

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

LAURIE C. WILDER

PRESIDENT

As President, Laurie Wilder is responsible for the strategic leadership and day-to-day operations of Parker Executive Search.

Laurie has been with the firm for 21 years and is responsible for leading the development and delivery of successful recruiting strategies and best practices across the firm's core practice areas.

Laurie has been involved in all aspects of the search process and has successfully conducted over 1,000 leadership searches. Her experience spans across AAU public research universities, regional and state colleges, as well as private liberal arts institutions. She has recruited for leadership positions across all levels of higher education and collegiate athletics. Laurie has also actively worked on middle- and senior-level searches for a variety of corporate clients in the sales, marketing, material management, logistics, human resources, general management, operations, manufacturing, construction, and finance functions.

Laurie enjoys developing lasting relationships with her clients and feels a strong sense of ownership and responsibility for meeting their unique needs. The confidence that clients place in Parker Executive Search inspires her as President to never lose sight of the challenges and sense of purpose that drives the entire Parker Executive Search team.

Laurie is often an invited speaker to higher education associations and enjoys discussing the role of executive search in academic leadership recruitment. She is a past board member of the Atlanta Tipoff Club, which annually awards basketball's Naismith Award. She also has been a speaker at the Executive Leadership Institute for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators and for the NCAA Champions Forum.

Laurie is driven by opportunities to give back to her community. She is an active volunteer for Atlanta based Feeding the Multitude. She plays a key role in the volunteer leadership of the Wesleyan Arts Alliance.

Laurie graduated with honors from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business Administration and an emphasis in management. Before joining Parker Executive Search, she was vice president of corporate relocation for Harry Norman Realtors and worked in sales for ConAgra Corporation.

Laurie lives in Johns Creek, Ga., with her husband, Preston, and their children, Maguire and Holden. They are members of North Point Community Church.



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PORSHA WILLIAMS

VICE PRESIDENT

Porsha Williams is vice president of higher education for Parker Executive Search.

She leads business, client and candidate development for the firm's higher education practice.

Her career with the firm began as Chief of Staff to the President and quickly advanced through the ranks to her current leadership role. She is responsible for client management, candidate development and recruitment, and successful search execution. Porsha has significant experience recruiting world class leaders among colleges and universities across the country. She has successfully completed over 200 searches. In addition, Porsha has conducted substantial work for Fortune 500 companies in the financial services industry.

Prior to joining the firm in 2005, Porsha worked in sales and management for the Hertz Corporation and was quickly promoted to branch manager in Tucker, Ga. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in speech communications.

Porsha is passionate about diversity recruitment and finding opportunities for talented minority candidates. She also is an organizer and advisor to Feeding the Multitude, an organization that helps feed underprivileged youth and families.

Porsha lives in Dacula, Ga, with her husband, Courtney, and their daughters Kai and Kendall.



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JACOB ANDERSON PRINCIPAL

Jacob has been with Parker Executive Search since 2012 and serves as a Principal within the Higher Education Practice. He has broad based knowledge of Higher Education with a specialized expertise in Academic Health Sciences.

As a Principal, he is charged with working to identify and recruit strong leaders for each of the firm's clients. Jacob works in close collaboration with the firm's Vice Presidents on various search responsibilities to include setting a strategy for the recruitment of qualified individuals, researching and sourcing potential candidates, interviewing and presenting candidates for review, managing the committee and finalist interview processes, and ensuring clients reach closure with the preferred candidate. Jacob also partners with the firm's Vice Presidents on new client engagement and business development.

Jacob is originally from the Washington D.C. area. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia Honor's Program with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and was a 4 year recipient of the University of Georgia Charter Scholarship. During his time in college, Jacob spent eight weeks studying and living with a family in Seville, Spain. He also interned and worked as a research consultant for Parker Executive Search. Following graduation, he directed the website redesign of a leading Real Estate Auction firm. After completing the project, Jacob joined Parker Executive Search as an Associate in the Academic Health Sciences practice.

Jacob enjoys traveling and college football. He currently resides in Brookhaven, Georgia.



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JULIE PALMER JOHNSON

ASSOCIATE

As an Associate, Julie is tasked with supporting the firm by conducting research on institutions and candidates, coordinating logistics throughout the search process, assisting with recruitment, and working on key business development initiatives including preparing proposals. She is incredibly grateful to be part of the Parker Executive Search team's Higher Education practice, and views helping universities recruit impactful leaders as the most rewarding part of her job.

Prior to joining Parker Executive Search in 2019, Julie's experience was primarily in Student Affairs and University Advancement - two areas she is still very passionate about. She spent over four years at the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, most recently as Senior Manager of Student & Young Alumni Engagement. During her time at Georgia Tech, she was heavily involved in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and served as a faculty member for the Student & Young Alumni Engagement conference in 2018 and 2019.

Julie is originally from Chicago. She graduated cum laude from George Mason University's Honors Program with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Government & International Politics and Interpersonal & Organizational Communication. She earned a Master of Arts in College Student Personnel at Bowling Green State University. Julie has always had a passion for student development, and continues to serve in a variety of advisory capacities for her sorority and alma maters.

Julie lives in Atlanta with her husband, Michael, and their dog, Bowie. A self-proclaimed "foodie", she enjoys trying new restaurants and exploring different neighborhoods in Atlanta. In her free time, she loves gardening, traveling, and playing board games.



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