Director, Global Institute for the Future of Energy

Arizona State University

Tempe, Arizona

THE SEARCH

Arizona State University seeks a dynamic leader to serve as the first Director of the Global Institute for the Future of Energy, a joint initiative of Thunderbird School of Global Management (Thunderbird) and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL) that will advance the public understanding of the global energy system and create a global energy community at ASU.

Today's energy system is under an extreme amount of stress as developing nations demand more energy to improve life for their citizens while developed nations use more energy to fuel their technology expansions. At the same time, policies by many nations seek to transition out of the energy infrastructure that is currently responsible for providing 80% of the world's energy. It is clear that no real understanding of energy systems has developed among the population, but the need for economically viable solutions and pathways is still needed at scale. Energy systems are inseparable from other issues, including energy security, energy density, energy reliability, economic security, environmental security, and humans' ability to thrive. There is no one-size-fits all solution for global energy needs.

The Global Institute for the Future of Energy will serve as the vanguard for energy education and innovation, helping individuals, communities, and organizations understand and manage the human, economic, and environmental complexity of energy issues. It will seek to positively impact access to energy, evaluate the social and environmental consequences of energy systems, and identify rational, viable solutions to support the development of global energy systems without jeopardizing human flourishing.

The Director will be responsible for establishing, scaling, and sustaining the Institute. They will harness the transdisciplinary expertise across the ASU ecosystem to create a global energy community, shift public understanding of complex energy systems, and develop energy innovations. Building on the Institute's founding gift, the Director will develop a pipeline of additional funding to secure the long-term financial stability of the Institute.

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics of the Director, prepared by ASU stakeholders with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, can be found at the conclusion of this document. Background information and key details related to the position are included below.

ABOUT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Arizona State University is leading a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. ASU has thrived on an unprecedented combination of academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy, and broad access, and the University's Charter, adopted in 2014, reflects that vision: *ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.*

This New American University is a single, unified institution comprising four differentiated campuses positively impacting the economic, social, cultural, and environmental health of the communities it serves. Its research is inspired by real-world applications blurring the boundaries that traditionally separate academic disciplines.

Since 2004, ASU has become a global leader in sustainability efforts—creating the Global Institute of Sustainability, launching the first School of Sustainability in the country, deploying the largest solar energy portfolio of any university in the U.S., and more.

In academic year 2023-2024, ASU's enrollment reached more than 183,000 across the year. This included more than 142,000 undergraduate students and more than 41,000 graduate and professional students. In Fall 2023, nearly 80,000 students joined one of ASU's campuses and/or locations and more than 70,000 enrolled online. 42% of undergraduate students were first generation to college and 34% received Pell Grants.

To learn more about ASU, see www.asu.edu.

To learn more about the Global Futures Laboratory and Thunderbird, see the Appendix.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

The Global Institute for the Future of Energy will fulfill a critical role in developing:

- A pragmatic, non-partisan, evidence-based, public discourse
- Skilled and educated learners at all levels who are aware of the complexities and possibilities of the energy system and their interactions with economic, environmental, and social factors by using derivatives of a transdisciplinary approach combining history, research, technical, economic, legal, and policy aspects of energy
- An understanding of energy related issues by reviewing the history of energy and its impact on modern society and further investigating the challenges associated with energy production, consumption, and sustainability using transdisciplinary research and education
- Robust solutions for future global energy systems

More than an academic center, the Institute will be a space that welcomes current and future leaders in the private and public sectors and builds upon our existing endeavors in energy, expanding energy literacy, dialogue, and discourse to shape a more prosperous future. The Institute will transform the way the Global Futures Laboratory, where cutting-edge science and innovation on energy is generated, and Thunderbird, where the leaders and policymakers who will take these energy solutions to market are developed, tack the issue of energy. It will harness the unrivalled transdisciplinary expertise across the ASU ecosystem, including in economics, supply chain, policy development, global systemic change, AI, and engineering. The Institute will lever existing and future investments in faculty, research, infrastructure, and applied technology, acting as a force multiplier in matching philanthropy and other revenue sources to coalesce expertise and catalyze further investments and public interest into this space. The Institute will aim to disrupt traditional academic approaches to addressing the future of energy and global energy systems by putting pragmatic discourse, made accessible for a mass global audience, at the heart of its work.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DIRECTOR

