

Dr. Stephanie Bowlin, EdD, PA, DFAAPA

*Senior Vice President for University Compliance, Ethics, and Culture
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Dr. Stephanie Bowlin is a distinguished leader in healthcare education, accreditation, and administration, with a career spanning clinical practice, academic leadership, and institutional governance. She currently serves as the Senior Vice President for the Office of Special Projects and as the Acting Division Head for University Compliance, Ethics, and Culture (UCEC) at Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU). As the SVP for Special Projects, she provides strategic guidance, ensuring synergy and optimization across academic and operational units. She has been instrumental in advancing the University's mission, fostering institutional integrity, and driving strategic initiatives. As the Division Head for UCEC, Dr. Bowlin oversees the Human Resources Office (HR), Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity (OTIXEO), Office of Humanism, and University Policy Office (UPO) to ensure compliance across the University.

A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Bowlin began her career in healthcare after earning her Physician Assistant (PA) certification from Charles R. Drew University in 1981. She later obtained a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from California State University, Dominguez Hills in 1986, a Master's in Health Professions Education from the College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1992, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne in 1997. She holds the distinction of being one of the first women of color and PAs in California to earn a doctorate and serve as a Dean.

Dr. Bowlin joined WesternU in 1990 as an instructor and rapidly advanced through leadership roles. In 1992, she was appointed Chair of WesternU's PA program and awarded tenure as an associate professor. By 1998, she became Dean of the College of Allied Health Professions (now the College of Health Sciences), overseeing programs in Physician Assistant Education, Physical Therapy, and Health Sciences. She held this position for 20 years, achieving exemplary accreditation outcomes, high national board passing rates, and an impressive 97% retention rate. During her tenure, she also taught leadership courses to graduate students, helping to develop future healthcare professionals and leaders.

Dr. Bowlin believes in servant leadership and has implemented this practice with excellence during her tenure at WesternU. She was appointed Deputy Chief Operations Officer (2017–2019), promoted to Senior Vice President, and served as the founding Chief of the Office of Mission Integration (OMI) and Institutional Engagement, Planning, and Effectiveness (IEPE) (2020–2023). Her servant leadership style has supported faculty, staff, and students in achieving significant milestones, including securing grants, enhancing research, and earning national recognition for the Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant

programs. When she was promoted to Senior Vice President in 2020, she worked collaboratively with WesternU's senior leadership and Chief Operating Officer during the COVID-19 pandemic to help ensure the University's return on mission.

Her portfolio includes oversight of the WesternU Staff Council (WSC), Institutional Research and Effectiveness (IRE), the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity (OTIXEO), the Harriet K. and Philip Pumerantz Library, Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (CDHP), Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), Assessment, Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness (ALOE), and the Office of Operational Excellence. Additionally, she has served as co-chair of the University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC), vice chair and now chair (2023–2024) of the University Executive Operations Team (UEOT), and is a member of the Board of Trustees Scholarship Committee and Institutional Compensation Philosophy Committee (ICPC). She also co-chairs the Designing WesternU's Future Committee (Strategic Planning) and currently serves as chair of the Threat Assessment Team (TAT).

Beyond academia, Dr. Bowlin has extensive clinical experience. She provided pediatric care at Tower Medical Group (1988–2000), practiced family medicine and urgent care at Kaiser Permanente (Bellflower/Anaheim), and served as a per diem PA in pediatrics in Riverside, CA (1996–2006). She is also the CEO and founder of SportsMate, LLC, a company dedicated to providing sports physicals for athletes.

Dr. Bowlin is widely recognized for her contributions to accreditation and professional organizations. She has served as a peer evaluator, site evaluator, and assistant team chair for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) since 2008. Her leadership roles include Chair of the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), Education Chair for the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) and the California Academy of PAs (CAPA), and editorial board member for the *Journal of PA Education* since 1997. As of May 2025, Dr. Bowlin was appointed to serve on the Board of The House of Ruth, Pomona, further extending her commitment to community service and advocacy.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bowlin has received numerous accolades, including the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Don and Jean Griva Memorial Award, the President's Award for her leadership on the WSCUC Steering Committee, and the Distinguished Fellow recognition from the AAPA. She also served as a Provost Fellow at WesternU for two years.

Dr. Bowlin's influence extends beyond administration and academia. She has authored publications on retention strategies for minority PA students and clinical practice guidelines.

In 2024, Dr. Bowlin expanded her professional impact by becoming a consultant with Martin Massey, LLC, where she applies her expertise in leadership, accreditation, and institutional effectiveness to support organizations in meeting compliance standards.

A dedicated mentor and advocate for servant leadership, Dr. Bowlin has made a lasting impact on faculty, staff, and students. Her leadership has helped secure grants, enhance research, and elevate recognition of the Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant professions. Her strategic oversight during the COVID-19 pandemic helped ensure WesternU's continued success.

Outside of her professional commitments, Dr. Bowlin values spending quality time with her family. She and her husband raised two children and cherish moments with their five grandchildren, often taking them on new adventures and participating in community activities. Her goal is to leave a legacy of faith to her grandchildren.

Dr. Bowlin's dedication to innovation and leadership, as well as her commitment to educational excellence, continues to shape the future of healthcare education and institutional governance. Her unwavering focus on mentorship, accreditation, and healthcare leadership ensures a lasting impact on the next generation of professionals in the field.