LEADING FACULTY PROGRAM
Office of the Provost
FY 2011-2012

Program Description

The Leading Faculty Program has been created with the strategic purpose of recruiting outstanding faculty scholars to Purdue. Potential Leading Faculty will be of international reputation and have the scientific credentials to transform an area of scholarly work at Purdue to preeminence. It is anticipated that candidates will have credentials for elected membership in one of the national academies or the equivalent, and be appropriate for appointment as a Distinguished Professor at Purdue.

Financial Resources

It is anticipated that for the duration of the current Strategic Plan, central resources will be available to support three to four leading faculty hires each year. Units that appoint Leading Faculty will be expected to contribute salary support equivalent to an Assistant Professor line. The Leading Faculty Program will typically provide the balance of the salary, as well as nonrecurring start-up funds agreed to with the appointment. In addition, an annual discretionary allocation of $40,000 will be provided when the faculty member is named a Distinguished Professor. Central support for salaries and discretionary allocations will be transferred as recurring funds to the units, with the understanding that these funds will return to the Provost if the faculty member leaves Purdue. Start-up funds will be nonrecurring allocations.

Review and Approval Process

Deans of units interested in recruiting a faculty member with Leading Faculty support should submit initial requests to the Provost's Office by September 1st, 2011 for the 2011-2012 Leading Faculty Program. Proposals can also be submitted during the year and will be considered subject to available funding.

Proposals should include the name(s) and credentials of potential candidates and the rationale for the hire in light of the potential to lead an emerging area of strength or a well established area of strength for Purdue. Although evidence of global leadership in the candidate’s field of inquiry is essential for consideration as a Leading Faculty member, other factors that may be considered in evaluating the suitability of an investment from the Leading Faculty Program include the candidate’s proven dedication to the teaching and learning mission, potential to advance the impact of Purdue University on the development of policy, intent to collaborate across the disciplines, and expected contributions to the intellectual climate at Purdue by enhancing the diversity of life experiences represented by our faculty. Priority will be given to the searches that have a high probability of success and therefore a strong indication of interest on the part of possible candidates would be appropriate. These searches will not be handled as open-ended. That is, the funds will be available to attract an individual and if unsuccessful will remain in the Provost's Office for allocation to other Leading Faculty recruitment efforts.