



Deputy Director General, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory will design implementable options to sustain global habitability and improve well-being for all humankind.
- Mission Statement -

THE SEARCH

Arizona State University (ASU) is seeking a mission-driven, dynamic, and collaborative leader to serve as the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL). Under the leadership and direction of [Peter Schlosser](#), a visionary and leading earth system scientist, the Global Futures Laboratory launched in 2020 with the ambitious goal to make a meaningful contribution to ensuring a habitable planet and a future in which well-being is attainable.

The Global Futures Laboratory (GFL) is creating 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 global change. This platform positions a new world headquarters for an international network of scientists, scholars and innovators, and it lays the foundation for shaping and informing our future purposefully based on a holistic understanding of the world in which we live and why it has been subjected to so many pressure points.

The DDG will be firmly committed—academically, professionally, and personally—to this mission and will serve as a trusted partner to Dr. Schlosser, working to translate his vision into a reality while providing operational oversight and advancing the unique and innovative approach of the laboratory. This is a wholly unique opportunity to play a central role in the advancement of a world-class scientific enterprise of a new ilk, with the potential to shape the future of global environmental research and innovation.

Working closely with Dr. Schlosser, the DDG will serve as a deputy, advisor, internal leader and driver of progress, establishing clear metrics to track GFL's progress toward its ambitious goals while providing operational oversight for the lab and its highly complex, urgent projects. To be successful, the DDG must establish outstanding relationships with key partners across ASU and beyond, working to generate excitement for GFL's critically important work and partnering with government, industry, and non-profits in support of the laboratory's strategic goals. The DDG will exemplify ASU's values and commitment to

excellence, fostering an environment of innovation, collaboration, and operational effectiveness in alignment with the University's [charter](#).

ABOUT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

A leading public university based in the metropolitan Phoenix area, ASU is realizing a bold reinvention of higher education as the New American University. Under the leadership of [President Michael Crow](#), ASU has developed numerous programs and units that bridge and transcend disciplinary boundaries to enable the exploration and discovery of new knowledge while developing solutions to serve Arizona and the world at large. 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 2023, ASU joined the prestigious Association of American Universities, highlighting its position as one of the nation's preeminent research universities.

The University has strong and simultaneous commitments to educational attainment, innovation, and sustainable outcomes, and assumes significant responsibility for the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its surrounding communities. This strategy is built around intellectual fusion, use-inspired research, and scholarship that addresses today's largest and most essential societal problems. 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.***

During the 2024-2025 academic year, ASU enrolled more than 194,000 undergraduate and graduate students, demonstrating the University's commitment to educational access and providing world-class education at scale. This fall, ASU projects a record-setting 42,900 new first-year, transfer, and graduate students enrolled. A key driver of ASU's enrollment increases is its commitment to being the preferred university choice for Arizona residents, who account for a projected 18,000 new students, including 9,700 of those students who will join ASU from Arizona high schools. ASU is also poised to host a projected 14,600 international students this year, hailing from 165+ countries. One in three ASU undergraduates are first-generation college students, and more than 60,000 students accessed Federal Pell Grants during the last academic year.

As part of its 2025 Forward campaign, the University is organized around and committed to driving significant progress around FIVE FRONTS:

1. Evolving the New American University (Academic Enterprise, Learning Enterprise, Colleges and Schools, i.e. "the University")
2. Creating knowledge and innovation to improve the future (Knowledge Enterprise)

3. Cultivating and honoring creativity, community and human potential (Arts, Athletics, Innovation, Cultural Affairs, Social Embeddedness)
4. Enhancing Health Outcomes for All Arizonans (ASU Health¹)
5. Designing and Building for Planetary Health (Global Futures Laboratory²)

¹ In June 2023, the University launched [ASU Health](#) to tackle health-related efforts. Its mission is to integrate health and medical education, research, workforce development, and health outcomes to address the health needs of the state and the nation.

