

Director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education at the University of Utah

The College of Science and College of Education recently initiated a unique interdisciplinary research and instructional program called the Center for Science and Mathematics Education. The Center's mission is to promote:

- research using evidence-based approaches to identify the most effective math and science teaching practices in K-12 and undergraduate classrooms, with an emphasis on understanding how students with diverse racial, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds can be enabled to excel;
- recruitment and retention of outstanding undergraduate students in mathematics and science;
- undergraduate instruction that reflects and prepares students for the interdisciplinary, team-based nature of much contemporary scientific research and application;
- training K-12 teachers of math and science for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century;
- collaborative programs across the Colleges of Science and Education for professional development of practicing teachers, school specialists, and educational leaders in math and science education;
- development of interdisciplinary graduate degrees in mathematics and science education.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will play a central leadership role in developing the vision, structures, and functions of the Center in collaboration with faculty in the College of Science (www.science.utah.edu) and the College of Education (www.ed.utah.edu). The University of Utah expects to appoint at least five more faculty members to research, instruction and community partnership programs within the new Center.

At present, the Center is led by Acting Director Hugo Rossi (Mathematics) and Acting Associate Director Louisa Stark (Genetics). Rossi and Stark are prepared to remain in their positions until permanent leadership is in place. For this reason, the search committee will also consider applicants for Associate Director from more junior candidates who envision the possibility of moving into a position of leadership at some future time.

Qualifications

Candidates for this position should be an established scientist holding a tenured position in biology, chemistry, mathematics or physics. Candidates must also have a strong interest and background in mathematics and science education. The Director will be tenured in the College of Science and hold an adjunct appointment in the College of Education. As a prominent member of the state's math and science education community, the Director will be expected to remain active in research and scholarship while guiding the Center's programs. This is an unusual opportunity for a highly qualified individual with the vision and energy to play a leading role in shaping interdisciplinary collaborations that will transform the relationships between researchers, teachers and learners at all levels.

A strong background and proven track record of research and publication in the sciences is required. The Director will also be a respected educator who will guide education connections university-wide and between the two participating colleges. The candidate must be able to develop positive and far-reaching partnerships with Utah school districts, public and private schools, educators, and students.

Application Process

Inquiries, applications, and nominations of potential applicants should be forwarded to the acting director, Professor Hugo Rossi (rossi@math.utah.edu). The search committee will begin reviewing applications on November 1, 2009. Salary and benefits will be highly competitive.

The University of Utah is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. We encourage applications from (and nominations of) women and minorities, and provide reasonable accommodation to the known disabilities of applicants and employees. The University is committed to increasing diversity among its faculty, and we will be especially interested in candidates who have worked to improve access to higher education for students from historically underrepresented populations.

Setting

The University of Utah is an urban research university set in a uniquely attractive natural and cultural environment. It was established in 1850 and enrolls around 25,000 undergraduate and 8,000 graduate students in seventeen colleges and professional schools. The research and educational programs of the Colleges of Education and Science are internationally recognized for their quality and effectiveness. The School of Medicine is a national leader, both in practice and in fundamental research. The Salt Lake Valley has a population of roughly one million and supports a diversity of world-class artistic and cultural activities. The valley is surrounded on all sides by truly unparalleled natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. Salt Lake City hosted the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, and with nearby Park City is home to the annual Sundance Film Festival. The local ski resorts host many research and educational conferences and workshops year round.