC Annual Conference in 2016 and 2018.
- Attended HLC Annual Conference in 2014 and 2015.

Strategic Planning Team Leader, The Wesleyan Experience.

2014-2016

- Assisted by the Director of Student Life and a chemistry professor, met with several groups of stakeholders, consulted with administration and CREDO to draft, revise, present, and implement initial phase of strategic plan regarding all students and their academic experience.
- Regular updates and presentations to faculty, staff, Leadership Council, and the Board of Trustees.

DWU Leadership Council member.

2015-present

- Participate in university budget planning, strategic planning, and new initiative approval process.
- Strategic Planning retreat presentation on trends and opportunities in distance education.
- Represent the interests of the college and the college faculty to the council.

DigitalDWU Advisory Group.

2016-2020

- Meet with Provost, Director of IT, and Apple Learning Specialist to plan and review program initiatives.
- Member of select group of faculty, administration, and board of trustees to visit Apple's headquarters in Cupertino for sessions with Apple's lead education team.
- Planning and training for 1-to-1 technology initiative.
- Assist in the preparation and implementation of ongoing faculty development sessions.
- Led new online and hybrid student orientations for the Canvas LMS.

Additional Academic Service and Committee Assignments

Hiring committee for instructional designer.	2022
Hiring committee for associate registrar.	2022
Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Affairs.	2021-present
Hiring committee for associate registrar.	2021
Chair, hiring committee for director of TRIO student services.	2021
Hiring committee for tenure-track nursing professor.	2021
Hiring committee for registrar.	2021
Hiring committee for academic technologist.	2021
Board of Trustees Committee on Strategic Growth and Student Experience.	2016-2020
Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Affairs.	2013-2016
Hiring committee for McGovern Center coordinator.	2018
Hiring committee for tenure-track communications professor.	2018
Hiring committee for tenure-track education professor and graduate education program director.	2018
Chair, Graduate Studies Committee.	2015-2019
Hiring committee for provost.	2015-2016
Hiring committee for rural nursing CNA instructor.	2015
Chair, Digital Learning Task Force	2013-2016
Teaching and Learning Strategies committee member.	2013-2017
General Education committee member.	2013-2017
Chair, hiring committee for tenure-track English professor.	2012
Hiring committee for tenure-track digital communications professor.	2011-2012
Service-Learning Committee.	2011-2013
Chair, DWU Retention Committee: Faculty/Student Opportunities.	2011-2012
Hiring committee for tenure-track music professor.	2010
Rank & Tenure committee member.	2009-2012
Service-Learning Task Force.	2009-2010
Faculty Supervisor, <i>Korney News</i> . A student newspaper project with Mitchell Middle School and DWU students.	2009, 2010
Academic advisor, Department of English.	2008-2014
Instructional Technology/Academic Technology Committee.	2008-2011
Meetings Secretary, Humanities Division.	2007-2008
Faculty supervisor, <i>Phreno Cosmian</i> . Student Newspaper.	2007-2012

Dissertation Committee

Reecy, Jennifer M. *Character and Competence as Factors of Leader Effectiveness at a Leadership Academy*. Dissertation. University of South Dakota. Ed.D in Education. Educational Administration. 2019.

Thesis Committees

- Bartoszek, Brooke. "Taking Party Politics Out of Education Policy." Thesis. Dakota Wesleyan University. M.A. in Education. Educational Policy and Administration. 2019.
- Mathews, Moria F. "Social Perspectives on Status Seeking and Bullying: Fostering Solutions Through the Humanities." Thesis. Dakota Wesleyan University. M.A. in Education. Educational Policy and Administration. 2018.
- Schaffhauser, Erich J. "Customized Learning Implementation: A Case Study of Customized Learning Informing Writing Instruction." Thesis. Dakota Wesleyan University. M.A. in Education. Secondary Certification. 2017.
- Schneider, Mary EK. "Holistically Teaching ELA Through the STEM Hybrid Teaching Model." Thesis. M.A. in Education. STEM Instruction. 2016.
- Schneider, Jeffrey E. "Addressing Rural Teacher Shortages with a STEM Hybrid Teaching Model." M.A. in Education. STEM Instruction. 2016.

Faculty Positions and Teaching Experience

Professor of English, Dakota Wesleyan University 2018-Present

- Taught multiple sections of hybrid first-year experience course. ("Self, College, and Career")
- Taught multiple sections of freshman speech course in-person.
- Taught multiple sections of the freshman experience course in creativity and innovation to on-ground students and LPN-BS online students.

Associate Professor of English, Dakota Wesleyan University 2013-2018

- Taught multiple sections of graduate education courses online and directed the graduate education practicum.
- Taught multiple sections of intercultural communications online.
- Taught multiple sections of junior-level literature courses online and piloted the business and technical writing course.
- Taught multiple sections of the freshman experience course in creativity and innovation.

Assistant Professor of English, Dakota Wesleyan University 2007-2013

- Taught multiple sections of the junior-level university-wide interdisciplinary course ("Private Life, Public Selves"), including the pilot section.
- Taught sophomore, junior, and senior courses in literature.
- Taught freshman and junior level composition courses in writing.
- Taught junior level course in English methods.
- Taught sophomore and senior level courses in journalism and directed the journalism practicum.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2001-2007

- Taught freshman, sophomore, and junior courses in literature.
- Taught freshman and sophomore courses in rhetoric.
- Tutored for two semesters in the university's Writing Assistance Center.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of North Dakota 1999-2001

- Taught freshman-level courses in academic research, expository writing, and technical and business writing.

Teaching Awards and Recognition

Granted Tenure and Promotion to Full Professor. Dakota Wesleyan University Rank and Tenure

Committee. 2018.

Exemplary Teaching Award. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2013. (Lone recipient of annual university-wide award.)

Granted Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor. Dakota Wesleyan University Rank and Tenure Committee. 2013.

Faculty Professional Excellence Award. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2010-2011. (Lone recipient of annual university-wide award.)

Faculty Excellence Award, Third Quarter. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2011.

"Who's Who in College Faculty." Montclair Who's Who. 2008.

College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2007. (One of three recipients of annual college-wide award.)

Nominee, The Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2007. (University-wide award.)

Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students. UNL Parents Association. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jan. 2006. (One of fourteen English department recipients of annual university employee award.)

Robert L. Hough Junior Staff Teaching Award. English Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. April 2005. (One of two recipients of annual English department award.)

Publications

Rev. of *Prairie Visions*. Writings by Hamlin Garland. Photography by Jon Morris edited by Keith Newlin. Des Moines: Iowan Books. 2015. *Middle West Review*. 4.1 (Fall 2017): 132-34.

"'The World of the Mind': Questions and Reflections Regarding Concussions, Death, and the Humanities." *Prairie Winds*. Ed. Ariel Ptak, Lacey Reuer, and Amber Hiles. Mitchell: Dakota Wesleyan University. 2012. 66-70.

Rev. of *Cather Studies, Volume 8: Willa Cather: A Writer's Worlds* edited by John J. Murphy, Françoise Palleau-Papin, and Robert Thacker. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2010. *Great Plains Quarterly*. 31.3 (Summer 2011): 253.

"The 'Burden' of the Prairie?: Studying Willa Cather's *My Ántonia* and Sinclair Ross's *As for Me and My House*." *Teaching the Works of Willa Cather*. Ed. Steven B. Shively and Virgil Albertini. Maryville: GreenTower P, 2009: 134-151.

"William Dean Howells: Student Guide." *Encyclopedia of American Literature, Volume II: The Age of Romanticism and Realism, 1816-1895*. Rev. ed. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

"Writing Isolation and the Resistance to Assimilation as 'Imaginative Art': Willa Cather's Anti-Narrative in *Shadows on the Rock*." *JNT: Journal of Narrative Theory*. 37.3 (Fall 2007): 351-374.

Rev. of *Conscience and Purpose: Fiction and Social Consciousness in Howells, Jewett, Chesnutt, and Cather* by Paul R. Petrie. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2005. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 39.2 (Fall 2006): 177-179.

"Gifts." *The Mowers' Tree*. Sue Rosowski Memorial Issue (Winter/Spring 2006): 3.

"How do you approach a tutoring session with an ESL student who may have difficulties speaking English?" *Writing Assistance Center Training & Resource Book*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005. 16-17.

"How do you assist with a student's CV when you are too afraid to start your own?" *Writing Assistance Center Training & Resource Book*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005. 18-19.

"Cather Sessions at Inaugural 'Regionalism and the Humanities' Conference." *Mowers' Tree* (Spring/Summer 2004): 10.

Rev. of *Cather Studies, Volume 5: Willa Cather's Ecological Imagination* edited by Susan J. Rosowski.

Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2003. *The Mowers' Tree* (Fall/Winter 2003): 11.
 Rev. of *Memorial Fictions: Willa Cather and the First World War* by Steven Trout. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2002. *The Mowers' Tree* (Spring 2003): 13.
 "Sample Draft and Revision." With Jenna Shelbourn. *The University of North Dakota Guide to College Composition*. Ed. Melanie Crow and Allen Helmsetter. St. Paul: Paradigm Custom Publishing, Inc., 2001. 19-33.
 "Delinquent Society: The Beginning." *North Country: The Literary Magazine of the University of North Dakota*. March 2000: 6-10.