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

² ABOUT THE JULIE ANN WRIGLEY GLOBAL FUTURES LABORATORY

The emergence of the GFL is the result of a 15-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.

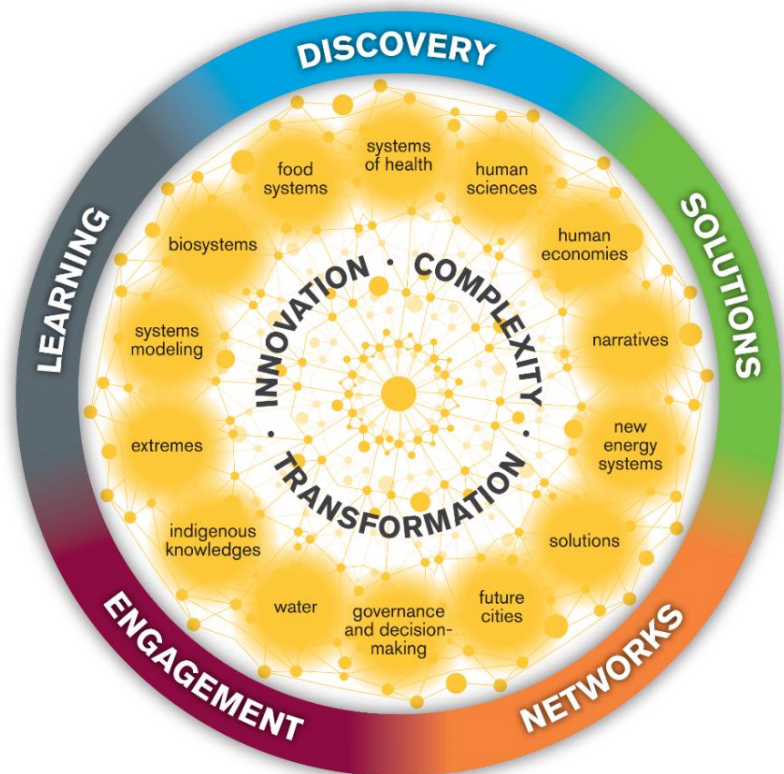
Peter Schlosser has led the GFL since 2018. He is one of the world’s leading earth system scientists, with expertise in the Earth’s hydrosphere and how humans affect the planet’s natural state. He arrived at ASU from Columbia University where he was the Maurice Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics and Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the deputy 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, the World Academy of Arts and Science, an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Geophysical Union, and the Explorers Club. 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.

GFL’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, including 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 and institutions who are affected by a problem to understand their needs, learn from their knowledge, share ideas, and mobilize action.

To accelerate the pursuit of research, education and the development of approaches and applications that address our global futures, the GFL has identified focal areas in which ASU holds deep expertise. These focal areas work fluidly beyond their disciplinary boundaries allowing GFL to develop comprehensive solutions to the complex issues that are placing our planet under stress. Each focal area is able to tap into the wealth of research and expertise that exists across the more than 855 Global Futures Scientists and Scholars, a university-wide cohort of Global Futures-affiliated faculty, researchers and fellows as well as throughout the laboratory's diverse global networks and partnerships. Learn more about the focal areas in **Appendix I**.



The headquarters of GFL are housed in the Rob and Melani Walton Center for Planetary Health, an eastern gateway to the 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 promotes a transdisciplinary approach to knowledge generation and leading-edge research aimed at improving life on the planet. 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 auditorium, university classrooms, and faculty and staff offices. Dry lab space includes computing, engineering design and fabrication, and robotics.

ROLE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Deputy Director General (DDG) will provide overall operational management of GFL under the direction of Dr. Schlosser.

