

University of Vermont Environmental Program Director

The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and Environmental Program of the University of Vermont invites applications from outstanding candidates for the position of **Environmental Program Director**. We welcome applications from interdisciplinary senior scholar-teachers with administrative experience from a range of disciplines in ecology, geography, anthropology, food systems, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, art, and others. Candidates should demonstrate administrative experience across collaborating units and commitment to supporting and guiding an interdisciplinary undergraduate Environmental Studies curriculum. The Director provides internal program leadership closely parallel to department chair responsibilities as well as external leadership in relation to campus-wide undergraduate environmental education. The Director solicits new courses, manages course approvals and scheduling and facilitates faculty meetings, public relations, and relations with other academic units where faculty hold tenure lines and students are enrolled in the major (i.e. College of Arts and Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Rubenstein School). In addition, the Director provides oversight for the UVM Natural Areas; Environmental Studies curriculum initiatives, advising, fundraising, awards, and scholarships; approves academic major plans and senior capstone proposals; and is responsible for general office management, staff supervision, expense approvals, and space allocation. In this period of high growth for our nationally acclaimed program, we seek a Director that can provide inspired vision and collaborative leadership to support high quality learning opportunities and student engagement.

The Environmental Program at University of Vermont, founded in 1972 by UVM presidential mandate, is a campus-wide unit, offering the Environmental Studies (ENVS) undergraduate major and minor in three colleges and schools. Students choose one of six concentrations and prepare an individually designed course of study with a senior capstone. The Program encourages and actively supports high impact educational practices including: independent research, community engagement through internships and service learning, student advocacy, and artistic exploration of environmental values. The ENVS major is the second most enrolled major at UVM, with over 500 majors and minors pursuing a wide range of environmental interests. The ENVS faculty includes eight tenure-track faculty with appointments of 25-100% in the Program and three full-time lecturers. Faculty offices for these hires will be in the Bittersweet building, Program headquarters since 1972, which also houses three support staff. Community professionals and others offer 20-30 additional courses each semester through Continuing and Distance Education.

The Director reports to the Dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, one of nine academic colleges/schools at University of Vermont. The School's mission is to cultivate appreciation and understanding of ecological and social processes and values aimed at maintaining the integrity of natural systems and achieving a sustainable human community. The School's tenure-track, research, and teaching faculty includes natural scientists, social scientists, humanists, planners, and designers working together on a wide range of natural resource, sustainability, and environmental problem-solving challenges. New faculty will have the opportunity to work with the [UVM Natural Areas](#), the [Gund Institute for Ecological Economics](#), the [Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory on Lake Champlain](#), the [U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Research Station](#), as well as the [Office of Sustainability](#) and the new Institute on Environment currently under development. With ~600 undergraduate students and ~100 Master's and Ph.D. students, the Rubenstein School offers six undergraduate majors and both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. There are 45 full-time faculty members and 35 research and administrative staff. The University of Vermont is located in Burlington, the largest city in Vermont, with an increasingly ethnic and culturally diverse population. Opportunities for research, service learning projects, and internships abound in this highly collegial setting.

We especially seek candidates who work across disciplinary boundaries using theoretical and/or applied approaches to address environmental challenges where sustainability is the goal. Scholarly endeavors with commitment to social and environmental justice and their relation to equity, power, and privilege, are high

priority for these hires. Successful candidates will demonstrate interdisciplinary research of the highest quality and the capacity to seek extramural funds to support their scholarship. We seek colleagues with innovative teaching methods that promote engaged learning in the classrooms of the 21st century and a demonstrated commitment to teaching in an interdisciplinary undergraduate Environmental Studies program.

The Program Director will be hired at the associate or full professor level. We seek teacher-scholars who are committed to quality interaction with students and colleagues at all levels. Preference will be given to candidates with: 1) a strong record of scholarly achievement, external funding, and publications; 2) experience with university-level teaching, high impact experiential learning pedagogies, academic advising, research and internship mentoring, and curriculum innovation; 3) administrative experience working across different disciplines and perspectives; and 4) strong communication, collaboration, and community-building skills.

The expected teaching load is 2 courses per year to include courses on sustainability and equity, Environmental Studies core courses, and upper-level courses in the candidate's area of expertise. Applicants may come from a variety of social science, natural science or humanities backgrounds, but must have demonstrable expertise in a field of study with relevance to sustainability studies and global environmental equity if applying for one of the available tenure lines. Because interest in environmental studies is so high at UVM, we expect strong commitment to undergraduate education and interest in innovative pedagogical methods, particularly those identified as high impact education practices. The Environmental Program especially seeks teacher-scholars who engage across the disciplines and who carefully examine environmental practices with diverse stakeholders on and beyond campus.

A successful candidate will be expected to:

- 1) Develop and sustain a nationally recognized research program that contributes to the environmental mission of the Environmental Program and the Rubenstein School;
- 2) Establish excellence in teaching through instruction, strategic management of Environmental Studies course offerings and faculty, staff, undergraduate, and graduate student mentorship;
- 3) Collaborate with faculty, staff, and administrators within RSENr and across the university; and
- 4) Serve the Environmental Program, RSENr and UVM through governance and environmental curriculum needs.

How to apply

The search committee will give Initial consideration to applications received by January 5, 2015, but applications will be considered until there is a sufficiently diverse pool. Candidates applying specifically for the Program Director position should highlight their qualifications in a supplementary letter of intent. These are university-year appointments expected to begin on August 24, 2015, with the Program Director position beginning on July 1 if possible. The following application materials should be uploaded to <http://www.uvmjobs.com> under posting #F099PO (titled Assistant Professor) and include the following materials:

- letter of interest
- curriculum vitae
- statement (2 pages maximum) on scholarship and teaching experience, including impact of work and how these efforts can be successfully integrated (for those applying for Program Director, please also include administrative experience in this statement)

Note: References will be contacted immediately by UVM for letters upon submission of application.

For further information, see the Rubenstein School and Environmental Program websites or contact co-chairs, Stephanie.Kaza@uvm.edu and Ernesto.Mendez@uvm.edu.