



Whitman Today

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Meet John Johnson, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion



Hello, Whitman. I am Dr. John Johnson (he/him/his), the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion here at Whitman College. Like our record-breaking Class of 2025, I too am new to Whitman, having arrived just two months ago. I am pleased to join a community dedicated to the academic enterprise and that believes in the transformative power of education.

Also like the Class of 2025, I bring with me to Whitman a healthy degree of excitement, anxiety and hope. I am excited by what I see as an institutional commitment to inclusion, evinced by the activities surrounding last year's academic theme and other recent efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at the college. I am anxious about our collective capacity to thrive and respond to the demands of higher education while still reeling from a tumultuous and divisive 18 months and our ongoing struggles with pandemic fatigue, mask mandates and emergent variants. And I am filled with hope. My interactions with a range of different members of this community over the last two months have been reassuring, inspiring and portend the beautiful collaborations and DEI progress that is to come.

Guided by a philosophy of [Inclusive Excellence](#), I believe in promoting diversity without dominance, equity without benevolence, inclusion without othering, and belonging without assimilation. This means working to create an environment where someone who is in the numerical minority would not and should not feel like their needs or concerns are less important. Creating an environment that acknowledges that the playing field is not equal and does not regard efforts to level the field as charity or generosity. Building a community where no one is degraded, diminished, ridiculed or marginalized based on their identity/identities. And a culture where no one is expected to assimilate or present themselves differently in order to be accepted.

Diversity and Inclusion are core values at Whitman and every area, unit, department and individual can contribute to making the college more inclusive in their own way. I look forward to joining you all in this necessary work. [The time is now.](#)

What Can You Do in WhitLife?

[WhitLife](#) is our online student activities portal where you can:

- Browse the list of [student clubs and organizations](#)
- Get information on [upcoming events](#)
- Discover opportunities to hone your [leadership skills](#)

Find a group that sounds interesting? Use the "Join" feature to connect with club/organizational leaders and get involved!

Student leaders, make sure you enter all your club/organization events in WhitLife so that everyone finds out about them! You can also sign up for tabling in Reid Campus Center or to advertise on the digital signboard in the Reid foyer.

Announcements



quarterlife Magazine Hiring Student Workers

Are you passionate about writing? Web design? Art? Perhaps even "grammar"? Would you like to gain experience working on a magazine? Do you want to join a funky group of people who love art + media? You're in luck! quarterlife, the spunkiest publication on campus, is hiring! For more info about positions and to apply, [check out their website](#). Applications are due Friday, September 3, at midnight (in whatever time zone tickles your fancy). Send any questions, comments and amphibian facts to quarterlife@whitman.edu.

Campus Post Office Temporary Schedule Change

The campus post office window in Reid will close at 3 p.m. for the remainder of this week and deliveries will be made to academic and administrative buildings once a day after 3 p.m. If staff or faculty need to receive their packages before that, they are welcome to pick them up at the post office window prior to 3 p.m.

COVID-19 Dashboard Update

As Coronavirus Task Force Chair Peter Harvey noted in his email to campus yesterday, we are planning to update our COVID-19 Dashboard with data on our baseline testing results as well as testing done due to symptoms or exposure. These numbers will be shared in the dashboard as well as in Whitman Today as soon as they are complete and verified.

[Visit the COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

COVID-19 Case on Campus

Any positive COVID cases in our campus community will be noted in Whitman Today in compliance with state regulations.

In accordance with new Washington state Labor & Industries employer requirements, we are notifying the campus community that in the past 24 hours, two people with Whitman access were confirmed as positive for COVID-19. These people are now in isolation for 10 days in accordance with our campus and CDC guidelines. Though the likelihood of transmission is low due to our [campus COVID-19 protocols](#), it is possible that others may have been exposed to COVID-19. There is nothing you need to do at this time aside from following our campus COVID-19 protocols. Anyone identified through the contact tracing process as a close contact (within 6 ft. for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) will be personally notified.

Happening Today

- 8 a.m.–3 p.m. [Round 2 Baseline COVID-19 Testing](#)
For everyone whose Round 1 test was Tuesday, August 24.
- noon & 7 p.m. [Health Professions Advising Info Session](#)
The Office of Health Professions Advising (OHPA) will provide specific information regarding course requirements for specific career pathways, core competencies, extracurricular involvement, the Health Professions Advisory Committee and resources offered by the OHPA.
- 5 p.m. [Whitman College Women's Volleyball vs. Walla Walla University](#)
- 6 p.m. [Whitman College Men's Soccer vs. Northwest University](#)

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have an event you'd like to share with campus? Submit the information to the [Events Calendar](#).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).



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