Presidential Chair
The ByWater Institute
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

THE SEARCH

Tulane University, one of the nation's most prestigious research institutions, seeks a visionary and interdisciplinary scholar to serve as a Presidential Chair in The ByWater Institute (BWI) and to drive the production of climate adaptation scholarship that can impact solutions for the Mississippi River basin and the world. BWI's mission is to pioneer solutions-oriented scholarship on climate adaptation and to catalyze more robust climate and water futures through co-production and participation by non-academic partners. The Institute's scholarship is organized into three pillars – designing, sharing, and growing our future ByWater—which address topics as diverse as coordination of built and natural infrastructure, access and equity to clean and affordable drinking water and sanitation, and climate change and health. The BWI Presidential Chair will play a key role in vaulting BWI into a leading national role in climate adaptation research and thinking.

Tulane provides a superb foundation for the position's success. The university is known for its highly collaborative environment and innovative interdisciplinary research and educational programs. With nearly 15,000 students in the schools of architecture, business, law, liberal arts, medicine, public health and tropical medicine, the sciences and engineering, and social work, the University has also cultivated an emphasis on community service and practical experience that infuses its programs, culture, and community. Students are proud to take part in community-engaged research in all disciplines and contribute thousands of hours of public service to the greater New Orleans community each year. Tulane is integrally connected to the vibrancy and diversity of New Orleans and its culture. The University is enriched by its unique location, which provides incredible opportunities for engagement, community, and experiential learning, particularly within the fields of climate change and environment.

BWI already works with partners across Tulane and the globe to deliver engaged scholarship on climate adaptation across land, river and ocean components of the larger Mississippi River ecosystem, which drains 31 US states to the Gulf of Mexico through New Orleans. This "laboratory" provides a framework for understanding climate adaptation challenges as diverse as robust infrastructure design, disaster preparedness, access to climate-adapted housing and human migration, encroaching tropical diseases, and the safety of freshwater supplies in a region with rising sea levels. Tulane is uniquely positioned to generate high-impact research to support the region's river and coastal communities in adapting and responding to environmental change.

Among the most prestigious positions on Tulane's campus, presidential chairs combine the eminence of a named chair with the vision of a multidisciplinary approach. The leaders who fill these roles cross traditional field boundaries and draw together experts from across the university. The BWI Presidential

Chair is an endowed position at the full professor rank and will have a dual appointment in BWI and an appropriate academic unit. This position will lead programs and scholarship within the institute that constitute a center of excellence around climate change adaptation. The Chair will have latitude to build their team, capacity at Tulane, and their broader scholarly network, with the ultimate goal of leading an extramurally funded center. BWI will fundraise for junior research faculty chairs with related expertise to build out a full team that is competitive for a center-scale effort around these themes.

Tulane has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of the Presidential Chair of The ByWater Institute. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

TULANE UNIVERSITY

Tulane traces its origins to 1834, when it was founded as the Medical College of Louisiana. It was renamed the University of Louisiana by the state legislature in 1847. The legislature subsequently transferred it to the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Education Fund in 1884. With that transfer, Tulane University was established as a private, nonsectarian university and named in honor of benefactor Paul Tulane, a wealthy merchant who donated more than $1 million in land, cash, and securities "for the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral and industrial education." In 1886, the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College was established as Tulane's college for women. The unified Newcomb-Tulane College today enrolls all full-time undergraduates at the University. The University has an operating budget of just over $1 billion and an endowment of $2 billion.

The University is organized into ten academic divisions: Newcomb-Tulane College, A.B. Freeman School of Business, School of Architecture, School of Professional Advancement, School of Law, School of Liberal Arts, School of Medicine, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, School of Science and Engineering, and the School of Social Work. The mix of schools is an asset that is rich with opportunity for cross-school collaboration in research and education. Enrolled in these diverse programs are approximately 8,600 undergraduate and 5,900 graduate and professional students from every state in the U.S. and more than 85 nations worldwide. The Tulane faculty totals over 1,200 full-time members with a staff of approximately 2,900.

Tulane University is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Tulane as a university with "very high research activity." As such, it is committed to the highest level of research. Tulane attracts an outstanding student body that is both intellectually curious and driven by community engagement. In 2006, Tulane became the first major research institution to require public service as a graduation requirement, which led to the Carnegie Foundation recognizing Tulane with its Community Engagement Classification. Tulane plays a valuable role in recruiting talent to New Orleans, as only 15% of Tulane's undergraduate students are from New Orleans, and about 20% of its students stay in Louisiana after graduation. Tulane University continues its impressive ties with the New Orleans community and was recently named "the most engaged in the community" by the Princeton Review.

