Search for Director, Center for Environment, Discovery Park

A search is underway for the next Director of The Center for Environment (C4E) in Discovery Park. The review and interview process is scheduled to be completed before the end of the semester so that a new director will start during summer 2012. This is an internal search, and we welcome applications from Purdue West Lafayette faculty (application deadline is noon, April 16th).

Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their interest with their department head, as a center director is typically expected to focus 75% effort on the position. Applications should include a letter reflecting the applicant’s experience and vision for the position and C4E, as well as a current c.v. Applications should be sent electronically to Jill Wable (jwable@purdue.edu) no later than noon on April 16th. We anticipate that finalists for the position will give public presentations on their vision for C4E in early May.

If you have questions about the details of the position, please contact Jon Harbor (jharbor@purdue.edu). If you have questions about the search, please contact Otto Doering (doering@purdue.edu).

An important guiding document for C4E and the Director search is the recently completed C4E Task Force Report. This report is attached as the next 2 pages of this document.
Mission Statement:
The C4E mission is to facilitate and promote proactive, problem-driven research, learning, and outreach at Purdue focused on improving our understanding complex environmental systems, environmental stewardship, and sustainability to increase the university’s global impact and name recognition in this area.

Essential Director Qualities:
The ideal director will be a recognized leader in an environment-related area, well-respected in the local academic and larger community, and have a strong desire with documented experience for working with faculty at many levels to foster, promote, and advocate interdisciplinary environment-based research and educational initiatives across the university

Essential Expectations of a Director:
Expectations of the director include connecting faculty with existing focus groups, helping faculty across disciplines to come together around a particular focus area, and building collaborations between existing centers and research groups. The position will be a 50% to 75% time appointment.

In addition, to facilitate the ensure success of the Center we propose a 1-year and 3-year review and an active internal advisory board as well as input from external advisory members.

Vision Brief for the Discovery Park Center for the Environment (C4E)
The C4E mission is to facilitate and promote proactive, problem-driven research, learning, and outreach at Purdue focused on improving our understanding complex environmental systems, environmental stewardship, and sustainability to increase the university’s global impact and name recognition in this area. The ideal director will be a recognized leader in an environment-related area, well-respected in the local academic and larger community, and have a strong desire with documented experience for working with faculty at many levels to foster and promote interdisciplinary environment-based research and educational initiatives across the university. Expectations of the director include connecting faculty with existing focus groups, helping faculty across disciplines to come together around a particular focus area, and building collaborations between existing centers and research groups. The position will be a 50% to 75% time appointment.

Specific goals for the director include:

1. Promote long-term collaborations among faculty addressing some of the world’s most pressing environmental challenges. **Position Purdue to make more important contributions toward solving several of these grand challenges in the coming decades.**
2. Position Purdue to assume global leadership in sustainability and environmental issues that represent areas of strength among faculty at Purdue.
3. Work with faculty to identify, support, and build research communities in key areas of strength on campus for the long haul. **Help Purdue identify new and emerging challenges faced in addressing the complexity and sustainability of human and natural resource systems to be ready for funding opportunities and create them rather than waiting for**
or reacting to RFPs. Help coordinate new hiring initiatives across departments, and help in recruiting new, interdisciplinary faculty and graduate students in the environmental arena.

4. **Increase visibility and promote name recognition** of Purdue’s environmental and sustainability research and teaching both internally and externally, including actively maintaining a presence with funding agencies and program managers.

5. Help connect faculty and center expertise, including **helping connect faculty with existing centers as well as creating and supporting new centers or working groups** that enhance sustainability and the environment.

6. **Promote and facilitate the development of new and existing interdisciplinary, sustainability and environmental education programs for graduate and undergraduate students.** See supplemental section for detailed suggestions.

7. Work closely with the Director of University Sustainability as well as other administrators and stakeholders on **implementing the campus sustainability strategic plan.** Promote and facilitate the idea of Purdue’s campus as a “living laboratory” for sustainability issues.

8. **Help faculty and students with interests in sustainability and the environment** to interact and meet in a variety of settings, both more formal and more informal, to build relationships across areas of interest and departments.

9. Work closely and proactively with other stakeholders (e.g., the VP for Engagement, GPRI and TAP Energy Efficiency and Sustainability) to **increase impact** of sustainability research and education at Purdue on both public and private sectors, as well as community and public impact.

10. **Help build partnerships with business and industry** to promote application of Purdue research toward more sustainable industrial and manufacturing practices.

**Supplemental Information**

**Specific goal #6**, which is to “**Promote and facilitate the development of new and existing interdisciplinary, sustainability and environmental education programs for graduate and undergraduate students**”. For graduate programs this could include support for and integration with the ESE IGP, as well as a prominent role in new proposals for graduate environmental policy certificate programs, including those linked to GPRI, special graduate fellowships or post docs for students focused on environmental research issues. For undergraduate programs this could include support, promotion, and expansion of existing undergraduate programs such as the pre-ES, NRES, and DEEE programs, and facilitation of marketable undergraduate majors or minors related to environment studies associated with science and policy, and sustainability. Additional, the Director should serve to facilitate and promote course development across campus to fill existing gaps in the environmental area. Also comments were made that the Director should not marginalize facilitating and promoting specific disciplinary roles within the environmental area (i.e., don’t limit promotion to interdisciplinary initiative).

**Specific goal #10**, which is to “**WorkHelp build partnerships with business and industry** to promote application of Purdue research toward more sustainable industrial and manufacturing practices”. TAP can help make connections that support C4E initiatives, and if dissemination/training expectations are required in proposals, TAP might be a good option for nationwide delivery.