Staff Vacancy

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA Lafayette

Position: Director – Institute for Coastal and Water Research (ICaWR)

EEO – RD 9-13

Summary of Opportunity:

The Institute for Coastal and Water Research (ICaWR) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is at a key pivot point in its evolution to enhance our understanding of Louisiana's current and future land/sea ecotone and its interactions with coastal ecosystems and communities. Through the Institute, UL Lafayette will contribute to improving the understanding of the region's interconnecting human, environmental, ecological, and energy systems and fostering the application of this knowledge to benefit communities and ecosystems across the region and the Nation. With the goal to foster research on the restoration and ecology of coastal ecosystems in the United States, the Institute is increasing its focus and resource allocation in this area in order to properly reflect this research field's rapidly growing importance under today's changing environmental conditions.

To reach our goal, the Institute unites researchers from many different fields of scientific research. ICaWR challenges students, professionals, and faculty of diverse backgrounds to solve the problems associated with coastal ecosystems, water management and impacts to marine resources and human populations. The Institute helps them acquire the tools and understanding needed to restore and maintain healthy coastal ecosystems and to preserve these for future generations. More than 25 faculty members across multiple colleges and departments conduct research and collaborate in one or more of the following areas:

- Coastal ecology and restoration
- Coastal hydrology, hydro-climatology, hydrologic modeling
- Soil/sediment/water resources and quality
- Eutrophication and environmental contamination and remediation
- Modeling and quantitative analysis of ecological systems

The University seeks a highly qualified and motivated leader with a Ph.D. and extensive experience in an area related to coastal science and engineering - to guide the Institute's journey in partnership with experts across the University, state and country. The Director will embrace the Institute's mission and will have the opportunity to leverage University resources to position the Institute as a national leader. A proven track record of scholarly activities within the coastal science and/or engineering fields is required inclusive of extensive publishing; externally-funded research; and leadership among national stakeholders for the coastal areas. Additional requirements will be proven leadership skills in multidisciplinary research; management skills; and a track record of "growing" a research unit. The Director position will include tenured faculty status within an

appropriate academic unit within the university. This will be a nine- month position with an excellent compensation plan in line with the credentials of the applicant.

Institutional Overview:

About the Institute for Coastal and Water Research

The Institute, a major research entity of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has numerous collaborators hailing from five colleges (Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; College of Engineering; College of Liberal Arts; College of the Arts; and College of Education) and several affiliated R&D units. It's mission is to integrate the campus' many research activities primarily associated with coastal ecology, engineering, and water resources into a unified research entity that among many activities will: organize large R&D initiatives; serve as a "one-stop" entity on campus for coastal and water issues; promote growth of this topical area as a primary interest area for the university; serve as a regional and national expert base; plan future investments in the research area; and support education activities within the topical area on campus.

There are a number of projects that have been undertaken at ICaWR. Many are focused in five areas of interest: Anthropogenic Disturbance; Water Resource Research; Drought-Induced Alteration of Salt Marsh Ecosystems; Coastal Restoration and Management; and Active Learning Designs for Hydrology. Within the Anthropogenic Disturbance focus there are biological research projects related to the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that have five projects totaling over $3.8M in total funding as well as mathematical modeling projects to assess impact of the spill on marine mammal population. Within the Water Resource Research focus area are the development and monitoring of statewide flood control programs, development of use of surface water management frameworks to counterbalance ground water withdrawals, and hydrological monitoring research. Several projects within the areas of Drought-Induced Alteration of Salt Marsh Ecosystems as well as Coastal Restoration and Management involve the development of uncertainty analyses for predictive models, projects focusing on enhancement of barrier island restoration and monitoring, development of mass-balance models for assessing the impacts of freshwater diversions on salinity patterns, and the development and refinement of vegetation-based analytical tools and analyses for coast-wide reference monitoring. Finally, under the topic of Learning Design Research, adaptable web modules are being developed to stimulate active learning in hydrology using data and model simulations.

The Institute has numerous research assets including both laboratory and field facilities. These include the Ecology Center (formerly the Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology), the Coastal Wetlands Laboratory (also known as the Cade Farm), the Field Laboratory at UL Lafayette Studies on Microphysics of Rainfall and (in collaboration with the University of New Orleans and the University of Southern Mississippi) the Littoral Acoustic Demonstration Consortium.

The Ecology Center/Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology consists of approximately 48 acres with a main building of 15,000 sq. ft. which contains office, laboratory, and classroom areas as well as a workshop, kitchen, showers, and dormitory. There is a greenhouse complex of approximately 1 total acre in size and 46 acres of

irrigated open-field with below-ground irrigation. The site has two independent well systems so that experiments established anywhere on site can be provided with running water.

