

Georgia Institute of Technology
**Brook Byers Institute for
Sustainable Systems**

Executive Director



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The Search

The Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) invites applications and nominations for the Executive Director (ED) position in the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems (BBISS). BBISS, one of Georgia Tech's Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs), brings together researchers from across Georgia Tech, including academic and research units, to support world-class sustainability-focused research, student engagement, and industry, government, and nonprofit collaboration toward achieving systemic change.

The next BBISS ED will be a dynamic, collaborative, and entrepreneurial leader who will unite a broad range of stakeholders around a vision to elevate and grow sustainability at Georgia Tech. As a systems thinker and inclusive relationship builder, the new ED will expand and enhance BBISS collaborations and partnerships within and beyond Georgia Tech to broaden its sustainability footprint in local, regional, national, and international arenas.



The ED will catalyze the formation of interdisciplinary teams to support high-impact programming and grants in areas such as climate science, solutions, and policy; ecosystem and environmental health; sustainable cities and infrastructure; sustainable resource and material use; just and equitable sustainable development; and the economics and business of sustainability.

Reporting centrally through the Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research, within Georgia Tech's Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, the ED will work with campus leaders, other IRI EDs, and faculty from across campus to execute BBISS's goals. Like all IRI EDs, BBISS's new ED will be expected to allocate 50% of their effort to the leadership of the IRI and 50% to their primary faculty affiliation, which could be in any of Georgia Tech's academic colleges or research units.



About Georgia Institute of Technology

Overview

Georgia Tech prides itself on its technological resources, collaborations, high-quality student body, and its commitment to building an outstanding and diverse community of learning, discovery, and creation. We strongly encourage applicants whose values align with our institutional values, as outlined in our [Strategic Plan](#). These values include academic excellence, diversity of thought and experience, inquiry and innovation, collaboration and community, and ethical behavior and stewardship. Georgia Tech has policies to promote a healthy work-life balance and is aware that attracting faculty may require meeting the needs of two careers.

Georgia Tech is a top-ranked public research university situated in the heart of Atlanta, a diverse and vibrant city with numerous economic and cultural strengths. The Institute serves more than 45,000 students through top-ranked undergraduate, graduate, and executive programs in engineering, computing, science, business, design, and liberal arts. Georgia Tech's faculty attracted more than \$1.4 billion in research awards this past year in fields ranging from biomedical technology to artificial intelligence, energy, sustainability, semiconductors, neuroscience, and national security. Georgia Tech ranks among the nation's top 20 universities for research and development spending and No. 1 among institutions without a medical school.

Georgia Tech's Mission and Values

Georgia Tech's mission is to develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. **The Institute has nine key values that are foundational to everything we do:**

1. Students are our top priority.
2. We strive for excellence.
3. We thrive on diversity.
4. We celebrate collaboration.
5. We champion innovation.
6. We safeguard freedom of inquiry and expression.
7. We nurture the wellbeing of our community.
8. We act ethically.
9. We are responsible stewards.

Over the next decade, Georgia Tech will become an example of inclusive innovation, a leading technological research university of unmatched scale, relentlessly committed to serving the public good; breaking new ground in addressing the biggest local, national, and global challenges and opportunities of our time; making technology broadly accessible; and developing exceptional, principled leaders from all backgrounds ready to produce novel ideas and create solutions with real human impact.

About Interdisciplinary Research at Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech has nine [Interdisciplinary Research Institutes \(IRIs\)](#) that bring together researchers from different disciplines to address topics of strategic importance to the Institution as well as local, state, national and international communities. Reporting to the Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research (VPIR), these institutes facilitate initiatives that cross disciplinary boundaries. This includes work that tackles national and international challenges and questions related to climate change, clean energy, public health, biotechnology, the bioeconomy, artificial intelligence, quantum information science, advanced manufacturing, and semiconductors.

Through the Office of the VPIR, Georgia Tech also supports the administration of interdisciplinary research through programming and fiscal management, prioritizing career development for research faculty and staff, and promoting and amplifying the impact of IRI-led research with proactive communications and representation in national thought leadership roles.



About the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems

As an IRI, the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems (BBISS) brings together researchers from across Georgia Tech, including academic and research units, to support world-class sustainability-focused research, student engagement, and industry, government, and nonprofit collaborations.

The BBISS vision is to mobilize Georgia Tech's knowledge assets to create a sustainable future for all, addressing the biggest local, national, and global challenges of our time, relentlessly serving the public good, and developing exceptional leaders with positive societal impact. As a key Georgia Tech hub for interdisciplinary sustainability research and for student engagement through co-curricular and experiential learning, BBISS prioritizes creating linkages between researchers in all disciplines. It strives to achieve change through a systems approach.

