

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

• AFFILIATES PROGRAM. •

OVERVIEW

The mission of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment is to lead the way toward a future in which people and the environment prosper together.

ABOUT

The Institute on the Environment (IonE) enables a future where people and planet prosper together through interdisciplinary scholarship and engagement with society outside the academy. IonE connects colleagues working on environmental and sustainability issues across the university so that innovative research and learning can take place. Faculty fellows are essential members—the foundation—of the IonE community. These fellows established IonE as one of the premier environmental think-tanks in the U.S., and the revision described below aims to sustain, invigorate and grow this program of faculty to include a wider range of faculty and faculty-like affiliates.

CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

As of Fall 2016, there will be four categories of UMN and other, relevant individuals in the IonE Affiliates Program:

- ***IonE Fellows:*** foundational members of IonE, composed of senior faculty and others of similar rank with a track-record of transformative and interdisciplinary environmental work
- ***IonE Associates:*** faculty who are developing skills in interdisciplinary and engaged scholarship (limited term)
- ***IonE Visiting Scholars:*** scholars or other professionals in residence at IonE (limited term)
- ***IonE Educators:*** academic leaders seeking to advance sustainability education inside and outside the university (limited term)

BENEFITS & RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to certain additional benefits and responsibilities below, *all affiliates* share the following:

BENEFITS

- Membership in the IonE community, including the right to list affiliation on a CV and on publications or other work products.
- Opportunity to interact with like-minded environmental scholars, where ideas are shared and new teams of interdisciplinary scholars are formed.
- Access to flexible and assignable working space in the Learning and Environmental Sciences building or other relevant space on a non-Twin Cities campus.
- Access to IonE event spaces and event planning services with little or no charge (fees for food and externally-sponsored events).
- Eligibility for IonE funded grants and contracts. (Applies to UMN employees only and excludes IonE mini-grants which remain open to non-affiliates. Note this a change from grants awarded at the time of a fellow's designation.)
- Invitation to activities for affiliates, including events with special guests.
- Access to IonE services including communications, grant budgeting and submissions, and consultation on funding from philanthropy and foundations. The scope of these services is described in IonE policy.
- Opportunity to house research projects and personnel at IonE when an interdisciplinary and outward-facing environment is desirable.
- Eligibility for matching and seed funding for external grant proposals.
- Access to IonE professional development or training activities.
- Opportunity to speak to the IonE community as a lecturer in IonE's flagship seminar series.
- Publicity, including a press release upon selection, biographies on the IonE website, and recognition for new affiliates at an IonE annual meeting.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Regular participation in the IonE community, including attendance at flagship IonE seminars, Fellows' dinners/salons or IonE Associate workshops, and other IonE events. (IonE events will be announced in August for the Fall semester and early January for the Spring semester.)
- Attendance at annual IonE meeting. (The first IonE Annual Meeting will be Spring 2017.)
- Be an ambassador for IonE to university leadership and external partners, embodying the institute's core mission and vision to build a future where people and planet prosper together.
- Remain in contact or dialog with one or more members of the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) to express opinions about IonE direction and function.
- Occasional service on IonE committees to advance and improve IonE initiatives and activities.
- Commitment to outreach and communication, including sharing news-worthy information with the IonE communications team.
- Represent IonE in a way that is respectful of its members and upholds the principles of honesty, transparency, and desire to advance the common good.
- Promote IonE education and leadership opportunities to students (e.g., Boreas, Acara), support student involvement in these activities, and consider such IonE programs and activities when building broader impacts for a research project.
- Include IonE designation (e.g., "IonE Fellow") on professional webpage, email signature, and, when appropriate, journal publications when/if other affiliates are also listed.
- Include IonE staff and services on external grants when appropriate, to help support IonE programs directly and supply indirect costs that help grow IonE capabilities.
- Communicate to the IonE Managing Director when any external grant is submitted that is enabled by or draws upon IonE resources or expertise.

IONE FELLOWS

IonE Fellows are the bedrock of IonE. They enrich IonE and all its members intellectually, and they attract visibility and external investment. They are a primary path toward achieving the sustainable future, one enriched by knowledge and innovation that IonE envisions. They, together with IonE scientific staff and students, are the community that IonE seeks to serve, promote, and advance.