The Coastal Wetlands Laboratory (Cade Farm) consists of over 600 acres of land with approximately 52 acres devoted to 21 ponds of varying sizes for experimental research. Three of these ponds (22-arce, 17-acre, 5-acre) are currently devoted to crawfish production and research, a 2-acre pond is devoted to catfish/koi production and research, and 17 one-third acre ponds are available for additional research projects. These include four ponds for brackish water plants and four designated for fresh water plants. Tidal pumps are being installed for transport of water between ponds for a duplication of tidal effect as witnessed in the natural coastal marsh. It is expected that data will be collected on sediment build-up, plant survival rate, water quality, and other parameters related to coastal restoration. The Cade facility has a new Welcome Center building and a Crawfish Research Center.

About the University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Designated as a "Research University with High Research Activity" by the Carnegie Foundation, University of Louisiana at Lafayette has an enrollment of 16,885, including 15,321 undergraduates and 1,564 graduate students. The institution has 600 full-time faculty members and 100 adjuncts. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has over $70 million in funded research and eight research centers. The second largest university in Louisiana, University of Louisiana at Lafayette includes the following colleges and schools: the College of the Arts; the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration; the College of Education; the College of Engineering; College of General Studies; the College of Liberal Arts; College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions; the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; the Graduate School; the School of Geoscience; the School of Computing and Informatics; and University College.

The university is located in close proximity to one of the world's largest and unique coastal ecosystems. The Louisiana coastal zones are considered prime research areas as the state faces numerous challenges for maintaining this national treasure that is widely considered both a vital ecological and industrial asset of national importance that is often faced with natural and manmade disasters. With the passage of RESTORE act, significant funding opportunities are opening from regional, state, federal, and industrial sources to both study and protect this asset.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette made Animation Career Review's list of top 15 schools for Animation and Game Design in the South with the University's Video Game Design and Visual Arts programs highlighted. The U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency list shows that University of Louisiana at Lafayette is the most affordable university in Louisiana with the lowest net price to attend. Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in NCAA Division 1, the highest level of collegiate athletics. Football is a member of Division 1A and competes in the Sun Belt Conference.

About Lafayette

Living in Lafayette is lovely. Liveability.com, a national website that ranks quality of life and travel amenities of America's small and mid-sized cities, named Lafayette one of the

Top 10 Foodie Cities. The Festival International de Louisiane is the largest free Francophone music-focused festival in North America and takes place over five days in downtown Lafayette during the end of April each year. Travel & Leisure magazine named Lafayette the 17th Best College Town in America in November 2013. ConventionSouth magazine cited Lafayette in its 'South's Historic College Towns with Hip Group Appeal' 2014 list. Lafayette was ranked number one overall, number one regionally, and number one within its population category when evaluating 380 MSA's across 21 economic and workforce indicators for the annual Leading Locations listing. Lafayette topped the list for Foreign Direct Investment Strategies for small cities according to fDi Magazine. Lafayette is located about 200 miles from Houston, 60 miles from Baton Rouge, and 120 miles from New Orleans.

Role Summary:

The Institute seeks a Director that reports directly to the Vice President of Research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The Director will provide leadership, research and scholarly guidance, strategic direction, and oversight of ICaWR and will establish the Institute as a national leader in Coastal Restoration. Strong organizational, personal interaction, policy development and leadership skills are essential, and an ability to secure external funding is a key component of this position. The candidate must have the capability to engage with internal and external stakeholders.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Lead the development of and oversee the implementation of the Institute's strategic plan, which will outline the research and policy initiatives.

- Pursue programs and initiatives that will contribute to the success of ICaWR and put the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on the leading edge.

- Establish bridges and linkages internally with faculty across the University.

- Build partnerships with state agencies, other universities, non-profit organizations, and appropriate departments and agencies in the federal government.

- Prepare an annual budget and oversee the financial operations of the Institute.

- Provide management and direction to staff and researchers.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- Strong academic credentials with a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline and a demonstrated track record as a successful leader within a complex organization.

- Evidence of strong leadership skills with a record of setting a vision and implementing this vision in a collaborative manner.

- A proven record of research that includes obtaining grants and contracts from governmental agencies and other sources of external support.

- Broad multidisciplinary intellectual interests that span the domains related to coastal ecology and engineering and that support an integrative approach that links research to policy and practice.

- Excellent communication and relationship-building skills; someone who can effectively work with individuals from diverse groups and disciplines and engage internal and external stakeholders. An ability to build and sustain partnerships among these diverse groups is critical. A high degree of comfort and flexibility in working across local, regional and national boundaries.

- Entrepreneurial and innovative skills and acumen in identifying opportunities and in positioning the Institute to take advantage of them, creating and implementing new initiatives, and fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of others.

- A proactive leader who is not afraid to challenge the status quo or to take measured risks in the quest of excellence.

- Outstanding interpersonal skills, abundant imagination, a high level of energy, a can-do attitude, a willingness to learn, and a good sense of humor are essential qualities.

- Strong management experience with a broad working knowledge of state and federal operations.

Applications:

A letter of application (that includes plans for growing the institute's stature), resume, and list of references (minimum of three with address and phone numbers) should be sent to:

ICaWR Director Search Committee
c/o ICaWR Search Chair
monique@louisiana.edu

Salary:
Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications, experience and proven ability.