University of Oklahoma Norman Campus
Multiple Faculty Positions (Water, Environment and Sustainability)

The University of Oklahoma, Norman is excited to announce a hiring initiative including three senior leadership positions across multiple disciplines. The goal is to catalyze synergy and expand links among the university’s strong assets and capabilities in environmental research and education. To this end, the successful candidates will provide intellectual leadership and serve as focal points for fostering collaboration, and furthering OU’s engagements with public and private institutions locally, nationally, and globally. By mutual agreement, one of the successful candidates may also serve as the founding Director of OU’s exciting new Plains Institute. Residing on the University’s award-winning Research Campus (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_HDAaJtigc), the Plains Institute will address compelling global research challenges, implement practical solutions for the benefit of society, and advance OU’s aspiration as a nationally renowned institution for cutting edge environmental research. The appropriate academic home(s) and opportunities for joint appointments will be considered based on the candidates’ discipline, strengths or wishes. The university is also actively recruiting to fill eleven other tenured or tenure-track faculty positions within its environmental research portfolio during the 2015/2016 academic year. Information on the full list of positions may be obtained at http://soonerway.ou.edu/job/multiple-faculty-positions-water-environment-and-sustainability/.

1. Corix Chair (Environment and Sustainability)

We seek a dynamic, visionary leader to serve in a tenured position as the first endowed Corix Chair in the Environment and Sustainability. The successful candidate will have demonstrated leadership and management competence, with desired characteristics that include but are not limited to: demonstrated ability to build and steward inter/multi-disciplinary teams for addressing complex problems; experience in acquisition of resources and mobilizing people toward accomplishing a shared vision and set of goals; ability to guide and develop the capabilities of individuals; and demonstrated evidence of effective communication across a diverse array of stakeholders.

Qualifications include doctoral degree or equivalent experience beyond the highest degree, with disciplinary preference in environmental domains, including but not limited to natural/social/physical/life sciences and engineering. The successful candidate must have a track record of accomplishments and national/international recognition as a scholar and/or outstanding record of professional achievement commensurate with an endowed professor position.

2. Faculty Leader in Water

We seek a mid-career interdisciplinary scholar and leader in Water to leverage long-standing strengths and complement a richly diverse and innovative research and education portfolio that includes related fields such as energy, economics, and law/policy. Qualifications include an earned Ph.D. with disciplinary preference in environmental domains, including, but not limited to, natural/social/physical/life sciences and engineering. The successful candidate must have an
exemplary record of scholarly contributions (funding, peer-reviewed publications in premier journals, etc.) and multidisciplinary research; an emphasis on developing countries with either a rural or urban focus will be welcomed.

The successful candidate will work closely with the OU WaTER Center (WaTER.ou.edu), the Hydrology and Remote Sensing Laboratory (hydro.ou.edu), the Oklahoma Water Survey (www.oklahomawatersurvey.org), the Center for Restoration of Ecosystems and Watersheds (crew.ou.edu), the Oklahoma Climatological Survey (climate.ok.gov), the Center for Applied Social Research (casr.ou.edu) and the newly-founded National Institute for Risk and Resilience and OU Plains Institute, as well as other water related activities on campus.

The successful candidate must be able to articulate a vision for advancing water research in local and global contexts, and show evidence of ability to lead multidisciplinary teams.

3. Director of the Oklahoma Water Survey

Nominations and applications are invited for a tenured or tenure-eligible candidate to serve as Director of the Oklahoma Water Survey at the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Water Survey (www.oklahomawatersurvey.org) serves as the focal point and catalyst for the University’s wide and deep expertise in education, research and outreach in water topics. Its mission is to study the state’s water resources and to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate research-based information about water to researchers, students, teachers, citizens, governments, businesses and organizations. The Oklahoma Water Survey is affiliated with four other natural resource state surveys (Archeological, Biological, Climatological and Geological) as part of the new Plains Institute at the University. With its statewide responsibility, the Oklahoma Water Survey works with federal, state and tribal governments, organizations, universities, businesses, communities and citizens who have interests in Oklahoma’s water resources.

Successful applicants will have a doctoral degree or equivalent experience in a water-related discipline, such as environmental science, environmental engineering, freshwater ecology, hydrology or hydrogeology, with at least five years of leadership experience. The successful candidate must have a track record of accomplishments and national/international recognition as a scholar and/or outstanding record of professional achievement. Preferred credentials include success in leading water-related technical organizations or projects at the state level and the ability to acquire and manage human and financial resources. Familiarity with Oklahoma will be an asset.

How to Apply

Further information about these positions and expected credentials are found at OUESclusterhire.ou.edu. To apply, applicants should send a single pdf file containing a letter of interest including a statement that addresses their leadership philosophy, research goals and teaching vision; a current curriculum vitae; and the contact information of three references (with full mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone, and fax numbers) to: Search Committee Chair, OU Environmental Strategic Cluster Hire; OUESclusterhire@ou.edu. Referees will be contacted only with the approval of the candidates. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately;
applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The preferred start date is August 15, 2016 but negotiable for a different start time during the 2016/2017 academic year.

Nominations and inquiries should be sent to OUESclusterhire@ou.edu. Phone inquiries should be directed to either of the co-Chairs of the search committee, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Vice President for Research (405-325-3806) or Dr. Aondover Tarhule (Executive Associate Dean, College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences and Provost’s Faculty Fellow on Interdisciplinary Initiatives; 405 325-7228).

About the University of Oklahoma

Established in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public Carnegie-ranked, very high research activity university offering a wide variety of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, extensive continuing education and public outreach programs. OU’s three campuses (Norman, Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and the Schusterman Center in Tulsa) enroll over 30,000 students and has more than 2700 full-time faculty members in 21 colleges (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX0AtV1MI-o). In 2014, OU became the first public institution ever to rank #1 nationally in the recruitment of National Merit Scholars, with 311 scholars. The University hosts the National Weather Center and affiliated organizations, the South Central Climate Science Center, the South Climate Impacts Planning Program, the WaTER Center, and the National Institute for Risk and Resilience, among numerous others. The Norman Research Campus, comprising 277 acres adjacent to the Main campus, synergistically co-locates State and Federal agency research and operational organizations, more than a dozen private companies, and several University centers and academic programs, creating a uniquely rich environment for collaboration. Named the No.1 research campus in the nation by the Association of Research Parks in 2013, OUs Norman Research campus has added more than 1 million square feet of new space among 10 buildings since 2004.

Located 20 miles south of Oklahoma City, Norman has a population of 118,000, the third largest city in Oklahoma. With outstanding schools, amenities, and a low cost of living, Norman is known for its quality of life and affordability and is a perennial contender on “best place to live” rankings. The city is rich in culture, the arts and a variety of recreational opportunities (see, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhPLf8iiYFk)

The University of Oklahoma is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and encourages diversity in the workplace. Women, minorities, veterans, disabled persons, and candidates from other underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. The University of Oklahoma is also sensitive to the needs of dual career couples. To the extent that opportunities exist, our goal is to recruit the whole family, not just the candidate.