

## **Sustainability Scientists and Scholars at Arizona State University: A Community of Scholars**

Promoting human prosperity and well-being while protecting and enhancing the Earth's life support systems is a defining challenge of our time. Thus, finding solutions for specific local-to-global challenges of sustainability is a new and growing area of university responsibility and scholarly research called "sustainability science." This new field is a vital element of Arizona State University's research portfolio. As such, President Crow and Provost Capaldi called for the Global Institute of Sustainability, and its School of Sustainability, to establish a special designation for university researchers who conduct important work on sustainability topics. Sustainability science requires a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach, integrating practical experience with knowledge and action drawn from the spectrum of disciplines in the natural and social sciences, medicine, engineering, mathematics, humanities and the arts. The formalization of a community of sustainability scientists-scholars from throughout the university—and ultimately from other research institutions—is meant to accelerate the pace of discovery and formally recognize the many contributors to this new field.

***In the academic world, there is a strong call for more integrated approaches to support the political and societal process toward sustainable development. Questions as to exactly how such integration—underpinned by scientific research—should be conceived and put into effect have so far been the preserve of a select group of scientists.***

*"Sustainability, Science, and Higher Education: The Need for New Paradigms," Pim Martens, Niko Roorda, Ron Cörvers: Sustainability, VOL. 3 NO. 5, OCTOBER 2010, p. 295.*

### **Designations: Two Tiers**

Two titles have been created for ASU researchers who are substantively involved in sustainability research. These designations are "Senior Sustainability Scientist," and "Distinguished Sustainability Scientist." If more suitable, faculty may also use the designation of "Scholar" versus "Scientist." All ASU faculty (Research or Clinical, Professors of Practice, tenure-track or tenured) who have conducted important sustainability research are eligible for the title Senior Sustainability Scientist. Faculty who have garnered highly significant honors for their work in sustainability—such as a Nobel Prize, membership in a U.S. Academy, a Regents' or President's Professorship, a Julie A. Wrigley Chair, or other major recognition determined by the Institute's Directorate—will be appointed a Distinguished Sustainability Scientist.

### **Benefits of the Designation**

- Integration in all of the Global Institute of Sustainability's programming, including seed grant programs.
- Opportunities to provide critical input into the Institute's strategic planning processes through individual meetings and/or retreats.
- Membership in working groups organized around particular research themes.
- Access to the Institute's Proposal Team\*; Communications Group; Events Group.
- Priority access to a suite of meeting rooms, 'parachute office space,' and administrative services at the Institute.
- Use/promotion of the new title at academic conferences/presentations, on business cards/websites.

## Expectations for Faculty Designees

- Maintain your research record in sustainability.
- Maintain a current CV and biography (for display on the Global Institute of Sustainability's website).
- Serve as an advisor to School of Sustainability master's and doctoral students.
- Contribute to the Global Institute of Sustainability's white paper series on sustainability topics.
- Collaborate on Institute projects.

## Nomination Process

The Institute's Executive Committee has prepared an initial list of invitees for the designation. Nominations for additional Senior and Distinguished Sustainability Scientists are strongly encouraged. To nominate someone for this designation, submit the following information via email to the Institute's Directorate, in care of Dr. Rob Melnick, Executive Dean, Global Institute of Sustainability:

1. A cover letter including the name, title, unit affiliation and contact information of the nominee with a detailed statement about the nominee's research and how it relates to sustainability.
2. A current CV of the nominee that includes any honors that would suggest a designation as "Distinguished Sustainability Scientist."

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\*The Global Institute of Sustainability's Proposal Team support is for multiple investigator, multi-disciplinary, large-scale proposals related to sustainability. The Global Institute of Sustainability must be credited as Lead Financial and as ABOR Center for all investigators on the ASU Blue Form if the Institute's Proposal Team assists with the proposal.