Our Mission

The University of North Carolina Wilmington, the state’s coastal university, is dedicated to the integration of teaching and mentoring with research and service. Our commitment to student engagement, creative inquiry, critical thinking, thoughtful expression and responsible citizenship is expressed in our baccalaureate and master’s programs, as well as doctoral programs in areas of expertise that serve state needs. Our culture reflects our values of diversity and globalization, ethics and integrity, and excellence and innovation.

Our Vision

UNCW will be recognized for excellence in everything it does, for its global mindset and for its community engagement.

History

- **1947**: Wilmington College founded
- **1961**: College Road campus opened
- **1963**: Granted four-year status
- **1969**: Became the 6th university in the UNC System
- **1977**: Offered first graduate programs
- **1985**: Became a comprehensive level university
- **1989**: Became a doctoral university with high research activity
- **2018**: Became a doctoral university with high research activity
- **2021**: Announced Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW, a $100 million university-wide initiative
- **2022**: 75th anniversary

Sources:
- UNCW Undergraduate Catalogue
- UNCW Archives Randall Library
- Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education

Excellence

- 96th among Top 100 Public Universities
  - U.S. News & World Report list of Best Colleges 2021
- 19th Best Online Bachelor’s Program Nationally
  - U.S. News
- 2022 Best Regional Colleges
  - The Princeton Review
- Elevated to “Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity”
  - Carnegie
Jose V. Sartarelli is the sixth chancellor and ninth leader of the University North Carolina Wilmington. He brings more than 35 years of professional experience to UNCW. Under his leadership, UNCW is focused on diversity and globalization, ethics and integrity, and excellence and innovation.

During Chancellor Sartarelli’s tenure, the university has implemented its 2016-2021 Strategic Plan; has set records for annual enrollment, graduation and philanthropic giving; increased community, military and international partnerships; enhanced online educational offerings; and added several new academic programs. The university publicly launched Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW, which set a $100 million goal, and supported the launch of the first satellite sent into space by a UNC System institution. Chancellor Sartarelli guided the university through challenges in the aftermath of Hurricanes Florence and Dorian, and oversaw $450 million in planned and storm-related campus improvements. Recently completed projects include renovations to Dobo Hall, construction of Veterans Hall, new student housing, and other academic and administrative support facilities. Under his leadership, UNCW rose to meet challenges posed by COVID-19 and continued to grow, with more than 18,000 students enrolled in fall 2021.

A native of Brazil, Chancellor Sartarelli received a bachelor of business administration in marketing from the São Paulo School of Business Administration (Fundação Getulio Vargas) in São Paulo, Brazil. He then attended Michigan State University as a Fulbright Scholar, earning an M.B.A. in marketing and a doctorate in business administration.

The Chancellor, who took office July 1, 2015, previously served at West Virginia University, where he was the Milan Puskar Dean of the College of Business and Economics and the university’s chief global officer. Before transitioning into higher education, Chancellor Sartarelli spent three decades in international marketing and management. After steering UNCW through extraordinary growth and spearheading the development of innovative new degree programs, Chancellor Sartarelli will retire effective June 30, 2022.