BBISS's primary focus areas are climate science, solutions, and policy; ecosystem and environmental health; sustainable cities and infrastructure; sustainable resource and material use; just and equitable sustainable development; and the economics and business of sustainability. Complementing these focus areas, and demonstrating the breadth of BBISS's current research, are ten projects recently funded by the BBISS Initiative Leads program.

In addition, BBISS is a key partner in the implementation of Georgia Tech's Sustainability Next initiative, which combines educational, research, and operational strategies to create a culture of sustainability and to lead by example. Georgia Tech is pursuing significant growth in research and funding in sustainability, clean energy, and climate science/solutions to the problems created by climate change. For example, Georgia Tech is a partner institution in the New York Climate Exchange—a first-of-its-kind international center for developing and deploying dynamic solutions to the global climate crisis—and educates business and industry leaders through the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business in the development of sustainable business practices. These initiatives are the result of research partnerships established by Georgia Tech's passionate and enterprising faculty, as well as commitments from the Office of the President and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research to address near-term and long-term global needs outlined in the UN SDGs. BBISS regularly partners with other IRIs in these efforts, including the Strategic Energy Institute and the Renewable Bioproducts Institute.



Leadership Opportunities for the Executive Director

As a key pillar in the president's strategic plan, sustainability is embedded throughout the fabric of research, education, and infrastructure at Georgia Tech. The institution has made a commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 as part of a dedicated Climate Action Plan. The next BBISS ED will have the opportunity to unite a broad range of stakeholders around a vision that will elevate the visibility of sustainability and significantly grow its impact at Georgia Tech. The ED will possess a holistic and interdisciplinary commitment to sustainability that extends beyond STEM disciplines to include social sciences, arts, humanities, design, business, and other relevant fields. As a systems thinker and inclusive relationship builder, the new ED will understand the multiple dimensions of sustainability and will expand and enhance BBISS collaborations and partnerships within and beyond Georgia Tech. The ED will leverage and grow Georgia Tech's sustainability footprint in local, regional, national, and international arenas, and in the process, shape the role of BBISS as a leader in this area at Georgia Tech and beyond.

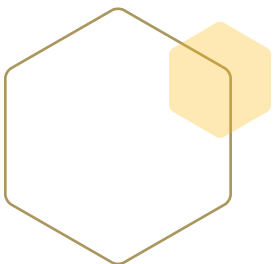


Develop a Compelling Vision

The successful candidate will work with institutional leaders, other IRI EDs and Center Directors, and faculty across Georgia Tech's seven colleges to provide a specific and compelling vision and implementation plan for how to amplify Georgia Tech's position as a nationally and internationally recognized leader in sustainability research and innovation. The ED will recognize that units of varying sizes (from smaller centers to schools and colleges to IRIs) also include aspects of sustainability as part of their mission. The BBISS ED will be responsible for navigating those relationships in a holistic fashion with a focus on collaboration and multiplying impact, rather than duplication or competition.

Broaden Access and Enable Success

The ED will broaden and enable the success of the BBISS community—including students, BBISS staff, faculty, and research fellows—and engage internal (e.g., other IRIs, the Georgia Tech Research Institute, and the seven colleges of Georgia Tech) and external partners to maximize the accessibility to and visibility of BBISS.



Leadership Opportunities for the Executive Director (Cont.)

Provide Intellectual Leadership

The ED will provide intellectual leadership for BBISS, which includes overseeing the support of new, sustainability-focused research initiatives, graduate student and postdoctoral researcher initiatives, and other avenues for thought leadership, such as a speaker series and BBISS's Sustainability Showcase. Such intellectual leadership also includes support for community-engaged research and education through the Center for Sustainable Communities Research and Education (SCoRE), fostering interdisciplinary collaborations around issues of societal importance and impact.

Build External Partnerships

The ED will build and support the research portfolio of BBISS by serving as an advocate for research engagement with communities, non-profit organizations, companies, state and federal government agencies, students, and research and educational entities within and outside of Georgia Tech. They will also foster relationships and build partnerships with a range of faculty-led research centers addressing sustainability, climate science, renewable energy and materials, and environmental justice and health, among others.

Fundraise and Secure Major Funding to Position BBISS for the Future

BBISS has significant scope for growth and, with the support of the VPIR, the ED will be expected to pursue a strategy to build a diverse portfolio of funding to boost that growth through philanthropy, internal and external partnerships, and grants.

Build Communities of Interest Across the Institution to Achieve Impact

As a service-oriented leader, the ED will work with researchers and staff to develop collaborations and initiatives; proactively plan for, catalyze, and coordinate major research efforts; build communities of interest across campus; cultivate thought leadership; educate key stakeholders, and prepare the future workforce. The outcome will be enhanced visibility and impact for Georgia Tech and its research community in sustainability.