The DDG will oversee and ensure smooth and effective internal operations and day-to-day functions of GFL as part of the University. The Deputy DG will have decision authority, where authorized by the Director General, over the Lab's management and will maintain strong, effective partnerships across the University. The DDG will work closely with the GFL leadership team to progress toward and achieve the Lab's goals, articulated by the ASU President and the Director General. The Deputy DG will also work closely with Academic Enterprise (AE) and the Knowledge Enterprise (KE), as well as the colleges, schools, centers, and institutes, to build support and understanding of GFL's mission, create effective partnerships, and develop new collaborations. The DDG will report to the Director General.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DDG

To be successful, the DDG will address key opportunities and challenges, listed below:

- **Work closely with the Director General** to define clear and measurable metrics to optimize organizational performance. Execute on the Director General's vision.
- In the context of the vision, **serve as an effective advocate and champion for GFL across ASU and beyond**, generating interest in and excitement for its mission and its specific programs.
- **Cultivate strong operational management relationships** by building trust with key stakeholders and engaging the full ASU Enterprise to advance the vision.
- **Act as liaison to the Academic and Knowledge Enterprises**, develop standard operating procedures that effectively leverage institutional resources, allow for smooth operations, and ensure alignment of strategies, goals, and objectives.
- **Manage and oversee key functions of the Laboratory and its operations**, building a strong team culture and ensuring the smooth and effective internal operations and day-to-day functions, inclusive of establishing clear management team priorities aligned to the Director General's vision.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate for this role will, first and foremost, hold a steadfast belief in academia's critical role in addressing – through inquiry, ideation, and application – the complex social, economic, and scientific challenges posed by the current and future threats from overexploitation of Earth's resources and from societal instabilities.

In addition, the ideal candidate will possess many, if not all, of the characteristics and qualifications listed below:

- PhD, ideally in a related field of science, engineering, or policy;
- Deep understanding of university functions, academic institutions, and the U.S. research landscape;
- A track record of success in advancing complex initiatives and/or projects;
- Experience with leading large and complex organizations, building and managing effective teams, and driving toward goals;
- A proven commitment to transdisciplinarity;
- Some experience with fundraising, corporate relations, government relations, and federal agencies;
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, with demonstrated ability to lead by influence; and
- Highly organized, efficient, responsive, and responsible.

LOCATION

This position is located in Tempe, Arizona. To learn more about Tempe and the greater Phoenix area, please see **Appendix II**.

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 with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: [insert URL](#). Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

David Bellshaw, Carley Davenport, Drew Nichols, 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/>

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Arizona State University. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Arizona State University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

APPENDIX I: GFL KEY FOCAL AREAS

- **Human Sciences:** The human sciences focal area brings together humanists and social scientists who engage with the histories of our fields in order to offer conceptual clarification, theoretical analyses and critical explorations of who “humans” are, how they live, what motivates them, how they imagine and work for change, respond to risk, live in relationship to the nonhuman and plan for the future.
- **Food Systems:** Food systems is centered on tackling one of the most daunting challenges of our time — the enormous tasks of mitigating environmental degradation while addressing global hunger and nutrition needs.
- **Extremes:** The extremes focal area will foster understanding of the effects of extreme events in social, ecological and technological systems and their interactions by facilitating dialogue with decision-makers as well as to shape research directions.
- **Systems of Health:** The health solutions focal area envisions a world where everyone, everywhere enjoys an equal opportunity to lead a healthy, productive life founded on sustainable diets, physical activity and access to affordable, quality health care. The systems of health’s strategic foci fall under one umbrella: reducing the global burden of disease by optimizing health across the lifespan.
- **Biosystems:** The mission of the biosystems focal area is to co-produce designs and trustworthy decision cycles for managing biosystems services in diverse regions, including human-dominated environments. Its vision is a decentralized approach to monitoring and forecasting global biosystems promoting inclusive, co-produced designs and decisions that allow biodiversity and bioservices to thrive on a human-dominated planet.
- **New Energy Systems:** Through research, education and network partnerships we seek to support the extant energy transformation. We envision a transition to a transformed energy system that is equitable, resilient and responsive to the rapidly changing global climate.
- **Indigenous Knowledges:** A Native-led space within the Global Futures Laboratory ecosystem dedicated to engagement and dialogue about Indigenous knowledge systems and their contributions to sustainability, resilience, place-making and relationship to lands, waters and Earth systems. This focal area will be a place to research and share Indigenous worldviews, kincentric practices and effective models from the past as well as visions for a sustainable, just future.
- **Narratives:** Narratives is an incubator of ideas and producer of legible, compelling outcomes that can influence the public dialogue and decision-making. This includes creating a wide variety of media projects and storytelling for the widest possible audiences, as well as studying dominant and influential existing narratives and assessing the impact that new narratives can have in

driving change.

