The University of Rochester invites nominations and applications for the role of Director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics.

The Director sets the strategic vision the LLE and is responsible for ensuring the successful execution of the LLE’s scientific and technical mission, for securing the funding needed to fulfill this mission, and for overseeing the safe and effective operation of the Laboratory. Reporting to the University of Rochester’s Vice-President for Research and a member of the President’s cabinet, the Director is accountable for the development and implementation of LLE’s strategic and scientific vision, and for all aspects of its work to implement that vision to the satisfaction of sponsors and partners. The Director is also responsible for managing LLE’s relationship with federal sponsors, notably the NNSA, and for representing the Laboratory to the Department of Energy, Congress, and the community of national-lab partners, notably the three national-security labs for which LLE is a key partner in stockpile stewardship.

The new Director will have a significant opportunity to build on LLE’s high standing as they will start their appointment in the run-up to the negotiation of a new five-year Cooperative Agreement (anticipated funding: $400-500M). The Director will develop this agreement, due in late 2022, with input from LLE staff, its Scientific Advisory Committee, University leaders, national laboratory executives, and DOE sponsors. The agreement will lay out a compelling vision for the future of the Lab’s science and national security missions.

Qualified candidates should have demonstrated success in leading and managing large research and development programs driven by team science, and should have a distinguished record of scientific and technical accomplishment. The candidate must also have experience in the development, marketing, and successful execution of large-scale, state-of-the-art high energy density facilities for which LLE has a well-deserved reputation. Knowledge of and a history of supporting NNSA’s science-based stockpile stewardship missions and the national security laboratories that support SSP are highly desired.

Strong leadership skills are required, including the ability to communicate effectively with key Congressional leaders, federal program managers, the ICF and HEDS communities, Laboratory staff, and the senior leadership and governance of the University. Well-qualified candidates will demonstrate a record of achievement in creating inclusive high-performing team-based cultures in which diversity and equity have been shared values.

Additional requirements:

- Eligibility for DOE Q Clearance, which requires US citizenship; active clearance preferred
- Experience managing complex budgets that include federal agency funding
- PhD or equivalent experience

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The University of Rochester has retained Opus Partners to support the recruitment of this position. Craig Smith, Partner, and Abigail Maynard, Associate, are leading the search. Confidential inquiries, applications, and nominations should be sent by email to Abigail (abigail.maynard@opuspartners.net).

An application should include a resume and cover letter. Letters (2-4 pages in length) can highlight leadership experience, professional motivations, answer questions you might anticipate regarding your materials, or note an accomplishment that may not be evident on a resume or CV.

LLE and the University of Rochester value diversity, equity, and inclusion and seek a leader who is committed to promoting these values throughout the organization. We encourage candidates, in a Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, to address how they might promote these values as the Director and to highlight past professional support of initiatives designed to remove barriers and to increase participation by groups historically under-represented in the profession.

The University of Rochester values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for persons regardless of age, color, disability, domestic violence status, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion/creed, sex, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by law. Further, the University complies with all applicable nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its policies, admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities.