

New Face to lead Texas Wesleyan

The search was long and strenuous. However, Texas Wesleyan has a new man at the helm. James Newcastle, 49, will be leading the charge as the university's next president. His tenure will begin on September 1st of this semester.

This search for a new school president had come about with the resignation of our former school president. Due to family obligations, he decided to relocate to Athens, Georgia. He will become the new provost at the University of Georgia.

Newcastle comes from Fargo, North Dakota. He had previously served as the provost from West Northeastern University in Fargo. He served that position for 4 years. Previously, he had been the chairman of the department of communications at Indiana State University, where he had also been a faculty member for 12 years.

Glowing regards follow the new president, as Burt Sosa, a professor of English and a member of the search chair had a positive message to the news of Newcastle's hiring.

"We had so many great candidates but Jim really came to the top of the pile. He was someone who had the background we needed as a university leader and the energy we need to keep the university moving in a positive direction. He jumped off the page, so to speak, and was so much more than his resume dictated."

The compliments and good words seemed to follow Newcastle from all the way up in Fargo. Paul Flipperton, the president of West Northeastern University, was adamant in the confidence placed in Newcastle.

"He really helped me get my feet under me and he really inspired me. That's when I'll remember most. His legacy on this campus will not be forgotten any time soon, thanks in large part to his fundraising efforts for the journalism endowment. The 'News of the World' project

will serve as a great opportunity for our students for many years to come. That would not have been possible without Jim's efforts. I wish him well as president and I hope he does extremely well for the students and faculty there.”

It is with this penchant for being involved with students, that has helped Newcastle make a name for himself. He helped with the creation of a \$16.8 million endowment for the West Northeastern University Department of journalism. This endowment created a nationwide news service staffed entirely by students and overseen by professors, which became the first of its own kind.

One student is already eager to work with Newcastle. Ella Sdeli, a senior political science major and the head of student government, provided her excitement.

“I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Newcastle when he visited campus and he struck me as a bright, energetic leader. I think he's got exactly what this university needs to push us forward into the future.”

Newcastle currently lives in Fargo with his wife, Beth. They have two sons, Bob and Bill, who are 21 and 25 years of age, respectively. He plans to relocate in July to be able to learn more about the university, as well as the city of Fort Worth.