



Dr. Melissa Canady Wargo is Chief of Staff for Western Carolina University. In that capacity, Dr. Wargo serves as primary advisor to the Chancellor and as chief external affairs officer for the University. As a member of the Chancellor's senior cabinet, she has responsibility for system board relations, state and federal relations, marketing services, communications and public relations, printing services, and special events. Dr. Wargo has played a pivotal leadership role in Western Carolina University's response to and implementation of the NC Promise

Tuition Program.

Dr. Wargo has over 25 years of experience working in higher education at four universities. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology and her Ph.D. in Transatlantic History from the University of Texas at Arlington. In 2017, she completed the Crisis Leadership in Higher Education Program from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. And in 2014, she completed the Institute for Educational Management from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

Dr. Wargo also is active with her local community. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Blue Ridge Public Radio, a member of the Rotary Club of Sylva, NC, a former member of the Jackson County Schools Community Council, and past president of the Cullowhee Valley School PTA.

A native of Texas, Dr. Wargo is married to her husband, Steve, with whom she has two children.