

Illinois Strategic Excellence Hiring Program

June 6, 2011

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will launch a campus wide faculty hiring initiative in 2011 called the Illinois Strategic Excellence Hiring Program. The program is designed to foster the recruitment of exceptional scholars who will enhance our institution's strategic goals and build on our reputation as a leading public research university. The goal of the program is to attract leading faculty (associate or full professors) who will foster multi-disciplinary research teams that can address critical societal problems. These scholars should have a record of excellence in research, in undergraduate and graduate teaching, and in public engagement.

Strategic Areas

At Illinois, we are known nationally and internationally for our strengths in information technology, health, energy, and international affairs. The Illinois Strategic Excellence Hiring Program initially will concentrate on these key areas, which are identified by our campus strategic plan and are consistent with distinctive qualities of excellence at our institution.

We anticipate making roughly 6-8 campus-level hires a year across these four strategic areas:

- Information, Technology and Society
- Human Health and Wellness
- Energy and Sustainability
- Culture, Communication, and Global Issues

Process

Proposals for faculty searches should come from one or more departments/units. The proposals should be consistent with one of the broad strategic areas defined above. Proposals should identify how the position will enhance campus-level goals as well as the specific research and teaching needs of more than one department/unit. Proposals must be vetted by the appropriate college(s) and should include a letter of support from the relevant academic dean(s).

Proposals for this year's hiring cycle are due by August 1, 2011 (please send to Barbara Wilson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, 217 Swanlund; bjwilson@illinois.edu). The proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Provost's Faculty Advisory Group, the Dean of the Graduate College, and the Vice Chancellor for Research. The committee will make recommendations to the Provost. Searches that are approved will receive a commitment of up to \$75,000 in recurring salary support and a substantial contribution to start-up costs from the campus.

Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess proposals:

- Position will enhance significantly our institutional strengths and reputation
- Position will advance substantially the goals of the respective unit(s)
- Position will contribute strongly to the educational mission of the campus, especially undergraduate teaching and research
- Proposing units should have a strong record of research and teaching excellence
- Proposing units should have a demonstrable record of promoting diversity

Proposals should address *each* of these criteria and should be no longer than 4 pages in length. Please attach a letter of support from the relevant dean(s).

Questions concerning the program can be sent to Barbara Wilson, Vice Provost (bjwilson@illinois.edu).