

**Notice of Vacancy**  
**Department Chair and Professor**  
Washington State University  
Department of Physics and Astronomy

The College of Arts and Sciences at Washington State University invites applications for the position of Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy (P&A) at the Full Professor level. The Department of Physics and Astronomy is committed to research excellence through rigorous classroom preparation and mentorship by world-renowned faculty to produce fundamental scientific knowledge and understanding that impacts society. The Department performs fundamental research in the following broadly defined areas: Acoustics; Astronomy and Astrophysics; Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics; and Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science. All research areas include a strong presence in Computational Physics. The Department's research activities have important applications in energy, contemporary technology, national security, and other areas of national need.

The Chair, working with the faculty and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, provides the vision and the leadership to continually enhance the teaching and research mission of the Department, resulting in excellent educational and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. We are seeking to hire an outstanding individual for this permanent, full-time, tenured academic position located at the WSU Pullman campus, with a preferred starting date of **Month, Day Year** or later.



### EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

The expectations/responsibilities associated with the Chair position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Attract and retain top-tier faculty
- Enhance existing undergraduate and graduate degree programs
- Further advance the Department's strong tradition of extramural research funding and graduate education
- Support and promote the service mission of the department
- Maintain an innovative, well-funded, and nationally recognized research program in physics/astronomy
- Supervise high quality graduate research with a willingness to teach on the topic of physics/astronomy at the undergraduate and/or graduate level
- Effectively manage the Department's fiscal and administrative resources
- Enhance the Department's visibility within and outside the University

- We seek candidates whose research, teaching, or service has prepared them to contribute to WSU's commitment to diversity and inclusion in higher education.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### ***Required:***

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in physics/astronomy or a closely related field
- Qualifications commensurate with being tenured at the full professor level
- A distinguished record of scholarly research and a strong commitment to teaching
- Experience in effective supervision of graduate students and/or postdoctoral scholars
- Demonstrated success in attracting and sustaining external funding
- Leadership and interpersonal skills necessary to lead a department committed to teaching and research excellence
- Ability and interest to manage the departmental resources

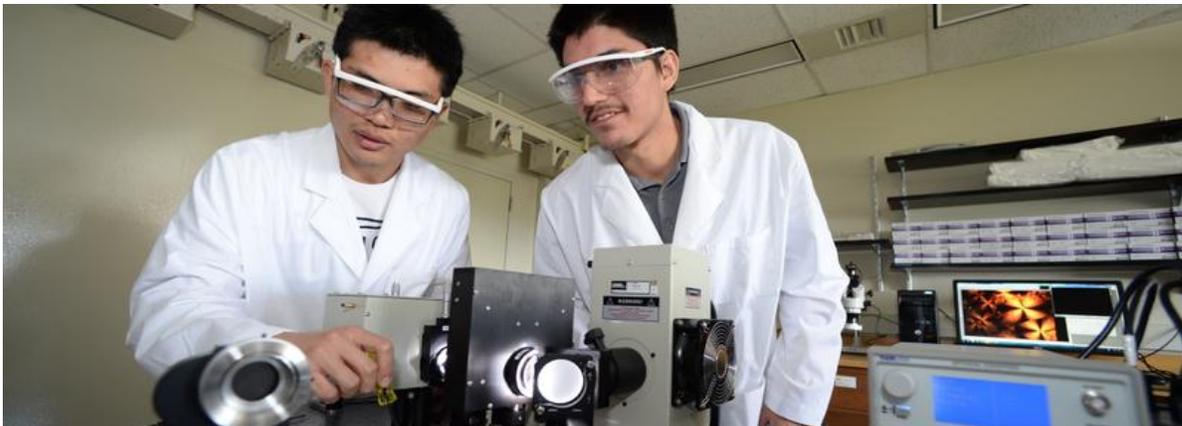
### ***Preferred:***

- Previous administrative experience as a chair or at a comparable level is desirable
- Previous experience as a university faculty member is desirable, but individuals with a strong record of research and scholarship in a non-academic setting will be given serious consideration

## **ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Physics and Astronomy strives for excellence in all of its four highly-interrelated activities in support of its teaching and research mission:

- Strategically focused research at the forefront of the physical sciences
- Graduate education that combines formal in-class instruction with outstanding research experience
- Undergraduate education and research experiences
- Educational, professional, and community service



The Department of Physics and Astronomy is one of the premiere academic units at WSU:

Department Composition	Research and Collaborations
<p>Tenured / Tenure-Track Faculty: 18            Instructional Faculty: 4            Technical Staff: 3            Administrative Staff: 5</p> <p>P&amp;A Faculty are recipients of numerous honors and awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 WSU Eminent Faculty Awards</li> <li>• 4 Regents Professors</li> <li>• Over 60% are Fellows in one or more scientific societies (e.g. APS, AAAS, OSA...)</li> </ul> <p>P&amp;A Faculty have active research programs and publish in top tier journals</p> <p>Graduate Students: 65 – 75</p> <p>Students enrolled in courses taught by the Department (Fall 2015): 1651</p> <p>Faculty participate in the interdisciplinary Materials Science and Engineering Program</p>	<p>The external funding level is outstanding, with P&amp;A faculty generating \$11.5M/year of extramural research funding.</p> <p>Strong ties with major national facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Light Source (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory)</li> <li>• Advanced Photon Source (Argonne National Laboratory)</li> <li>• DOE/NNSA National Laboratories</li> <li>• Hubble Space Telescope</li> <li>• Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory</li> <li>• Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</li> </ul> <p>Strong engagement in the APS/NW Section:            Hosted the 2015 meeting</p>

The Department has a talented and experienced administrative staff to assist the Chair and faculty in all administrative, programmatic and fiscal responsibilities.

### ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Washington State University, one of the two research universities in the state, was founded in 1890 as the state’s land-grant institution and is located in Pullman with regional campuses in Spokane, Vancouver and the Tri-Cities. Due to its strong emphasis on excellence in research and education, the Carnegie Classification™ has designated WSU as RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity). Current enrollment is approximately 28,686 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The University offers more than 200 fields of study, with 95 majors for undergraduates, 76 master’s degree programs, 66 doctoral degree programs, and 3 professional



degree programs. Academically, the University is organized into 11 colleges (Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences; Arts and Sciences; Business; Communication; Education; Engineering and Architecture; Honors; Medical Sciences, Nursing; Pharmacy; Veterinary Medicine) and a Graduate School. WSU is establishing a medical school with preliminary accreditation anticipated by the summer of 2016. For more information, please visit [www.wsu.edu](http://www.wsu.edu).

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Candidates must provide a letter that clearly delineates how they meet the qualifications outlined above; a current curriculum vitae; a detailed statement concerning their philosophy with respect to teaching, research, and leadership/management style/vision for the department; and contact information for at least five references.

Applications must be submitted electronically via the WSU recruitment website: [www.wsujobs.com/postings/xxxxx](http://www.wsujobs.com/postings/xxxxx).

The search will remain open until the position is filled. Consideration of applications will begin on **Month, Day Year** and continue until the position is filled.

Inquiries and nominations should be sent to the chair of the search committee, Professor Jane Doe, Department of Physics, PO Box XXXXX, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164, [Jane.Doe@wsu.edu](mailto:Jane.Doe@wsu.edu).

*WSU is an EO/AA Educator and Employer.*