Establish the Global Institute for the Future of Energy

As the first leader of the Institute, the Director will spend their first year establishing the core of the Institute:

- Secure space and hire initial staff
- Develop an initial business plan (first 60 days) as well as an initial strategic and operational plan
- Establish and recruit an Institute Advisory Board that meets regularly in support of the Institute
- Develop core curriculum modules to support learners in four audiences: K-12, undergraduate, graduate and executive education, and public
- Forge connections internal and external to ASU
- Begin expanding philanthropic support

Develop core Institute programs

In years 2-3, the Director will develop and roll out core programs for the Institute:

- Actively pursue research grants and support faculty in doing the same, with the publication of case studies and papers
- Roll out global curriculum utilizing ASU's platforms and recruiting student cohorts for fellowships, challenges, and summer camps
- Build a public audience through significant marketing and outreach efforts and commission, produce, and distribute a PBS series
- Hold an inaugural conference as well as other global events in key international markets
- Secure significant additional philanthropic support

Scale and sustain the Institute's growing impact

In years 3-5, the Director will significantly scale the Institute's impact while ensuring its sustainability:

- Develop key revenue streams and support, including from philanthropy, continuing education, and successful external grants
- Increase faculty headcount, expertise, and outputs
- Establish curriculum and graduate the first cohorts of students while offering immersive experiential learning opportunities to learners across audiences
- Hold annual conferences and global events that advance the Institute's reputation as a leading global authority in the space and develop expertise in traditionally underrepresented regions and sectors
- Commission new PBS series and engage a strong public audience with various events and content

Shift public discourse and catalyze innovation of new energy solutions

After year 5, the Director will ensure long-term stability and impact:

- Educate and develop students who demonstrate a clear cognitive shift in understanding of global energy systems through curriculum, fellowships, and scholarship
- Ensuring firm and sustainable financial footing for the Institute
- Establishing ASU as a prominent voice on global energy through high-impact research publications, policy guidance, media, and global conferences and events
- Develop new energy innovations
- Shift public discourse and understanding of the complexity of global energy systems and the future of energy through expanded participation in public programs

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

ASU seeks a seasoned energy expert with a comprehensive knowledge of energy systems and the ability to communicate the complexity of these issues to a broader public audience in practical terms. It is important that the Director has extensive industry networks and is an internationally recognized leader with a global mindset and the ability to work across cultures and traditions.

The Director must also lead the Institute both internally and externally, building a coalition of support for its efforts from Thunderbird and the Global Futures Laboratory, while harnessing the power and depth of Arizona State University, to deliver results at scale.

Key attributes for the Director include:

- A comprehensive knowledge of energy
- An accomplished communicator
- Successful leadership and management experience

- An international network and visible presence in that space
- A background in education and/or the understanding and ability to navigate a large, sophisticated academic enterprise
- The capacity to deliver learning modules and outcomes at scale
- A practical focus on results and solutions
- An unbiased/non-partisan approach

The position is located in Tempe, Arizona and will require significant travel, including internationally.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs/resumes with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/arizona-state-university-julie-ann-wrigley-global-futures-laboratory/energy-institute. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

David Bellshaw, Hayden Lizotte, and Kendra Moleé
Isaacson, Miller

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For more information, please visit: https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html and https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU- Clery-Report.pdf. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police at 480-965-3456.