In 2021, Tulane identified The Data Hub, Tulane University's new Center for Data Literacy, as the educational endeavor that Tulane would create as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Tulane's commitment to expanding data was further enhanced by a recent gift of $12.5 million to advance the university-wide data science initiative,

transform teaching and research across all disciplines at Tulane, and position the university as a leader in data pedagogy. The renamed Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science will enable Tulane students across all disciplines to understand how data shapes our environment, to think critically about data-based arguments, and to use data in their studies and careers. With data pervading almost every aspect of modern life, the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science will elevate the institute as the university's centralized resource for fostering data literacy and data science through education, research, and service to the community. As Tulane continues to grow as a powerhouse of research and scholarship, this institute will fuel an even more ambitious future of meaningful exploration and discovery.

LEADERSHIP

Michael Fitts is the 15th president of Tulane University. He arrived at Tulane in July 2014, bringing with him a strong emphasis on heightening cross-disciplinary education and research. President Fitts believes students and higher education institutions can set themselves apart in a fast-changing world and ever-shifting economy through the combining of different fields and skills. In his first year at Tulane, he launched task forces to lead the University in deepening its unique strengths for interdisciplinary collaboration. He sees powerful advantages in the University's manageable size, its wide selection of professional schools, and the unified undergraduate college.

Previously, President Fitts served 14 years as Dean of the Law School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was recognized for greatly boosting their offerings in interdisciplinary education. He also presided over a quadrupling of Penn Law's endowment, a more than 40 percent increase in the size of the Law School faculty, and a doubling of all forms of student financial aid. President Fitts is a native of Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard University and received his juris doctorate from Yale Law School.

Dr. Robin Forman was appointed Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost in September 2016. He previously served as Dean of the Emory College of Arts and Sciences and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Mathematics at Emory University. He has held faculty and administrative appointments at Rice University and has served as an instructor at MIT and as a visiting professor at the University of Burgundy, Harvard University, and the Mathematical Research Institute. Dr. Forman received a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctoral degree in mathematics from Harvard University. His research, which has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Security Agency, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, focuses on combinatorial methods in topology and geometry.

Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, an internationally renowned physician, researcher, and healthcare executive, was appointed Vice President for Research at Tulane in September 2019. He previously served as the Steven and Nancy Calabrese Endowed Chair for Excellence in Pediatric Care, Research and Education, as well as professor and chair of pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Piedimonte brings to Tulane a passion for impactful research of all forms and a special interest in collaborations that bring together scholars from disparate perspectives and areas of expertise. He received his medical doctorate from the University of Rome School of Medicine, completed his residency in pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, and received fellowship training at the Cardiovascular Research Institute of the University of California, San Francisco and at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

THE BYWATER INSTITUTE

The Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico have immeasurable impact on defining New Orleans as both a major port and a cultural hub of the United States. No university has deeper personal and geographic ties to the river and the coastal land and waterscapes that surround it than Tulane. In recognition of this symbiotic relationship between the environment, the city, and the University, research on resilience and sustainability is key to Tulane's academic pursuits and essential to its educational and civic missions. Planning for greater resilience and adaptability has taken on a sense of urgency in New Orleans and other coastal communities in the face of climate change, sea level rise, and evolving natural and technological hazards. In September 2016, Tulane University made a bold investment in the future of coastal and urban research with the launch of the ByWater Institute (BWI) to respond to these grand challenges by developing use-inspired research and unique programming at the intersection of environment, society, and community.

BWI is one of five university-wide research institutes reporting to the Vice President for Research. Dr. John Sabo, a leading scholar on water resources and river ecology, became director of the Tulane ByWater Institute in August 2021. He came to Tulane from Arizona State University, where he was the founding director of Future H20, a nationally renowned initiative that works to create solutions for water abundance that can scale to the world stage. As an ecologist, Dr. Sabo studies the importance of water in determining the viability and resilience of animal and plant populations in river ecosystems. Dr. Sabo's research has been published in top journals including Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Water Resources Research, Ecology and Global Change Biology and supported by over $20 million in grants from the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers, among others.

BWI's mission is to catalyze thriving climate and water futures through transdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship. BWI does this by growing a network of scholars and action-oriented institutions that contributes to the broader picture of climate and water health and opportunity—for businesses, communities, and surrounding nature. This work is organized into three pillars – designing, sharing, and growing our future ByWater.

