

EXECUTIVE CURRICULUM VITAE

Louis D. Whitesides, DBA, CRA

Chief Academic Officer • 1890 Land-Grant University Executive • Research Administration Leader

Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

South Carolina State University • July 2026 – Present

A senior higher education executive whose nearly three-decade career integrates academic affairs, research administration, Cooperative Extension, public service, resource stewardship, and institutional governance across the full land-grant enterprise.

Orangeburg, South Carolina • me@louiswhitesides.com • [ORCID 0000-0003-1498-869X](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1498-869X) • louiswhitesides.com**\$65M+****Competitive grants & contracts**
External resource-development record**\$23M+****Annual portfolio**
Stewarded with zero audit findings**86%****Four-year graduation**
150-student scholarship cohort**90K****Square feet delivered**
10 facilities statewide

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Leadership across the full institutional enterprise

Dr. Louis D. Whitesides is a senior higher education executive, Chief Academic Officer, and 1890 land-grant university leader whose career integrates academic leadership, research administration, Cooperative Extension, public service, and institutional governance.

He serves as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Carolina State University, directing colleges and schools, faculty affairs, academic budgeting, accreditation, student success, and the research enterprise as a direct report to the President.

What distinguishes his record is executive responsibility across the full land-grant enterprise rather than a single administrative division. His career spans teaching and academic affairs, research administration, Extension and public engagement, workforce development, and state and federal partnerships.

Evidence-backed executive scale

- **\$65M+** competitive grants and contracts; additional state/partner resources and capital reported as distinct categories
- **\$23M+** annual portfolio stewardship with zero audit findings
- **86%** four-year graduation rate in a 150-student scholarship cohort
- **94%** employment or graduate-school placement
- **10 facilities / ~90,000 sq. ft.** acquired, constructed, or renovated
- **R2** research-enterprise leadership during the period of institutional advancement to Carnegie R2 classification

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Align mission with measurement.

Dr. Whitesides treats resource development, governance discipline, stakeholder engagement, and organizational performance as one connected leadership system rather than separate administrative functions.

01**Strategic Resource Development**

Secure and steward resources to advance institutional mission and long-term sustainability.

02**Institutional Accountability**

Use transparent, data-informed governance and measurable performance standards.

03**Stakeholder Engagement**

Build durable relationships across faculty, students, government, industry, alumni, and communities.

04 Organizational Performance Strengthen systems, processes, and accountability while preserving institutional mission.	05 Governance & Institutional Trust Treat integrity, transparency, and public confidence as strategic institutional assets.	06 Land-Grant Mission Connect teaching, research, and public engagement to opportunity, innovation, and economic mobility.
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INTEGRATED 1890 LAND-GRANT LEADERSHIP

Teaching. Research. Public engagement.

Few higher education executives have held senior responsibility across all three dimensions of the 1890 land-grant mission before assuming Chief Academic Officer responsibility.

01 Teaching & Academic Affairs University-wide leadership for colleges, schools, curriculum, faculty affairs, accreditation, academic assessment, student success, and institutional planning.	02 Research & Scholarship Sponsored research, federal compliance, multidisciplinary scholarship, faculty development, research-capacity building, and institutional advancement toward R2.
03 Extension & Public Engagement Statewide Cooperative Extension, public service, workforce development, community partnerships, rural economic development, and governmental relations.	04 National Land-Grant Leadership Board and association leadership across the 1890 land-grant, research, agriculture, and public-service ecosystem.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP METRICS

Scale translated into measurable outcomes

\$65M+ Competitive grants & contracts	80% Increase in state appropriations Across four budget cycles	\$30M Capital investment Secured and deployed	\$57M+ State & partner resources Generated
\$23M+ Annual portfolio managed	0 Audit findings	86% Four-year graduation rate	94% Employment or graduate school

Resource-governance note. Categories represent different forms of resource leadership and should not be interpreted as strictly additive unless supported by underlying institutional records.

CURRENT EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

July 2026 — Present *Chief Academic Officer · South Carolina State University*

Serves as the University’s Chief Academic Officer and direct report to the President, providing academic strategic planning, administrative leadership, direction, and evaluation for academic activities and faculty affairs while advancing student learning, scholarly activity, and multidisciplinary research. Uses recurring dean operating reviews to examine priorities, enrollment and student progression, DFW patterns, faculty observations, operational exceptions, and accountable follow-up.

Academic Leadership Colleges, schools, curriculum, assessment, and program review	Faculty Affairs Recruitment, tenure, promotion, evaluation, workload, and development	Budget & Operations Academic budgeting, resource allocation, planning, and policy	Student Success Retention, accreditation, academic support, and completion strategies	Research Enterprise Multidisciplinary research growth and scholarly productivity
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CAREER PROGRESSION

Progressive executive responsibility

South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, South Carolina

Vice President for Research (interim) 2023 – July 2026

Executive research administration

- Directed sponsored programs, research compliance, and faculty research capacity building.
- Provided research-enterprise leadership during the period in which the institution advanced to Carnegie R2 classification.

Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture 2019 – July 2026

Executive Director, 1890 Research and Extension Program — statewide land-grant public service

- Led statewide Extension and public service across agriculture, youth development, community and economic development, family nutrition and health, and education innovation.
- Managed federal and state partnerships, research infrastructure, facilities development, workforce engagement, and community impact programming.
- Served on the President's Cabinet with responsibility for a large federal and state portfolio and a professional staff of more than one hundred.

1890 Research Administrator 2010 – 2019

Research administration and program development

- Managed sponsored activity, program development, and execution of the 1890 land-grant research mission.

Senior Extension Director, Community and Economic Development 2000 – 2009

Extension programming and applied public service

- Designed and implemented programs fostering business and economic development opportunity across South Carolina communities.

Core competencies

Chief academic officer leadership · Faculty affairs, tenure and promotion · Curriculum, assessment and program review · Accreditation and institutional effectiveness · Cabinet and board engagement · Research enterprise leadership · Academic and sponsored budgeting · Legislative and USDA-NIFA relations · Fiscal stewardship and audit compliance · Capital and infrastructure oversight · Strategic planning

SELECTED EXECUTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Evidence-linked institutional outcomes

Academic & institutional transformation

- Led creation of the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Advanced research and Extension capacity during the period in which the institution moved to Carnegie R2 classification.
- Aligned academic, research, compliance, finance, and public-service priorities around institutional performance.

Student success & social mobility

- 86% four-year graduation rate within a 150-student scholarship cohort.
- 94% employment or graduate-school placement.
- \$5.8M in full scholarships, mentoring, and experiential learning through the Agriculture Innovation Scholarship Program.

Resource growth & accountability

- \$65M+ in new external grants and contracts.
- \$57M+ in additional state and partner resources.
- 80% state-appropriation increase across four budget cycles.
- \$23M+ annual portfolio stewardship with zero audit findings.

Infrastructure & capacity

- 10 facilities totaling approximately 90,000 square feet statewide.
- \$30M in capital funding for research, Extension, and academic infrastructure.
- Facilities master planning and modernization of reporting and data systems, including Salesforce-based compliance and decision-support systems.

Statewide and international reach

- 1890 programming delivered across 32 of South Carolina's 46 counties.
- More than 50,000 4-H participants in a reporting year, supported by 42 summer camps.
- Agricultural engagement with The Gambia, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire.

SCHOLAR-PRACTITIONER RECORD

Research that extends executive practice

An active research program in agricultural economics, international trade, food safety standards and non-tariff measures, institutional governance, organizational trust, and land-grant university leadership.

Peer-reviewed publications

Karemera, D., Xiong, B., Smalls, G., & Whitesides, L. (2022). The political economy of maximum residue limits: A long-term health perspective. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 73(3), 709–719. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-9552.12476>

Karemera, D., Xiong, B., & Whitesides, L. (2020). A state-level analysis of the impact of a U.S.–EU harmonization of food safety standards on U.S. exports of fruits and vegetables. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 42(4), 856–869.

Karemera, D., Koo, W., Smalls, G., & Whitesides, L. (2015). Trade creation, diversion effects and exchange rate volatility in the global meat trade. *Journal of Economic Integration*, 30(2), 240–268.

Davis, B., Karemera, D., & Whitesides, L. (2013). The intertemporal stability of the US money demand function: New evidence from switching regressions. *Applied Economics Letters*, 20(6), 581–586. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2012.720006>

Hamidi, N., Massoudi, R., Shrestha, S., Lalmansingh, L., Pascoe, T., Oriakhi, C., & Whitesides, L. (2014). Waste plastics: Pyrolysis of powdered and powder-free laboratory examination waste gloves. *British Journal of Applied Science & Technology*, 4(6), 967–1019.

Convergent University Research Program

- The Convergent University: A conceptual framework for constituent alignment, governance intelligence, and trust production in complex public institutions (co-author).
- Institutional trust as a strategic asset: Developing the Institutional Trust Index for public and land-grant universities (co-author).

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Education & credentials

Doctor of Business Administration — International Business *Argosy University*

Master of Science — Management *Southern Wesleyan University*

Bachelor of Science — Computer Science, minor in Mathematics *South Carolina State University*

Executive & leadership development

- Association of Governing Boards, Institute for Leadership and Governance in Higher Education, Class of 2026–27.
- Certificate in Higher Education Leadership, Harvard University; Certificate in Executive Leadership, Cornell University.
- Certificate in Fundraising, Temple University, Harrisburg.
- Certified Research Administrator (CRA).

EXECUTIVE EVIDENCE & PUBLIC RECORD

The CV is a map into the evidence.

Major executive outcomes are connected to public reporting, institutional media, scholarly records, credentials, and governed evidence states rather than presented as standalone claims.

News & public record Verified Times and Democrat archive and institutional reporting	Evidence in motion Institutional and public video mapped to CV competencies	Scholarship Peer-reviewed publications and governed working-paper records
Credentials Degree and certification verification lane	Evidence register Claim status, provenance, and verification architecture	Executive search Committee-oriented search across competencies and records

Independent R2 evidence. Independent News 19 / WLTX reporting documents South Carolina State University's Carnegie R2 research status during Dr. Whitesides's executive research-leadership period.

“Leadership is a commitment to advance people, programs, and the public good.”

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