APPENDIX: ABOUT THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL OF GLOBAL MANAGEMENT AND THE JULIE ANN WRIGLEY GLOBAL FUTURES LABORATORY

Thunderbird School of Global Management

Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University cultivates visionary leaders who harness innovation and a global digital mindset to shape the organizations of the future. Committed to transforming leadership and management education, Thunderbird empowers professionals to drive sustainable prosperity in an increasingly interconnected world. As the premier institution for global leadership and management education, Thunderbird is more than just a school—it is a dynamic global network of leaders, managers, entrepreneurs, and intrapreneurs spanning both the private and public sectors.

As the world's first higher education institution dedicated exclusively to international leadership, Thunderbird pioneered a curriculum integrating global management, international political economy, regional business environments, languages, and cross-cultural communication. Often described as a "mini-United Nations," the school fosters a diverse and inclusive student body. Today, Thunderbird's vast and influential alumni network includes nearly 50,000 graduates across 150 countries, with over 170 active alumni chapters in 70 nations.

In December 2014, Thunderbird became a part of the Arizona State University enterprise, blending its decades-long legacy of cultivating global leaders with ASU's vast resources and commitment to innovation. In 2018, Thunderbird relocated to ASU's vibrant Downtown Phoenix campus, uniting the world's No. 1 ranked Master's in Management (WSJ/THE) with the No. 1 university for innovation (U.S. News & World Report).

For the third consecutive year, Thunderbird has been recognized as the world's top institution for international trade by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the global authority on higher education rankings. In its 2025 International Trade Rankings, Thunderbird secured the No. 1 spot ahead of esteemed institutions such as Columbia University, the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor (Ross), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Kenan-Flagler), the University of Oxford (UK), IMD (Switzerland), and Tsinghua University (China). This prestigious recognition underscores Thunderbird's unparalleled leadership in shaping the future of global commerce and diplomacy.

For more information on Thunderbird, see https://thunderbird.asu.edu/about

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

The establishment of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University represents the urgent belief that institutions can and must make a meaningful contribution to ensuring a habitable planet and a future in which well-being is attainable. Using the model of the multi-focused National Laboratories, the Global Futures Laboratory creates a platform for an ongoing and wide-ranging exchange across all knowledge domains to address the complex social, economic, and scientific challenges

spawned by the current and future threats from environmental degradation. This platform positions a new world headquarters for an international network of scientists, scholars, and innovators, lays the foundation to respond to existing and emerging challenges, and uses innovation to purposefully shape and inform our future.

The emergence of the Global Futures Laboratory is the result of a 16-year effort to systematically build ASU's discovery, learning, problem-solving, and engagement mission — and at a scale unmatched by any other university or research entity. This includes the construction of the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building 7 (ISTB7), an eastern gateway to campus that provides engagement opportunities for the public to see how research at ASU is impacting the world. The new, approximately 281,000-gross-square-foot, five-story, high-performance research facility, now known as the Rob and Melani Walton Center for Planetary Health, promotes a transdisciplinary approach to knowledge generation and leading-edge research intent on improving life on the planet. The building is home to the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, the School of Sustainability, the Institute of Human Origins, and a five-story atrium. The laboratories, classrooms, and offices are clustered around a building nexus, promoting innovation, excellence, and transdisciplinary collaboration through heightened experience and connectivity. The new facility contains 70,000 square feet of wet and dry lab space, a conference and education center with a 389-seat presentation hall, university classrooms, and faculty and staff offices. Dry lab space includes computing, cyber-security, engineering design and fabrication, and robotics.

