

Listmakers: Mayor, astrophysicist and other dream jobs of local university presidents



Wim Wiewel, president, Portland State University

Most important lesson learned: The perfect is the enemy of the good.

First choice for a new career: Mayor or real estate developer. I love city building.

What word best describes you: Direct.



Judi Johansen, president, Marylhurst University

Most important lesson learned: A whole person engages in lifelong learning.

First choice for a new career: Heading up an NGO focused on food systems and social justice.

What word best describes you: Interested.



Stephen E. Thorsett, president, Willamette University

Most important lesson learned: Life is unpredictable and change will come. A great education doesn't teach us about today's world so much as it teaches us how to learn about tomorrow's.

First choice for a new career: My last one: I loved being an astrophysicist.

What word best describes you: Curious.



Mel Netzhammer, president, Washington State University Vancouver

Most important lesson learned: Our current generation of students has the potential to bring extraordinary, positive changes to our world. We should invest in our youth.

First choice for a new career: Architect.

What word best describes you: Interested.



© 2012 Matthew Miller Photographer

Thomas Manley, president, PNCA Pacific Northwest College of Art

Most important lesson learned: "It's always impossible - until it's done," Nelson Mandela.

First choice for a new career: Writing and translating poetry.

What word best describes you: Imaginative.



Thomas L. Hellie, president, Linfield College

Most important lesson learned: A college president must play both managerial and symbolic roles. While a president must be tactful, open to many perspectives and willing to change, one's values must ultimately guide important decisions. For a successful tenure, then, one's values must align well with the institution one serves.

First choice for a new career: Attendant at a wine tasting room.

What word best describes you: Curious.



Image: Steve Hambuchen

Barry Glassner, president, Lewis & Clark

Most important lesson learned: Always pause before you hit "send."

First choice for a new career: My childhood hobby has always been my dream job.

What word best describes you: Educator. I can't think of a role more rewarding, interesting, or important to the future.



David J. Schleich, president, National College of Natural Medicine

Most important lesson learned: Health is not a market to be monetized.

First choice for a new career: Novelist.

What word best describes you: Tenacious.