LEADING FACULTY PROGRAM
Office of the Provost
FY 2013-2014

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 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 leading faculty hires. Units that appoint Leading Faculty will be expected to contribute salary and fringe benefit support equivalent to an Assistant Professor line. The Leading Faculty Program will typically provide the balance of the salary and associated fringe benefit cost, 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, fringe benefits, 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

For earliest consideration, deans of units interested in recruiting a Leading Faculty member should submit requests to Laurel Weldon, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, by October 1, 2013. Proposals also can 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 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 of 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. Typically, we expect a search to close by the end of the academic year in which it is initiated.