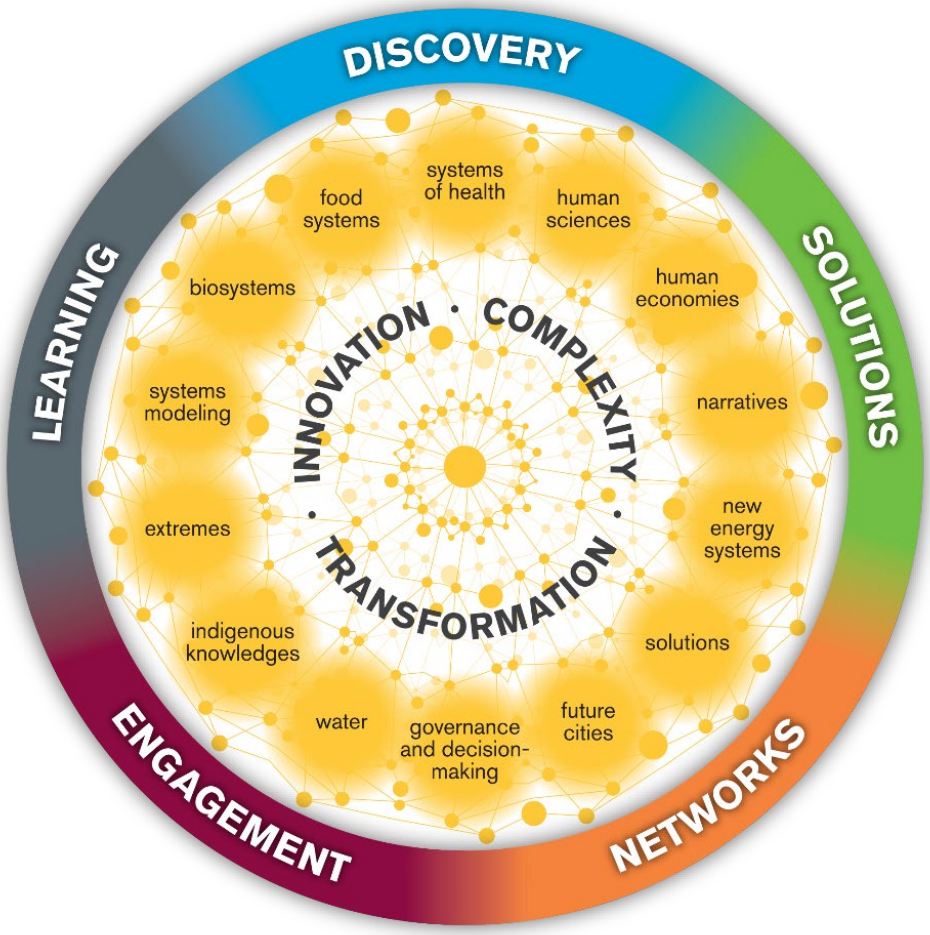
The laboratory's transdisciplinary strength is based on five pillars:

- Learning: Exploring new ways of transmitting knowledge to diverse audiences according to their needs and priorities, including most prominently in the new College of Global Futures.
- Discovery: Leveraging the tools and expertise of transdisciplinary research institutes, centers, and facilities across ASU, anchored by the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, to generate new ideas and solve problems.
- Solutions: Working in networks and in close exchange with the people affected by problems to combine knowledge and develop solutions with urgency — such as with the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service.
- Networks: Partnering with leading institutions around the world, such as the Earth League, to achieve a critical mass of intellectual resources to address challenges that are too big for any individual organization to solve alone.
- Engagement: Engaging with people who are affected by a problem to understand their needs, learn from their knowledge, share ideas, and mobilize action.

Peter Schlosser has been the Vice President and Vice Provost of the GFL at ASU since 2018. He is the University Professor of Global Futures and holds joint appointments in the School of Sustainability, the

School of Earth and Space Exploration in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. He is one of the world's leading earth scientists, with expertise in the Earth's hydrosphere and how humans affect the planet's natural state. He arrived at ASU from Columbia University where he was the Maurice Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics and Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the executive director and director of research at the Earth Institute. He also was a member and the founding chair of the Earth Institute faculty and a member of the senior staff at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. He is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences, an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Geophysical Union, and the Explorers Club.

A graph of the GFL key focal areas:



For more information, see https://globalfutures.asu.edu/about/