



PATHWAYS
EXECUTIVE SEARCH



Director, School of Conservation Futures

ASU College of
Global Futures[™]
Arizona State University



“What is needed is a bold new approach to tackling complex conservation challenges: weaving together the best of biodiversity research and conservation know-how with a range of knowledge systems to look at problems and solutions in a holistic way, emphasizing both global interconnectedness and the importance of place; fostering just collaboration and mutual understanding among researchers and stakeholders; co-developing new models of learning and discovery—ultimately shifting mindsets to accelerate change.”

The College of Global Futures at ASU is searching for a visionary leader to become the Director, School of Conservation Futures, with a concurrent appointment as a tenured Professor or Professor of Practice. The School of Conservation Futures (SCF) is a first-of-a-kind transdisciplinary school at the vanguard of redefining conservation as a field. It is part of the College of Global Futures (CGF), the academic cornerstone of the Global Futures Laboratory (GFL) at ASU. The director will lead the school into a future of growth and academic excellence that is synergistic with Global Futures' mission. The director will leverage the considerable strengths of the CGF and GFL to elevate the school's national and international profile and consequential social impact.

The Organization

Founded in 1885, Arizona State University (ASU) is a leading public research institution known for its commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and societal impact. Two decades ago, ASU set forth a new and ambitious trajectory: to become a comprehensive knowledge enterprise – a **New American University** – dedicated to the simultaneous pursuit of excellence, broad access to quality education, and meaningful societal impact. Since then, all its energy, creativity, and resources have been brought to bear on the design of a uniquely adaptive and transdisciplinary university committed to producing master learners.

Today, ASU exemplifies a new prototype for the American public research university. With a total enrollment of over 140,000 students across its physical campuses in Arizona and its online programs, ASU is one of the largest universities in the United States. The university has been ranked No. 1 in innovation by U.S. News & World Report every year since 2016. With over 800 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and houses cutting-edge research facilities, the university is contributing to advancements in sustainability, health, technology, and space exploration. ASU's culture of innovation and inclusion draws pioneering researchers to the faculty and attracts highly qualified students from all 50 states and more than 130 nations.

Charter and Mission

ASU is a comprehensive **public research university**, measured not by whom it excludes but by **whom it includes** and **how they succeed**, advancing **research and discovery** of public value, and assuming **fundamental responsibility** for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the **communities it serves**.

Goals

- Demonstrate leadership in enabling academic excellence and accessibility at scale
- Establish national standing in academic quality and impact of colleges and schools in every field
- Expand ASU's role as the leading global center for interdisciplinary research, discovery and development by 2029
- Enhance our local impact and social embeddedness
- Design and launch ASU Health as a comprehensive cluster of teaching, learning and discovery health systems for the enhancement of social-scale health outcomes

Learn more at <https://newamericanuniversity.asu.edu/about/asu-charter-mission-and-goals>

Read ASU's annual reports: <https://www.asu.edu/about/annual-report>



The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory®

Established in 2019, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University has drawn on ASU's deep commitment to use-inspired research and is the world's first university-based approach to ensuring a habitable planet and a future where well-being is attainable for all humankind. Its roots date back to the establishment of the Global Institute of Sustainability in 2004 and the founding of ASU's School of Sustainability, the first of its kind in the United States.

Using the model of the multi-focused National Laboratories, the Global Futures Laboratory (GFL) provides key engagement spaces for scientists, educators, and leaders across ASU - and around the world - to address critical issues related to the future of planet Earth.

The GFL's ongoing endeavors in sustainability, responsible innovation, and service to the global community are explored across five core spaces: Discovery, Learning, Solutions, Networks and Engagement. The GFL comprises more than 70 centers, units, and initiatives, with work deployed locally, regionally, and globally through the GFL's headquarters on ASU's Tempe campus, in centers in Hawaii, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Bermuda, and across the GFL's diverse network of partners around the world.

The GFL includes the **College of Global Futures**, which serves as the academic cornerstone of the initiative, offering innovative degree programs that prepare students to tackle complex global challenges.

Learn more at: <https://globalfutures.asu.edu/>



The College of Global Futures

The **College of Global Futures** prepares ASU students to address some of the greatest challenges of our time, from ensuring the social benefits of powerful new technologies and creating just and sustainable futures to exploring solutions to emerging issues that transcend the limitations of conventional thinking.