Mentor Faculty and Staff

As an institutional leader the ED will be responsible for mentoring and developing staff and faculty and stewarding BBISS's overall strategic direction through key initiatives. They will foster a culture of collaboration, fairness, and respect among all stakeholders and implement and value activities to support teambuilding, including the incorporation of distinct research perspectives and lived experiences.

Manage Budget and Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

The ED has responsibility over BBISS's budgetary and financial commitments and requests and is expected to exercise oversight with integrity and transparency. They will be an effective advocate for increasing revenue from State, grant, foundation and philanthropic sources.



Qualifications and Preferred Attributes

Required qualifications

- Credentials which merit faculty appointment as tenured Professor, Professor of the Practice, or Principal Research Faculty, as outlined in the Georgia Tech [Faculty Handbook](#).
- A national or international leader in a discipline represented in one of the Colleges at Georgia Tech, who has a history of deep engagement and impact in interdisciplinary sustainability work.

Preferred qualifications

- Visionary, innovative, and entrepreneurial leader, with a collaborative and strategic mindset to grow and engage the BBISS community by working with the Office of the Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research (VPIR), the EDs of other IRIs, and faculty from across the institution.
- Systems thinker who grasps the multidimensional nature of sustainability with an ability to lead with a vision for systemic change and growth while understanding the nuances and needs of varying stakeholder groups.
- Servant leader who manages through influence and builds strong relationships across the university so that BBISS is a resource for ideas, innovation, and connections for sustainability.
- Demonstrated experience uniting research from diverse perspectives and experience supporting and mentoring colleagues and trainees with many backgrounds and experiences.
- Thought leader, with deep knowledge and research expertise in at least some of BBISS's (current or future) broadly defined focus areas.
- Significant peer-recognized scholarship, interdisciplinary scholarship, and leadership, or other research contributions relevant to sustainability.
- Direct or collaborative experience with external partners from industry, government, non-governmental organizations, and/or the community.
- Experience in securing and managing external funding from industry, foundations, government agencies, and philanthropic sources.
- Prior leadership experience or administrative roles, including organizational oversight, and/or experience leading collaborative research teams.
- Experience in guiding, influencing, and leading teams, managing budgets and finances, and promoting transparency in decision making and operations.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to effectively promote BBISS's initiatives externally and internally.

About Atlanta



Atlanta is a vibrant hub of culture, commerce, and innovation. Known for its rich history and pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement, Atlanta is also a major economic center, home to numerous Fortune 500 companies including Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, and Home Depot. The city boasts a diverse and dynamic population, contributing to its thriving arts scene, renowned culinary landscape, and bustling nightlife. With its unique blend of Southern charm and modern sophistication, Atlanta offers a high quality of life, featuring lush green spaces, historic neighborhoods, and world-class attractions such as the Georgia Aquarium, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park.



Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

To apply for the Executive Director position in the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, candidates are requested to submit the following:

- A curriculum vitae
- A letter of interest (not to exceed four pages) that summarizes your qualifications and includes a brief statement of your vision for BBISS
- Contact information for five references (to be contacted with candidate's permission at a later date)

Candidates are requested to send their application materials (in Word or PDF) to the AGB Search Portal [at this link](#) by November 19, 2024, for best consideration.

Nominations and expressions of interest for this opportunity are encouraged. Please direct them to BBISSGATech@agbsearch.com or to the AGB search consultants listed below.

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Equal Employment Opportunity

The Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. The Institute is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for all. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and Institute policy, Georgia Tech provides equal opportunity to all faculty, staff, students, and all other members of the Georgia Tech community, including applicants for admission and/or employment, contractors, volunteers, and participants in institutional programs, activities, or services. Georgia Tech complies with all applicable laws and regulations governing equal opportunity in the workplace and in educational activities.

Georgia Tech prohibits discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, on the basis of race, ethnicity, ancestry, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or veteran status in its programs, activities, employment, and admissions. This prohibition applies to faculty, staff, students, and all other members of the Georgia Tech community, including affiliates, invitees, and guests. Further, Georgia Tech prohibits citizenship status, immigration status, and national origin discrimination in hiring, firing, and recruitment, except where such restrictions are required in order to comply with law, regulation, executive order, or Attorney General directive, or where they are required by Federal, State, or local government contract.

All members of the USG community must adhere to the USG Statement of Core Values, which consists of Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. These values shape and fundamentally support our Institute's work. Additionally, all faculty, staff, and administrators must also be aware of and comply with the Board of Regents and Georgia Institute of Technology's policies on Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom. More information on these policies can be found here: ["Board of Regents Policy Manual | University System of Georgia \(usg.edu\)."](#)



Georgia Tech

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