

Pierre Harter is the Associate Vice President for Industry and Defense Programs, Research Operations at Wichita State University (WSU) as well as Director of Research and Development at the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) at WSU. In these roles, Pierre oversees R&D programs, identifies opportunities for new programs and develops growth strategies.

Prior to joining WSU, Pierre was Executive Director of Advanced Manufacturing Strategy for Spirit AeroSystems with previous executive roles in program management and R&D. Prior to Spirit, he was an Engineering Director at Bombardier Learjet. Prior to Learjet, he worked in Denver Colorado as a consultant in the aerospace industry, was a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Designated Engineering Representative (DER), and held a variety of engineering and leadership positions at Adam Aircraft Industries developing and certifying general aviation aircraft.

A Wichita State alumnus, Pierre received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering ('98/'00) and worked in the NIAR composites lab while in school. More recently, he received his MBA in 2019 from Newman University and is now an adjunct faculty member (part-time) for the business school. Pierre also serves on the Industry Advisory Boards for the WSU College of Engineering and the Aerospace Engineering Department, the Newman MBA advisory board and he currently serves as Chair of the WSU Board of Trustees.

