



Jeff Compher | Principal

Based in North Carolina, Jeff Compher excels in leading searches for senior-level administrators at a diverse array of institutions. He draws upon more than 25 years of experience at leading colleges and universities, including previous roles in athletics, student affairs, advancement, and as assistant to the chancellor.

Jeff's work is built upon establishing close rapport and trust with clients, ensuring that presidents, trustees, search committees, and key constituents are fully aligned with the unique challenges and opportunities each search presents. In sourcing candidates and reaching out into the marketplace, he relies upon an extensive network of former peers and leaders with whom he has established relationships over many years.

Jeff's background is notably marked by his comprehensive leadership skills and strategic vision. He has demonstrated a consistent commitment to advancing educational missions, enhancing diversity and inclusion, upholding rigorous ethical standards and compliance, ensuring financial prudence, and spearheading impactful fundraising and strategic planning initiatives.

Prior to joining WittKieffer, Jeff managed a complex NCAA Division I athletics program, overseeing 450 student-athletes and 170 staff members. His role extended beyond athletics as he played a crucial role in the university's strategic planning efforts and was a key member of the chancellor's executive council. This experience underscores his capacity to navigate and lead within complex organizational structures, aligning them with broader institutional goals. Jeff also experienced widespread success in athletics leadership roles at Northern Illinois University and Western Carolina University. He also held significant roles at the University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, and North Carolina State University, all contributing to his depth of experience in navigating the complexities of higher education administration.



Suzanne Teer | Senior Partner

Suzanne Teer places a premium upon building rewarding, long-term relationships with clients, striving to understand the unique culture of each institution and compelling nature of each leadership opportunity. She approaches her work from the perspective of a true partner. She is highly responsive and service-oriented and carries this approach through to maintaining close, communicative relationships with the executive candidates she engages.

Based in New Mexico, Suzanne supports leadership searches for presidents, vice presidents, provosts, deans and other key roles across all academic areas, with particular expertise in science, research-oriented and engineering-related searches as well as advancement and philanthropy searches. Her clients include top-tier research universities, independent

research institutes, public regional universities and leading private universities. Suzanne brings to her search work extensive experience in fundraising within the field of education spanning top-tier research universities, academic medical centers, liberal arts colleges and independent schools.

Prior to joining WittKieffer in 2016, Suzanne spent 20 years with the University of California raising funds to support the physical and biomedical sciences where she developed her passion for science and research. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of Development for the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and member of the advancement executive team at the University of California, San Francisco. Suzanne has also held senior leadership positions in advancement at the University of California, Irvine. Suzanne is the past Chair and Vice Chair of the National Association of Cancer Center Development Officers (NACCDO) and has held board roles with District VII of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). She is also a certified professional coach.



Sandra Chu | Consultant

Sandra Chu supports clients by taking a 30,000-foot view of their leadership challenges while also paying close attention to the details of an executive search. Sandra supports a range of executive recruitments for WittKieffer, giving special attention to creating a broad, diverse pool of candidates for given roles. Sandra has more than 20 years of experience in leadership development, project and relationship management, and executive recruiting. She produces results through innovative, motivational, and authentic leadership.

Prior to joining WittKieffer, Sandra was a principal with Two Tigers Consulting in Geneva, New York. In this role, she coached individuals and organizations in leadership development, including administering DISC behavioral evaluations. Concurrently, she was a consultant for MMS Consulting of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, where she project-managed two national conferences on student health and wellness in the K-12 space. A former all-Ivy League athlete, Sandra served as a collegiate rowing coach for 22 years, mentoring athletes at Princeton University, Kansas State University, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Across these campuses and at New York University, she also had responsibilities as faculty, in admissions, for Middle States accreditation, with development, and for DEI strategic planning and implementation. She collaborated with faculty to develop programs in global studies and leadership education. Among her coaching accomplishments, she mentored 26 All-Americans and 248 All-Academics and was named national, regional, and league coach of the year.

Sandra's passion is for education and athletics broadly. Her volunteer work includes founding Geneva Robotics, a competitive robotics program on the FIRST Lego® platform which focused on serving students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM; serving on strategic planning committees for the Geneva City School District; and giving back to her rowing community as a starting line announcer for the Head of the Charles® Regatta in Boston, Massachusetts.

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