



Search for the Chief Operating Officer, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Arizona State University (ASU) is seeking an operationally-savvy leader to serve as its inaugural Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL). This is a rare opportunity to work closely with senior leadership at ASU to provide support in advancing the unique and innovative approach of the laboratory. Using the model of the multi-focused National Laboratories, the Global Futures Laboratory 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 environmental degradation. The COO will play a central role in supporting the GFL in achieving its goals by providing leadership, management, strategic planning, and direction to advance the laboratory's non-academic initiatives and programs toward implementation.

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. 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.

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 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](#), which promotes a transdisciplinary approach to knowledge generation and leading-edge research intent on improving life on the planet.

Working in support of the Vice President and Vice Provost of the Global Futures Laboratory, the COO will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of GFL by providing leadership and operational oversight for complex projects. They will be a critical player in translating the GFL's ambitious vision into reality by helping to ensure a nimble and responsive organization, cultivating strong relationships across a variety of stakeholders, and bringing the intellectual capacity, energy, and real-world experience to bridge GFL

science and practice to ensure the impactful execution of projects. While the COO will be responsive to changing priorities, initial projects may include integrating the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) into ASU, representing ASU on The Sustainability Consortium board, and providing senior-level management to various teams to successfully commercialize new technologies in carbon capture.

To learn more about the GFL, see the appendix of this document.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Working in support of the Vice President and Vice Provost of the Global Futures Laboratory (GFL), the COO will provide leadership and support to the senior team in advancing the unique and innovative approach of the laboratory. The COO will serve as an advocate for the architecture of GFL both internally and externally to garner support and engagement.

The COO will provide leadership, management and direction to advance non-academic initiatives and programs toward implementation. This may include:

- Resolving problems and issues affecting GFL, including complex personnel matters
- Directing measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of GFL and ensure alignment with goals and objectives
- Bridging between GFL science and practice, turning observations and ideas into interventions
- Promoting the commercial development of innovations developed in GFL through analysis of complex solutions and systems, assessment of their utility and development of roadmaps for advancing in the marketplace

In order to be successful in the role, the COO will:

- Work to establish mutually beneficial long-term relationships with external partner organizations, including: academic partners, industry partners, customers, and others in support of strategic goals
- As required and assigned, provide direct and indirect supervision to staff including professional development, setting objectives, and ensuring employees have clear expectations for performance
- Confer with senior personnel and university officials, program directors ,and budget administrators to make recommendations for budget development, operations planning, fiscal requests, and management analysis
- Coordinate between the various units responsible for marketing and communications across the university and affiliated units to ensure alignment with the GFL marketing strategies, goals, and objectives
- Manage and provide oversight for complex projects, assuring they are appropriately staffed and resourced to meet goals

- Serve as GFL representative to the university, state, national, and various government agencies, advisory boards, councils, and committees as assigned
- Keep informed of and interpret pertinent rules, regulations, policies and procedures set forth by the university or other governing agencies and adjust operational plans as required

The COO's role will be dynamic by design, but initial projects may include:

- Providing guidance and direction on the operational integration of the **Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS)** into the ASU network to achieve desired scientific goals. The COO will work closely with academic leadership to support faculty and students through the development and implementation of operational infrastructure and will navigate complex personnel, facilities, contractual, and other operational issues to successful resolution, including both internal and external stakeholders. Further, the COO will develop short- and long-term plans for the integration and evolution of BIOS to best align with the objectives of GFL, including key leadership and faculty appointments, implementation of new scientific objectives at the direction of the Vice Provost, and pursuit of new investments and partnerships aligned with those scientific objectives.
- Completing the integration of **The Sustainability Consortium (TSC)** into ASU and GFL and representing ASU on the TSC board, providing direction in relation to the goals and objectives for GFL.
- For ASU's **Center for Negative Carbon Emissions (CNCE)** and **Carbon Collect**, their commercial partner, providing senior level management of the dynamics of a technology team, external partners, intellectual property, and business plans to achieve successful commercialization of new technology. The COO will identify and navigate the full ecosystem of carbon capture to contribute to operationalizing new solutions, including understanding the industry and market drivers to assist the Vice Provost in designing long range strategies.
- In relation to the GFL's [focal areas](#) (see Appendix for more detail), gathering research and development teams to ensure demonstrated progress toward scholarly work and research proposals. The COO will create timelines and provide accountability to teams to ensure progress toward deliverables and, in partnership with others in GFL and across the university, facilitate the necessary support infrastructure for the successful pursuit and capture of research grants.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will bring many of the following:

- Significant experience working with stakeholders inside and outside the academy
- Extraordinary client service and problem-solving acumen
- Appreciation for a breadth of research areas within interdisciplinary science
- Record of successfully supporting senior leadership with high standards and expectations in a fast-paced work environment
- Experience managing projects within a matrixed environment with competing priorities

- A validated reputation of serving others above self for the good of the larger enterprise
- Exceptionally strong operational management and communication skills
- A personal commitment to advancing equity, inclusiveness, and diversity
- Prior experience executing business strategies, plans, and analyses
- The professional credibility, maturity, intellectual depth, and confidence to command the respect of the president, advisory boards, senior leadership team, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders
- Ability to consolidate and strategically process competing inputs and demands with a tolerance for ambiguity; the ability to thrive in an environment of rapid change
- The confidence to represent one's own point of view and make convincing cases to leadership
- A willingness to take risks and advocate for unconventional ideas while working in close collaboration to accomplish the goals of the GFL team

LOCATION

ASU's mission is directly tied to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of Arizona and the growing Phoenix metropolitan region. The University serves one of America's youngest, largest, and fastest-growing cities. To learn more about Phoenix, Tempe, and the surrounding region, see www.visitphoenix.com or www.tempe.gov.

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 for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/arizona-state-university/chief-operating-officer-global-futures-laboratory>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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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.

All employees of federal contractors must receive COVID-19 vaccinations as required by an executive order from President Biden. ASU employees, including new hires, must be vaccinated unless approved for medical or religious accommodation. Visit the [Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion webpage](#) for details about medical or religious accommodations.

APPENDIX: ABOUT THE 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:

