

## Job description

### **Director School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies**

Michigan State University invites applications for the position of the founding Director of the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies (SLS&LCS). This will be a 12-month tenured appointment at the rank of professor in the College of Arts & Letters, to start July 1, 2018.

The nation's pioneer land-grant university and a member of the Association of American Universities, Michigan State University is a research-intensive institution with 17 degree granting colleges. With a student population of more than 50,000, including nearly 11,300 graduate and professional students from all 50 states and from more than 130 countries the University community is multi-ethnic and multinational. The campus is located in East Lansing, a cosmopolitan university town of 50,000 adjacent to Lansing, the state capital.

The School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies is in the process of being formed from the merger of the Department of Linguistics, Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages (LGSAAAL), the Department of Romance and Classical Studies (RCS), and the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA). It brings together teachers and scholars of language learning and teaching, world literatures and cultures, and linguistics to investigate cultural production, local and global communities, language learning and cognition viewed through the lens of the great variety and diversity of the world's languages. The School's collaborative environment promotes a world-class research agenda, innovative teaching, opportunities for outreach and community service, and enhanced learning experiences for students. The School will be housed in the College of Arts & Letters and will join a vibrant arts and humanities community that has benefitted from university support evidenced by an established language support center (CeLTA), expanding Less Commonly Taught Language programs, and world-renowned study abroad initiatives.

The successful candidate will be the School's founding Director and Chief Academic Officer. They will work with a team that includes two Associate Directors (Academic Affairs; Administration) in addition to five Program Heads, four Program Directors; six-seven Program Coordinators, and the Director of the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA), and will report to the Dean of the College of Arts & Letters. The School Director will be responsible for (a) promoting the School's overall Vision and mission including fundraising, international partnerships, grant procurement, community engagement and outreach initiatives, internships for students, and collaborative initiatives; (b) promoting the research profile of the School; (c) balancing interests across Programs; (d) communicating College and University Policies to School Programs and faculty; and overall (e) being an advocate for the School.

We seek a dynamic leader with significant administrative experience and a strong record of research, teaching, and service that merits a tenured appointment at the rank of professor in any of the Programs housed in the School. This individual should understand the challenges and opportunities facing universities in general and fields in language sciences, language teaching, and literary and cultural studies in particular. Outstanding candidates will demonstrate the ability

- to encourage an inclusive environment for diverse groups in the School, and to develop and support strong collaborations across the School's diverse programs;
- to build and support partnerships throughout the College of Arts & Letters, the university, other institutions in Michigan, nationally, and internationally;
- to engage and integrate the School's pedagogical and research missions;
- to promote and develop large undergraduate and robust graduate programs;
- to enable colleagues, including faculty and staff, to progress on their paths to intellectual and professional leadership; and
- to call upon the interpersonal skill and sensitivity necessary to maintain open communication with the School's administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

For more information about the School, please visit: <http://languages.cal.msu.edu/> as well as the current Department, Program, and Center websites:

[Department of Linguistics and Languages](#); [Department of Romance and Classical Studies](#); [Second Language Studies Program](#); and [Center for Language Teaching Advancement \(CeLTA\)](#)

Review of applications will begin October 16, 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Michigan State University Human Resources web site <http://careers.msu.edu/>. Qualified applicants should submit a) a letter expressing interest in this position and describing qualifications and experience, b) current curriculum vitae, c) the names and email addresses of 3 potential referees, and d) a summary of your experience with diversity in the classroom and/or in your past or planned research endeavors, any experience mentoring diverse students or community outreach initiatives, and an explanation of how you will advance our goals of inclusive excellence.

For more information, contact the Chair of the Search Committee, Patti Spinner, in the Department of Linguistics & Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages, at [spinnerp@msu.edu](mailto:spinnerp@msu.edu).

Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.

Michigan State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. Job applicants are considered for employment opportunities and employees are treated without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

The College of Arts & Letters recognizes that only an academic and organizational culture, which actively seeks out and strengthens diverse voices and perspectives among its members, results in true excellence. We are an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. The College of Arts & Letters is particularly interested in candidates of all backgrounds who are committed to the principle that intellectual leadership is achieved through open access and pro-active inclusion.