The College of Global Futures is currently home to 4 transdisciplinary schools, focusing on sustainability, innovation, complexity, and the health of our oceans. Programs across the college offer undergraduate and graduate degrees, and non-degree Executive and Professional Education opportunities for industry engagement and upskilling. The School of Conservation Futures will be the 5th school in the College of Global Futures serving this mission.

Learn more about:

[School for the Future of Innovation in Society](#)

[School of Sustainability](#)

[School of Complex Adaptive Systems](#)

[School of Ocean Futures](#)



The New School of Conservation Futures (SCF)

The proposed School of Conservation Futures (SCF) will seek to collaborate with and serve global communities, organizations, and governments that are working toward vibrant futures for all.

The CGF's vision is that the SCF will transform teaching and learning systems in conservation science, reshaping conservation to achieve a world in which humans understand their role as part of nature and the Earth system. The SCF will value, uplift, and apply diverse worldviews, knowledge systems, and conservation practices to build and advance a global conservation community and workforce that reflects the local and global communities it serves – a conservation community better prepared to protect and restore the diversity of life on our complex and rapidly changing planet.

The SCF will serve a range of learners, including conservation organization employees, executives at multinational corporations, youth leaders (including those from Indigenous and other diverse local communities), policymakers, and undergraduate, and graduate students. Conservation changemakers of the present and future will find and choose from various programs that fit their career and life stages, engaging with an innovative curriculum that includes real-world skills, diverse knowledge systems, digital, hybrid, experiential, and place-based learning, as well as new technologies that build upon the application and theory of conservation science.

The Role

The College of Global Futures at ASU is searching for a visionary leader to become Director, School of Conservation Futures, with a concurrent appointment as a tenured Professor or Professor of Practice. The School of Conservation Futures (SCF) is a first-of-a-kind transdisciplinary school at the vanguard of redefining conservation as a field and is part of the College of Global Futures (CGF), the academic cornerstone of the Global Futures Laboratory (GFL) at ASU.

The Director, School of Conservation Futures will build and lead the school into a future of growth and academic excellence that is synergistic with Global Futures' mission. Reporting to the Dean of the College of Global Futures and serving on the College of Global Futures leadership team and the Global Futures Laboratory Executive Committee, the Director will leverage the considerable strengths of the CGF and GFL to elevate the school's national and international profile and consequential social impact. The position will be based at ASU's Tempe campus, the home of the SCF. The SCF will have hubs in locations around the world.

Responsibilities

This role requires a creative leader who is open to new approaches, processes, and ways of learning. The Director, supported by faculty, staff, and partners, will:

- Redefine the field of conservation
- Develop and implement the strategic vision and long-term goals of the school
- Collaborate with parallel and synergistic efforts in co-produced research, practice, and solutions-oriented programs
- Advance the mission of access and success for students, faculty, and staff
- Design new degree and non-degree programs and leading-edge curriculum
- Mobilize growth in learner outreach and enrollment
- Lead the design of the school's curriculum for student success and careers
- Build the research portfolio
- Foster a culture that values multiple knowledge systems and promotes inclusive excellence
- Engage with communities and partners to build collaborations and advance goals and frontline conservation outcomes



The Candidate

Experience and Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications

- Doctorate in a relevant discipline or field
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership
- Demonstrated commitment to access and academic excellence

Desired Qualifications

- Leadership experience in transdisciplinary research and teaching related to conservation
- International experience and leadership
- Field experience related to conservation
- Intellectual and/or practical leadership in synthesizing more than one knowledge system to address environmental challenges
- Demonstrated experience in designing and leading experiential, place-based learning
- Proven track record in building partnerships with communities and organizations and co-creating with local and/or global partners or Indigenous and/or local communities to address conservation or ecosystem challenges
- Demonstrated commitment to teaching and academic innovation
- Strong communication skills that reach multiple constituencies
- Experience in online courses and degree development and delivery
- An interest in and commitment to fundraising and an ability to present a compelling vision to external constituencies
- Commitment to inclusive, ethical, adaptive, and reflexive practices



The Application Process

To apply, please submit the following directly to Pathways Executive Search at Applications@PathwaysExecutiveSearch.com. The application package must contain:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae

For more details or questions, please contact:

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Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

A background check is required for employment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.

See <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html> and <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/>.