- **Solutions:** Working with partners within the university and around the world, we endeavor to make measurable impacts through the development of implementable tools and knowledge in order to develop customized, actionable and scalable applications for a stronger future.
- **Water:** Water is the essential ingredient for every known living organism. Our work focuses on securing sustainable, safe drinking water and water sanitation services for all people and sustainable management and protection of freshwater resources throughout the planet.
- **Systems Modeling:** The systems modeling focal area provides cross-cutting expertise in modeling and data science across the Global Futures Laboratory so we may improve our understanding of complex dynamics and feedback in coupled human and natural systems and generate scenarios for exploring alternative futures and the scalability of possible solutions to diverse challenges.
- **Human Economies:** The human economies focal area brings together faculty and students interested in a discussion of the functioning and much needed transformation of our global economies. This group is interested in understanding how the economies of various kinds are made and remade by people, and how we as a globally interconnected society can build more inclusive and sustainable economies.
- **Governance and Decision-Making:** The goal of the governance and decision-making focal area is to understand the economic, social and political structures, mechanisms and dynamics that are foundational to processes of cross-level/cross-scale governance and decision-making and are therefore critical to transforming global futures in the age of the Anthropocene.
- **Future Cities:** Currently, 55% of the world's population lives in urban centers. By 2050, that amount is expected to grow to 68%. As more humans move to cities for a multitude of reasons, it is important to be able to adapt existing urban infrastructure so that it can grow with their population as well as innovate new policies and practices to ensure that those living in cities may do so equitably.

APPENDIX II: GREATER PHOENIX

Cost of Living

Greater Phoenix offers the diverse amenities of a major metropolitan region without the high cost of living. As the fifth-largest state in the U.S. and one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the nation, living and working here is both exciting and affordable.

Business and Industry

Arizona is home to a surging industrial ecosystem, early-stage entrepreneurs, and tech-savvy millennial talent who are breaking new ground across a wide range of industry growth sectors. What's more, Arizona offers a robust portfolio of programs and resources supporting both large and emerging tech companies. The state's rich startup culture continues to thrive and is a preferred choice for technology companies seeking growth. Leading startups have collectively taken advantage of Arizona's high-skills talent base. Arizona's solid reputation and assertive stance on innovation led Fast Company to rank Arizona No. 1 in the country for "entrepreneurial activity."

Low Tax Position

Low personal income taxes and low effective property tax rates offer affordability and opportunities for everyone to thrive.

Arts and Culture

Greater Phoenix is a rich arts and culture environment with diverse museums, theater, concert halls, and cultural centers, such as the renowned Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Opera, Ballet Arizona, and the Arizona Theatre Company.

Outdoors

Phoenix has a number of lakes just a short drive away, offering opportunities for boating, sailing, windsurfing, water and jet skiing, fishing, and more. The area is home to dozens of parks and preserves — both in and around the city — with hundreds of miles of multiuse trails for hiking and biking. The state is home to three national parks, including the Grand Canyon and other popular destination spots like Sedona.

Sports

All four of Arizona's major professional sports teams — Arizona Cardinals (NFL), Phoenix Suns (NBA), Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB), and Arizona Coyotes (NHL) — call the metro Phoenix area home, as do the Phoenix Mercury (WNBA), Arizona Rattlers (IFL) and Phoenix Rising FC (USL). The area has over 170 golf courses.