The University of California, Davis seeks a recognized leader in energy-efficiency technologies, engineering, and/or policy to lead the UC Davis Energy and Efficiency Institute (EEI) as its faculty Director. The Director will be appointed as a tenured Associate or Full Professor within one or more departments of the College of Engineering. The Director will also hold the Chevron Chair in Energy Efficiency.

EEI works closely with government, industry, and various other research centers to accelerate the development and commercialization of energy-efficient technologies. The Director will join an academic environment with an interdisciplinary culture among faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to the Institute’s mission. The Director will provide leadership in organizing, managing, and communicating the Institute’s research, teaching, and outreach efforts. The Director will actively participate in undergraduate and graduate teaching, conduct research, and provide service to the university and the public. Given the Institute’s strong positioning for State and Federal funding opportunities, the Director is expected to lead efforts internally across campus, and externally in concert with strategic stakeholders, to secure multi-million-dollar, multi-year research contracts that advance the Institute’s and associated centers’ research and education goals.

The University of California, Davis

Founded in 1905, UC Davis is the most academically comprehensive university on the West Coast. The University is known for working across disciplines to solve the world’s most pressing problems and for its commitment to artistic and cultural expression. The 5,300-acre campus is in Davis, a vibrant college town and community of about 68,000. The state capital is nearby as are world-class destinations like the San Francisco Bay Area, Lake Tahoe, and the Napa Valley.

UC Davis is ranked first in the world in numerous areas – veterinary science, agricultural economics and policy, and plant and animal programs. It is ranked first in the nation in agriculture, first among best-value colleges for women in STEM, and first among producers of minority graduate degrees in biological and biomedical sciences. These are just a few of the top rankings that reflect the University’s commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, diversity and inclusion.

The University’s four Colleges and six professional Schools offer more than 100 undergraduate majors
and 96 graduate programs. UC Davis graduates more California alumni than any other UC campus and contributes more than $8.1 billion each year to the state’s economy. In 2016–17, UC Davis brought in $847M in research funding. In addition to the advances in knowledge and practice that this funding supported, it led to inventions and discoveries that the University is bringing into the public domain: UC Davis filed 294 records of invention and 170 patent applications, negotiated 108 license agreements, and helped establish 16 startups in the last fiscal year.

UC Davis Health serves a 33-county area and includes the region’s only Level I adult and pediatric trauma centers, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, comprehensive full-service children’s hospital, transplant services, heart and vascular centers, an institute for neurodevelopmental disorders, and a world-renowned telemedicine network.

The University is home to the world-famous Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, the California Lighting Technology Center, and the UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, among many other notable centers of innovation and culture across the institution.

UC Davis is progressive, entrepreneurial, and hard-charging, focused on its future and that of the state, nation, and world. Whether it is improving animal health, securing the food supply, developing breakthrough medical treatments, or sustaining the environment — the common mission is to create a better world for all.

The Energy Efficiency Institute

EEI is a Special Research Program under the UC Davis Office of Research that directs applied research through stakeholder engagement, innovation, research and development, education and outreach. With deep roots in energy efficiency, EEI has recently been branching out to encompass a broader energy-systems perspective, including topics such as energy storage and microgrids, energy economics, whole-building retrofits, indoor environmental quality, energy and water use in food and agriculture, and market transformation. EEI comprises three core centers [the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC), the Western Cooling Efficiency Center (WCEC), and the Center for Water Energy Efficiency (CWEE)] as well as various programs and initiatives. Its researchers collaborate with a diverse range of faculty across campus in interdisciplinary research endeavors, including the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS-Davis), the Plug-in Hybrid and Electric Vehicle (PHEV) Research Center, and the Program for International Energy Technologies (PIET). EEI is also responsible for ongoing administration of the recently launched Energy Graduate Group (started Fall 2017), which organizes Masters- and PhD-level degree programs in several fields.

With financial support from UC Davis and each of its leadership sponsors – Pacific Gas & Electric, American Honda, Chevron Corporation, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sempra Energy, Southern California Edison, and Wells Fargo – EEI works to accelerate real-world solutions to energy challenges in California, the US, and beyond. The Institute has a track record of obtaining applied R&D funding from the California Energy Commission, the US
Department of Energy, the Office of Naval Research, the Department of Defense, and energy utilities. Recent awards include an $11M grant to develop and administer the CalEPE Hub, an initiative to inform procurement of distributed energy resources by institutional customers, and $1.2M in funding to establish meaningful research collaborations between Mexico and California. Strategic initiatives and grant-funded research currently underway include: 1) advancing wireless sensor/actuator solutions for buildings to reduce energy/water end-uses and improve indoor environmental quality (IEQ); 2) providing advanced energy services in disadvantaged communities and underserved sectors; 3) reducing energy and water consumption in food production and indoor agriculture; and 4) improving energy performance, IEQ and performance in both schools and healthcare.

