DIRECTOR

NEXUS (iNterdisciplinary EXchange for Utah Science)

Applications are being solicited for the Director of NEXUS, an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Utah. The Director is responsible for overseeing the administration and financial accountability of NEXUS, which reports to the Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science and the Vice President for Research.

NEXUS will serve as a catalyst for interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary research on 21st century challenges. The ideal director would have broad training in social sciences and/or experience with interdisciplinary research on grand challenges (e.g., strategic leadership, funded research, building collaborative research projects). NEXUS will provide shared resources for researchers and students across campus. Seed programs will help support interest groups and pilot projects addressing the grand challenges of our time. Physical space in the new Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons will allow faculty and students as well as industry and community partners to innovate. Administrative assistance will be provided through the CSBS Dean’s Office.

NEXUS will be governed by two different boards, 1) a university steering committee will be comprised of the director of NEXUS, the research deans of participating colleges (CSBS, Architecture + Planning, Colleges of Social Work, Education, Humanities, Mines and Earth Sciences, Engineering, and the Director of GCSC, etc.), and a graduate and undergraduate student representative selected from nominations; and 2) an advisory board comprised of the director with community and industry leaders together with university leadership (VP Research, Dean CSBS). More details about the vision for NEXUS are available in the institute proposal. The proposal is available on the NEXUS website.

The Director’s primary duties include:

- Develop a strategic plan for NEXUS identifying interdisciplinary research opportunities on and off campus.
• Organize and coordinate interdisciplinary research initiatives to cultivate funded research opportunities.
• Enhance research capacity of individuals and research teams to conduct interdisciplinary research.
• Work with the Research Development Office (include four grants managers) to facilitate interdisciplinary grant submissions across campus.
• Oversee and help facilitate the NEXUS budget.
• Administer a seed grant program to foster interdisciplinary research.
• Expand collaborative research across campus, building off the existing Transformative Excellence Programs and expanding new interdisciplinary research groups that include Campus Centers and Institutes on Campus.
• Develop connections with research partners off-campus at other institutions across the state and industry partners in the community and with state and local governments.
• Provide an annual report on research and collaborative efforts.
• Support and promote research dissemination, transfer, and mobilization.

The Director will serve for a period of three years with yearly reviews conducted with the faculty steering committee. Compensation will include an administrative supplement and course releases. The start date will be July 1st.

Please send a letter of interest and CV to Associate Dean Rick Forster. Review of applications will begin on June 15 and remain open until the position is filled. NEXUS’s executive committee will make recommendations to the CSBS dean.

NEXUS was recently approved as a provisional center by the Dean of the Graduate School, the Academic Senate, and the Board of Trustees.