Presentations

"Vocation: Stories and Strategies for Finding Your Way." New Student Orientation presentation. Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. 17-18 Aug. 2018.
 "University 101: An Overview of the First Year at DWU." Registration Day presentation to parents. Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. 7 April 2018. 1 April 2018. 5 June 2017.
 "Dickens in the 21st Century: Lengthy Books, Lasting Influence." *Setting the Stage: Sessions on 'Scrooge, the Musical.'* Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. 12 Nov. 2014.
 "Academic Partnerships." Digital DWU MBA Open House. Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. 16 Oct. 2013.
 "In the Middle of Literature Surveys and Digital Learning: Teaching Cather's 'Nebraska: The End of the First Cycle'." *Willa Cather: Canyon, Rock, & Mesa Country: The 14th International Willa Cather Seminar 2013*. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ. 19 June 2013.
 "Dakota Territory Visions, Corrections, and Nostalgia in Newspapers and Fiction." *1862-2012: The Making of the Great Plains*. The 38th Interdisciplinary Symposium Sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies, Lincoln, NE. 29 March 2012.
 "Murder in the Rural Midwest: E. W. Howe, Willa Cather, and Late-19th Century Literary Expectations." *Willa Cather and the Nineteenth Century: The 13th International Cather Seminar 2011*. Smith College, Northampton, MA. 22 June 2011.
 Session Chair, "Questions of Place in Cather's Fiction." *Willa Cather and the Nineteenth Century: The 13th International Cather Seminar 2011*. Smith College, Northampton, MA. 21 June 2011.
 Session Chair, "My Ántonia." *Cather, Chicago and Modernism: The 12th International Cather Seminar 2009*. University Center, Chicago, IL. 27 June 2009.
 "When the 'Shadows' Refuse to Fade: Cather's Contributions to Historical Fiction." *Cather, Chicago and Modernism: The 12th International Cather Seminar 2009*. University Center, Chicago, IL. 26 June 2009.
 "When Science Fiction Becomes Fact: How Writers use 'Technovelgy' to Create Purpose." *The Big Read*. Dakota Wesleyan University. Mitchell, SD. 22 Sept. 2008.
 "A 'Bleeding Slice' of Urban Reality: Late-Nineteenth-Century Assessments of the Novel in *Forum Magazine*." *Revisiting Realism: M/MLA Conference 2007*. Cleveland, OH. 11 Nov. 2007.
 Panelist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of English Job Placement Workshop. Lincoln, NE. 16 April 2007.
 Dissertation Workshop. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dissertation Support Group. Lincoln, NE. 22 March 2006.
 "Writing Isolation and Violence as 'Imaginative Art': Willa Cather's Anti-Narrative in *Shadows on the Rock*." *Violence, the Arts, & Cather: The 10th International Cather Seminar 2005*. University of Lincoln-Nebraska, Red Cloud and Lincoln, NE. 22 June 2005.
 "Fostering Critical Reading and Response." English Department Pedagogy Conference. University of Lincoln-Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. 23 Oct. 2005.
 Panelist, Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center Web Chat of *My Ántonia*. East Peoria, IL/Lincoln, NE. 21 Sept.

2004.

"Pragmatic Pedagogy: Writing About Place." English Department Pedagogy Conference. University of Lincoln-Nebraska. Lincoln, NE. 4 Sept. 2003.

"Tending to 'The Drunkard's Tree': Harriet Beecher Stowe's Early Fiction in the *New-York Evangelist*." *When We Begin With Women: Graduate Students Research on Women & Gender*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE. 3 April 2003.

"Offering a Course Centered on Identity and Community for Students Approaching Graduation." *UNL Center for Curriculum and Instruction Student Research Conference*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE. 8 March 2003.

"Looking into the Lives of Pioneers: The Anecdotes of *My Ántonia*." *Linguistic Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota*. Winnipeg, MB, Canada. 21 Oct. 2000.

"Newspaper's Reaction to an Emerging Competitor: Television Begins to Broadcast News." *Red River Valley Journalism Conference*. Fargo, ND. 26 April 2000.

Additional Appointments, Awards, Grants, and Honor Societies

Phi Kappa Phi President, Dakota Wesleyan University chapter. 2022-23.

McGovern Center Community-Based Learning Grant. Organizing and implementing a community needs assessment for service projects. \$250. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2017.

Alumni Reader, *Prairie Schooner*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2014

Phi Kappa Phi Member. 2010.

Midwest Consortium of Service Learning in Higher Education Grant. Designing and completing a multimedia shell on community awareness with the local middle school. \$1000. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2010.

Midwest Consortium of Service Learning in Higher Education Grant. A writer's group with fourth graders from local elementary school. \$1000. Dakota Wesleyan University. 2008.

Frederick A. & Minnie J. M. Stuff Dissertation Fellowship. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of English. 2006-2007. (One of five recipients of competitively awarded fellowship which reduced teaching load to 2/1 for ABD students.)

Co-Editor, *The Mowers' Tree*. Cather Project, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2003-2006.

Editorial Assistant, *Prairie Schooner*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2005-2006.

Student Advisor, Student Appeals Committee. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of English. 2005.

The Chancellor's List. 2004-2005, 2005-2006.

Nominee, John W. Robinson Prize for an outstanding scholarly paper written in a graduate class. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of English, 2003. Paper Title: "Tending to 'The Drunkard's Tree': Harriet Beecher Stowe's Early Fiction in the *New-York Evangelist*."

Sigma Tau Delta. 2003.

Honoree, University of North Dakota School of Communication "Wall of Fame" for Outstanding Graduates. 2002.

National Dean's List. 1999, 2000, 2007.

Golden Key National Honor Society. 1998.