IonE Fellows are generally quite established in their career, having demonstrated excellence in one or more disciplines related to environmental protection or sustainability. IonE Fellows will have a significant publication record or equivalent demonstration of topical competency and recognition by national and international colleagues. Importantly, they also will have a track record of applying their research to real-world situations, helping partners outside the university understand and solve environmental problems. They are highly creative and innovative thought-leaders.

IonE Fellows will often be tenured faculty at the University of Minnesota, but membership is open to outstanding members of other organizations provided they meet a similar standard of excellence. Pre-tenured faculty may be nominated as IonE Fellows when they have served previously as an IonE Associates. Non-tenure-track faculty, including scientific staff with their primary appointment at IonE, may be nominated and elected when they have a stature similar to tenure, as demonstrated through years of service and rigorous external review. IonE Fellows are generally researchers pursuing environmental innovation, but nominations from educators with a publication or other demonstrated record in environmental pedagogy are also welcome.

Nominations for new Fellows are due to the IonE Managing Director by Sept. 15 of each year, with announcement of new fellows by late October. (See contact information on page 7.)

Nominations include: 1) a letter of endorsement from a current IonE Fellow (or in 2016, a current Resident Fellow); 2) a letter

from the nominee explaining the relevance of her/his work to IonE and how she/he will benefit from membership in the IonE community; and 3) a CV. Selection is overseen by the IonE Faculty Leadership Council (FLC; <http://environment.umn.edu/about-us/faculty-council/>) with ad hoc reviews as necessary. Selection will be based on strength of record and commitment to IonE ideals and objectives. Any changes, updates, or elaborated selection criteria will be released by the FLC before the annual nomination deadline. The FLC makes recommendations to the Director for her approval.

By Aug. 31, 2016, current IonE Resident Fellows can request to become IonE Fellows by submitting an email to the IonE Managing Director acknowledging the benefits and responsibilities of the revised program. All titles will change from “Resident Fellow” to “IonE Fellow.” (See contact information below.)

Each spring or summer, IonE Fellows will be surveyed for their participation in the IonE community over the past year, the ways in which she/he has benefitted from or helped by being an IonE Fellow, and suggestions she/he has for program improvement. Each summer, the FLC will reappoint IonE Fellows based on these surveys. Thus, an IonE Fellow can remain in the program as long as she/he meets the Fellow description, fulfills her responsibilities, and wishes to remain. In principle there is no limit to the number of IonE Fellows, though in practice, there should not be so many Fellows that access to resources, including services and space within the Institute for projects and project staff, become too limiting to be useful.

In addition to the benefits and duties of all Affiliates above, IonE Fellows will regularly gather at Fellows’ dinners/salons or similar events where small to medium-sized groups engage in stimulating dialog, debate, and collaboration. IonE Fellows also are eligible to serve on the FLC. And they may be asked to mentor an IonE Associate (a maximum of one per year; see below). A select group of new IonE Fellows each year will be invited to give lectures in the IonE’s flagship seminar series.

IONE ASSOCIATES

IonE Associates are relatively early-career researchers at the University of Minnesota seeking training and mentorship to develop engaged and interdisciplinary careers in environmental scholarship. IonE Associates are those individuals with the greatest promise to become internationally recognized for their environmental and sustainability research and those most likely to affect transformative environmental outcomes. IonE Associates serve for two years. Ideally, Associate alumni will apply at a later date to become IonE Fellows.

A key purpose of the IonE Associates is training for and capacity building of pre-tenure faculty. Early career researchers in long-term, non-tenure track appointments that include a track for promotion also are eligible. Post-tenure scholars can apply if they are newly embarking on interdisciplinary career or shifting their research to environmental topics.

IonE Associates attend at least three cohort-building workshops per year. This training will cover media and stakeholder engagement, best practices for interdisciplinary scholarship, and strategies for effective project management and strategic thinking to create impact in society. Each IonE Associates also will receive formal and informal mentorship by one or more IonE Fellow(s) during the fellowship period, with the hope that mentorship will continue to tenure. These mentors are established environmental scholars with considerable experience navigating an interdisciplinary career within a largely, disciplinary academy. IonE Fellows will learn new methods and approaches from IonE Associates through mentoring relationships as well.

Nominations for IonE Associates are due to the IonE Managing Director by Sept. 15 of each year, with announcement of new associates by late October. (See contact information on page 7.)