The Institute administers the Energy Graduate Group (EGG), which offers advanced graduate education at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels in energy science, technology, management, and policy. The Director will work closely with the EGG faculty leadership in developing and coordinating opportunities to coordinate research, fundraising, student engagement, and opportunities to inform energy policy development.

EEI’s FY 2018-2019 budget is roughly $8M. Its current leadership and the senior staff in the Office for Research anticipate a larger budget next year as extramural funding continues to grow. More information about EEI can be found at http://energy.ucdavis.edu/. Photos of the Institute are also available via social media: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ucdavisenergy/albums.

The Director will provide strategic vision for and operational leadership of the Institute in the following ways:

- Serve as the Institute’s public voice, articulating its contributions to local, state, national and international communities.
- Pursue an aggressive development program to grow the Institute’s profile and resources.
- Energize a broad array of UC Davis faculty members to participate in EEI activities and to contribute to its growth and success.
- Engage government leaders in EEI programs to ensure a strong link with government decision-making at state, federal and international levels, to spur the development and adoption of applied energy solutions.
- Continue successful partnerships with campus operations and administrative units to demonstrate and deploy sustainable best practices for energy in campus building retrofits and new construction, and to foster additional research and programmatic collaborations across campus.
- Lead EEI collaborations in support of the UC system-wide carbon neutrality initiative and Sustainable Campus, Sustainable Cities Big Idea.

As a senior member of the University’s faculty, the Director will:

- Engage in research, teaching and other scholarly activities that advance the field of sustainable energy across multiple UC Davis schools, colleges and departments.
- Engage in teaching within their home department, using EEI resources to cover one core departmental course per year, should the Director not be able to teach such a course.
Participate in the normal merit and promotion process within their home department.
Resume a normal departmental teaching load, should they cease being the EEI Faculty Director.
Support the development of graduate and undergraduate curriculum to educate a new generation of energy-efficiency professionals and leaders, and promote mechanisms to aid the education of existing professionals in the fields of sustainable energy and energy efficiency.

The Chevron Chair in Energy Efficiency is supported by the Chevron Energy Efficiency endowment established by the Chevron Corporation at UC Davis in 2008. The Chair is intended for the recruitment and retention of a prominent leader for the Institute; its endowment income supports the Director’s leadership of EEI and may contribute to his or her own research, teaching, and outreach activities.

Qualifications

The University of California, Davis is seeking an established and ambitious investigator with a vision for energy efficiency that spans an array of fields who will lead the EEI to new levels of distinction and will expand its resources and programs. Full professors and advanced associate professors are welcome to apply.

To be considered, applicants must have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent in a relevant energy-efficiency related field, outstanding leadership and administrative experience, a record of accomplishment in teaching, research, and outreach, and demonstrated ability to initiate, coordinate, and conduct research and educational programs in one or more areas of energy-efficiency science, technology, design, business, sociology, law, and/or policy. The applicant must also have strong interpersonal and relationship skills and demonstrated experience working effectively with individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds, interests, and positions both within and outside a University. Demonstrated skills in obtaining overhead-bearing and gift extramural funds is expected.

Expected experiences and attributes include:

- Demonstrated effectiveness in administration, leadership, and communication.
- Demonstrated excellence in research in one or more related energy efficiency science, technology, design, business, sociology, law, and/or policy areas.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership and to work cooperatively and effectively with university faculty, industry stakeholders, local, state and federal government officials and agencies, non-governmental organizations, and public groups, and the ability to facilitate interdisciplinary research among these diverse groups.
- Commitment to excellence in teaching: evidence and ability to perform well at both graduate and undergraduate levels – must be able to develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses or seminars.
- Ability to train M.S. and Ph.D. students in graduate research.
- Willingness and potential for effective participation in departmental, campus, and public service activities.
- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in technology transfer and commercialization activities.
To apply

The University California, Davis has engaged Opus Partners (www.opuspartners.net) to support the recruitment for this position. Craig Smith, PhD, Partner, and Marisea Rivera, Senior Associate, are leading the search. Applicants are invited to email a PDF containing a brief letter describing their interest and qualifications and curriculum vitae/resume to marisea.rivera@opuspartners.net. Nominations, recommendations, expressions of interest, and inquiries should be sent to the same address. The position is open until filled. Full applications must ultimately be received by UC Davis by March 1, 2019 to receive full consideration. Every effort will be made to preserve candidate confidentiality.

UC Davis is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and is dedicated to recruiting a diverse faculty community. UC Davis welcomes all qualified applicants to apply, including women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.