- Designing - BWI seeks to develop best practices on how to combine and deploy both natural and built infrastructure to design neighborhoods, cities, and watersheds that work with nature to adapt to a changing climate.
- Sharing - BWI seeks to create a research program at Tulane that leads to solutions for local and national water access through a public-health lens, with a strong focus on community capacity-building (especially in the rural U.S. South).
- Growing - BWI seeks to help improve human health outcomes and help grow the economy in ways that share and sustain prosperity equitably across communities.

With the establishment of BWI and the simultaneous opening of the Tulane River and Coastal Center, Tulane signaled a new direction for research: one that valued and promoted interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration within the academy and partnerships with external stakeholders to address water challenges of the 21st century locally, regionally, and nationally while maintaining high standards for scholarship and knowledge generation.

"There isn't a more appropriate university to take on this research than Tulane. The survival of our region depends on negotiating our relationship with water."

– Tulane President Michael Fitts

Research and Scholarship

The ByWater Institute supports and conducts transdisciplinary research that is focused on solutions. The Institute's brand of solutions science is "Clinical Trials for Planetary Health" - intervention science at scale to reduce climate impacts and improve climate adaptation. The ByWater Institute leads and facilitates research across Tulane relevant to the Institute's mission, engaging collaborators in Science and Engineering, Public Health, Law and Policy, Environmental Studies, Energy and Business, Emergency Preparedness, Architecture, and Liberal Arts. In step with its mission to foster applied research and incubate innovation, BWI prioritizes supporting Tulane researchers in identifying external funding opportunities and in preparing and submitting proposals. From 2017-2022, BWI facilitated the submission of $44 million in proposals with an additional $25 million in a preproposal request to the National Science Foundation's Science and Technology Centers program in early 2022. BWI-supported proposals have been competitive, and successful applications have brought in $5,689,659 to fund faculty research since 2017.

The ByWater Institute encourages faculty participation from across Tulane through two levels of membership. The first is open to all Tulane affiliates whose primary appointment is related to scholarship. ByWater Institute Scholars are members of the Institute and invited to participate fully in all BWI sponsored programs and activities. Any scholar with relevant interests can sign up as a Scholar. ByWater Institute Fellows are appointed on a competitive basis for 3-year terms and receive awards to complete a project that is mutually beneficial for the Fellow and Institute. Membership programs have contributed to the cross-disciplinary body of research supported by BWI, publishing in journals such as the Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Frontiers in Microbiology, and Science of the Total Environment, and have generated over $5 million in research proposals.

The Future Cities//Future Coasts speaker series was launched in November 2018 as part of BWI's strategy to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on diverse topics and connect academics to stakeholders, facilitating dialogue that can inform and improve collaborative community engagement. Issues around equity and diversity have been important foci for the speaker series.

BWI initiated Coastal Convenings of Tulane faculty in September 2019 to foster and deepen interdisciplinary collaborations that could be leveraged for future research proposals. The Coastal Convenings also have identified key areas of Tulane's coastal research capacity, barriers to collaboration, and strategic funding opportunities in the National Academies Gulf Research Program and NSF.

BWI's assets for research, education, and outreach include:

- *Tulane River and Coastal Center.* Founded in 2016, this center offers 5,800 square feet of research and conference space located beside the Mississippi River in downtown New Orleans. Accessible to multiple departments and partner organizations, it is used as a staging ground for research and events in support of the institute's mission.
- *A Studio in the Woods.* Nestled in eight acres of bottomland hardwood Carmichael Forest on the Mississippi River on the Lower Coast of New Orleans, the Studio provides an inspiring environment for research and education. It houses living and working spaces for artists and scholars in residence and frequently opens its doors for creative public programming.

- *Research Vessels*. The Institute maintains two research vessels for use by any Tulane University department.

Partnerships

Community partnerships and outreach are cornerstones of BWI's interdisciplinary programs. Effective environmental research and public policy requires close collaboration between educational institutions, researchers, decision-makers, industry, community leaders, and community members. As such, BWI strives to help communities in Louisiana build capacity to address environmental challenges such as coastal restoration, storm events, and environmental hazards. As of summer 2022, BWI and the Studio have counted 53 organizations among their partners, a number that continues to grow as new initiatives are created, and new collaborations are formed. These partnerships span the governmental, non-profit, private, and educational sectors. Key partners in the Institute's ongoing programs include: the City of New Orleans Office of Resilience and Sustainability, the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development, Stockholm Resilience Center, and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, BWI has maintained regular collaboration with HBCUs, including Dillard University and Xavier University. This collaboration goes back to the Tulane-Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, which is the predecessor to the ByWater Institute.

BWI serves as the Tulane University representative in the Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GC-CESU). The GC-CESU facilitates collaborative research, education and technical assistance pertaining to the human and natural environment among federal and state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations with and beyond the Gulf Coast region. As the representative for Tulane, the Institute receives and disseminates special federal funding opportunities for university researchers to work in cooperation with federal agencies.

THE ROLE

In 2017, Tulane University's "Only the Audacious" capital campaign, in which the ByWater Institute was prominently featured, raised more than $1.5 billion, and Tulane has recently announced that the campaign will continue as "Always the Audacious." The campaign seeks funds to support dedicated research facilities in energy and the environment, water management and climate change, healthy communities, trauma and resilience, the culture of the Gulf South, and more. Presidential Chairs were created as part of the campaign, and Tulane set a goal to fund ten such chairs at a minimum.

The Presidential Chair of the ByWater Institute is an endowed position at the full professor rank and will have a dual appointment in the Tulane ByWater Institute and an appropriate academic unit. This position will lead programs and scholarship within the institute that constitute a center of excellence around climate change adaptation and risk, as well as align with the university's commitment to data literacy and enhance curricular and research support for data science. The Presidential Chair will have latitude to build their team, capacity at Tulane, and their broader scholarly network, with the ultimate goal of leading an extramurally funded center.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

To succeed in this role, the Presidential Chair will build upon a strong foundation and address a number of key opportunities and challenges, including, but not limited to:

Foster world-class interdisciplinary research programs at Tulane University

With a mission that exceeds the scope of any single department or college on campus, BWI serves as a hub for catalyzing ambitious, impactful research on the most timely scientific and social problems affecting the Mississippi Delta and the world. The Presidential Chair will assess the Institute's existing collaborative programs and develop new strategies to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary teams of Tulane faculty members, external partners, and community stakeholders to address these challenges. The Presidential Chair is expected to be an active contributor to the Institute's research portfolio while continuing to foster ongoing interdisciplinary programs led by Institute faculty and staff.

Recruit, retain, and develop talented and interdisciplinary faculty

The Presidential Chair will lead and support the recruitment and development of accomplished educators and renowned scholars who use an interdisciplinary approach to address water-related climate challenges. BWI and the Presidential Chair will fundraise for junior research faculty chairs with related expertise to build out a full team that is competitive for a center-scale effort around these themes. The Presidential Chair will build teams of Tulane faculty to pursue multi-disciplinary proposals that seek solutions to water-related climate challenges in a participatory framework and will pursue existing funding opportunities and work to create new funding streams for this work.

Strengthen existing Institute programs and explore new initiatives through academic excellence and scientific breadth

The Presidential Chair will contribute to the Institute's strategic growth by promoting and demonstrating research excellence, scientific breadth, and extensive academic networks. The Presidential Chair will be an accomplished researcher with an exceptional record of scholarly achievement. Through their own research, the Presidential Chair will expand the Institute's interdisciplinary research to address key topics that can include data science, climate change, adaptation, public health, natural disasters, and other water-related questions.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Tulane University seeks candidates who bring many of the following skills and experiences:

- Research expertise in a variety of water-related topics such as big data, climate change adaptation, civil/environmental engineering, and public health;
- Scientific breadth and intellectual curiosity, an appreciation for the range of approaches, methodologies, and disciplines that inform the work of BWI;
- Strategic vision and an innovative focus that is energetic, forward-thinking, and above all, collaborative;
- The skill and predisposition to convene diverse groups, connect researchers from across fields, and lead an interdisciplinary endeavor;
- A significant and consistent record as a funded investigator, preferably with experience obtaining interdisciplinary, multi-investigator grants;

- Experience with and/or a strong interest in securing additional research funding through philanthropic support;
- A fair, collaborative, collegial, and transparent work style;
- An earned doctorate or terminal degree in an academic discipline relevant to the Institute and a strong record of teaching and scholarship;
- Values outreach, measurable innovation, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), accessibility, community engagement, open conversation, progress, effective change, and open exchange.

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/tulane-university/presidential-chair-bywater-institute. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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Tulane University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution committed to excellence through diversity. Tulane University will not discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital status, military or veteran status, or any other status or classification protected by federal, state, or local law. All eligible candidates are encouraged to apply.