The FLC reviews nominations for IonE Associates and makes

recommendations to the Director. The FLC may seek assistance from ad hoc reviewers and IonE staff as necessary. Nominations are composed of: 1) a nomination letter from a Dean and Department Chair (or similar supervisory role) explaining the anticipated trajectory of the scholar, the potential for the scholar to pursue cutting-edge research, and the likelihood of achieving real-world outcomes over the life of their career; 2) a letter of support from a current IonE Fellow (in 2016, a current Resident Fellow); 3) a cover letter describing the nominee's professional aspirations and goals for her/his time as an IonE Associate; and 4) a CV. Selection will be based on an emerging interest in engaged and interdisciplinary scholarship and a commitment to IonE ideals and objectives. Any changes, updates, or elaborated selection criteria will be released by the FLC before the annual nomination deadline.

Each cohort will contain 10-15 individuals with a mixture of disciplines, perspectives, objectives, and backgrounds. A select group of new IonE Associates will be invited to give lectures in IonE's flagship seminar series.

Because deans and department chairs nominate only excellent scholars and IonE Associates are competitively chosen, we expect Associate alumni will be excellent candidates for tenure. To capture university-wide support for interdisciplinarity and engagement of junior faculty, we will seek co-sponsors for IonE Associate trainings, drawing on resources from various colleges and the Provost.

IONE VISITING SCHOLARS

The Visiting Scholars program aims to extend the reach of IonE and its researchers and to welcome external visitors who can enrich our community of environmental research and education. IonE Visiting Scholars provide a link between one or more external institutions—including academia, the government, not-for-profit institutions, and corporations—and the University of Minnesota. Visiting Scholars can reside on any campus of the University of Minnesota and will be invited to give lectures in IonE’s flagship seminar series.

Nominations for Visiting Scholars are accepted by the IonE Managing Director at any time, with review and decision within three months of receipt. (See contact information on page 7.)

Nominations, including self-nominations, are made by submitting to the Director or Managing Director a CV and cover letter explaining the relevance of the proposed visit to IonE and the activities to be undertaken during residency. Nominations, including self-nominations, can be submitted by any member of a university community or another organization/institution with an interest in scholarship or original inquiry. In addition to the responsibilities and benefits described above, Visiting Scholars are expected to be in residence full or part-time for at least three months. For those on the Twin Cities campus, a significant portion of this residence should be spent in IonE space. Visiting scholar applications are reviewed by the FLC. Visiting Scholars can be US or foreign nationals.

IONE EDUCATORS

To incubate and encourage innovative teaching in sustainability and environmental education, IonE will recognize three-to-five IonE Educators per year. These educators will advance best practices in sustainability instruction and curriculum development and disseminate those innovations to the broader university community. IonE Educators are tenure-track faculty and instructional staff, including adjunct faculty when appropriate. IonE Educators are regularly engaged in formal and informal teaching.

During their fellowship year, IonE Educators will pursue projects around effective pedagogy and curriculum development aimed at improving an existing course or developing new courses and educational experiences. Select projects may address education for the general public or for K-12 students. All projects will champion the need for multiple perspectives in solving complex sustainability challenges. During their fellowship year, IonE Educators also will deliver a lecture on some aspect of sustainability education to the broader IonE community, forming a seminar series called “Excellence in Sustainability Education.” Over time, alumni of the IonE Educators will form a community of educators with shared objectives and regular inter-cohort communication fostered by IonE staff.

Nominations for IonE Educators are due to the IonE Managing Director by Sept. 15 of each year, with announcement of new IonE Educators by late October. (See contact information on page 7.)

IonE Educators are recommended by the FLC with assistance from ad hoc reviewers and IonE staff. Individuals can self-nominate by submitting a CV and a cover letter describing their environmental or sustainability education experiences and goals and a description of the educational project or activity they seek to advance during their fellowship year. Selection will be based on strength of record and potential for the proposed project to significantly advance sustainability education at the UMN. Any changes, updates, or elaborated selection criteria will be released by the FLC before the annual nomination deadline. Consultation with IonE education/leadership staff about possible projects is strongly encouraged before submitting a nomination.

In addition to the benefits and responsibilities of all IonE Affiliates, IonE Educators will have access to part of a graduate research assistant who will help them in their focal project, and they will receive counsel from IonE staff in the development and implementation of their focal project.

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