Purdue University seeks an individual with vision and demonstrated leadership skills to work in a very innovative setting as the Director of the Discovery Learning Center in Discovery Park on the West Lafayette, Indiana campus (http://www.purdue.edu/dp/dlc). Since its inception in March 2003, the Discovery Learning Center’s mission has been to advance research that revolutionizes learning in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The Center focuses on creating, developing, and nurturing interdisciplinary research that contributes to: the science of learning, the design of innovative educational programs, and the development of interactive learning technologies. Approximately 176 faculty members from within the ten colleges of the University participate in the Center.

The Director of the Discovery Learning Center is expected to utilize the unique infrastructure of Discovery Park and Purdue’s extensive recent investments in the science of learning in the STEM disciplines to combine discovery, engagement, and learning activities into a world class center at Purdue University. Discovery Park is home to Purdue’s large-scale interdisciplinary research and engagement programs where the entire spectrum of the mission of the land grant university is realized from fundamental and applied research to continuing education and economic development. Currently, Discovery Park is comprised of 10 interdisciplinary research centers and 4 buildings on a 40 acre site on campus. Groundbreaking for a new facility for the Discovery Learning Center occurred in September 2006.

The Director should hold a doctorate or equivalent and must have a distinguished record of accomplishments and scholarship commensurate with tenure at the Associate or Full Professor level in an appropriate academic department. Administrative experience in the leadership of multi-investigator research projects is desired, as is experience in helping to build new interdisciplinary programs integrating research, education, and engagement with non-academic constituencies. The Director reports to the Executive Director of Discovery Park and provides a leadership role for interdisciplinary learning programs on campus working closely with Academic Deans, Department Heads, Discovery Park researchers, the faculty affiliated with the Discovery Learning Center, and external stakeholders.

Nominations or applications should be submitted via e-mail to weiderhaft@purdue.edu. Applications should include a letter of interest that outlines qualifications and vision for the position, curriculum vita, and the name of three references (including their postal and e-mail addresses, and phone numbers). Review of applications will begin July 2, 2007 and will continue until the position is filled. Questions should be addressed to Dale Whittaker, Discovery Learning Center Search Committee Chair, dwhittak@purdue.edu or 765-494-8472.

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action Employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce. Women, minority applicants, and dual career couples are encouraged to apply.