



Dr. Wes Brooks

Vice President and Dean of Students

A fair playing field

Ensuring the college is in compliance with Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

An all-hazards approach

Planning and implementing basic but critical emergency drills, and discussing best practices to keep the campus community safe.

A welcoming, inclusive community

Collaborating with multiple departments on campus to meet the different expectations of an increasingly diverse student body.

A commitment to well-being

Applying the National Wellness Institute holistic six-dimension approach to wellness — emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual, occupational and social — as the stigma of mental health dissipates and more students need assistance.

Dr. Wes Brooks doesn't hesitate when he says: "I would not be where I am today without having been a college athlete."

The former basketball guard for the Grand View College Vikings, Dr. Brooks has been working in student affairs since 2002, the last six years as vice president and dean of student life at Augustana College.

"It's the understanding of hard work, teamwork, communication, even wins and losses," he said. "Being prepared for curve balls, and understanding that when you can't do something as an individual, your team can get you what you need. I absolutely could not have handled COVID-19 the way I did without having been an athlete."

Dr. Brooks was instrumental in helping lead the 17-member Augustana Strong Task Force, which first met in March 2020 to create and communicate the college's plans to keep the campus community safe during the pandemic.

"That was the biggest leadership challenge of my career," said Dr. Brooks. "Leaning into the experts for information and guidance; respecting the opinions of everyone at the table; determining policy; communicating that policy to faculty, staff, students and parents; the emotional highs and lows ... a challenge that continued for months."

Dr. Brooks' responsibilities today continue to touch all corners of campus. He helps lead the college's emergency preparedness planning, and is involved with the residential life program; diversity, equity and inclusion programming; student government; athletics; Greek life and more. His focus is more on the non-academic side of college life, which he feels is equally important in helping students find their path and preparing them to lead in their workplaces and communities.

His journey is a perfect example. He had mapped out his path, but in his junior year of undergrad, he realized he didn't have the passion needed to teach high school history. That's also when he recognized the impact of his involvement in athletics and other extracurriculars. He knew then that student affairs in higher education was his calling.

"I work with a group of student leaders as part of my job now, and when things get bumpy, I turn to them," he said. "I feel good about their accomplishments. It's really exciting to see them balancing all that they have going on and growing into effective leaders."

Dr. Wes Brooks

Available for commentary on

- Preparing a campus community for emergency scenarios.
- The importance of a residential life program that transitions students from residence halls to off-campus independent living.
- How Greek life can provide an environment for growth in leadership, conflict resolution and service.
- Strategies to improve student success and retention.
- Benefits of participating in collegiate athletics.
- The value of a liberal arts education.

Professional experience

- Vice President and Dean of Students, Iowa Wesleyan University
- Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, Wartburg College
- Director of Residential Life, Grand View University
- Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, Grand View University

Education

- Ph.D., higher education, Iowa State University
- M.A., educational leadership and policy-studies, Iowa State University
- B.A. liberal arts, history, Grand View College

Augustana College engagement

- Director of Orientation and Chair of Orientation and Advising Working Group
- Chair of the Emergency Planning Task Force
- Chair of Student Policy Committee
- Advisor to Student Government Association
- Member of:
 - o President's Cabinet
 - o Faculty Athletics Committee
 - o Coordinated Community Response Team
 - o Behavioral Intervention Team
 - o Title IX Team
 - o Diversity Council
 - o Bias Education and Support Team
 - o Institutional Assessment Committee
 - o Financial Aid Appeals Committee

Trainings facilitated

- CliftonStrengths (certified coach)
- Emergency response tabletop drills
- Co-curricular assessment workshops

Professional organizations

- National Association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
- Association for Student Conduct Administration