Chief Operating Officer, Groundwater Research Organization (G360)

The University of Guelph is committed to equity in its policies, practices, and programs, supports diversity in its teaching, learning and work environments, and ensures that applications for members of underrepresented groups are seriously considered under its employment equity policy. All qualified individuals who would contribute to the further diversification of our University community are encouraged to apply.

Forbes Ranks U of G Among Canada's Top Employers [1]

Professional and Managerial Group

Chief Operating Officer, Groundwater Research Organization (G360)

Centre for Applied Groundwater Research
College of Physical and Engineering Sciences

Hiring #: 2016-0197

Please read the Application Instructions [2] before applying

Reporting to the Director, G360 and an appointed Board of Advisors, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) provides organizational, operational and financial leadership to the G360 Centre, a world-renowned, field-based groundwater research group with emphasis on contaminant behavior in fractured bedrock and heterogeneous systems, G360 is the largest bedrock-focused academic groundwater research group in Canada and one of the largest globally; the work is field-focused and achieved through global collaboration between multiple academic, private industry and government partners. G360 maintains a broad portfolio of large and complex projects, operates at multiple research sites, involves various principal investigators and collaborators with interdisciplinary expertise, and connects to various funding sources. As a result, the COO must leverage technical and scientific expertise by using strong administrative, financial, operational and communication skills to link the various interdependent components that comprise G360 to effectively and efficiently mobilize the research activities and outcomes as the primary outputs and communicate the value for all stakeholders.

What this opportunity offers you:

- A chance to support some of the brightest minds in the groundwater research field to effectively and efficiently work together to innovate and develop new technologies that solve the complex problems of contaminated groundwater and water resource protection;
- Access to leading edge tools, technologies and research facilities including the globally unique Bedrock Aquifer Field Facility (BAFF) located on the University of Guelph campus and associated field research sites and infrastructure;
- The opportunity to help shape the organization, reporting and value creation of a University-based Research Centre/Institute as an organization that works inter-disciplinary, inter-college, inter-university and internationally;
- Direct involvement in mobilizing research results into practice and policy development for societal impact;
- Leadership capacity to develop G360 procedures and methods for training and compliance to any/all University and jurisdictional regulations and policies (OSHA, USA HAZWOPER, MOECC, etc.) relevant to G360 activities;
The opportunity to advance communication methods and procedures to facilitate technology transfer, outreach, and maintain existing sponsor interests while capturing new sponsor interests and value creation, ensuring the same communication of value and needs is understood by the University stakeholders (academic and research units); and

A collaborative relationship with the Scientific Director and Board of Advisors to establish operating procedures and implement actions that support the strategic directions and milestones with agreed to implementation plan and priorities.

To assume the role of Chief Operating Officer, you must have:

- A professional degree, preferably a Masters degree, in Geological/Civil/Chemical/Environmental Engineering or Hydrogeology, or Earth/Environmental Sciences coupled with extensive professional experience with aspects relating to groundwater contamination;
- Demonstrated success operating at a senior leadership level managing large, multi-disciplinary teams;
- Large-scale operational and logistics management experience, preferably in an industry environment; ability to partner with Principal Investigators and Project Managers to successfully integrate multiple concurrent project plans, resources and deliverables to meet overall research program objectives and deadlines as well as funding mandates;
- Excellent people skills with evidence of being able to motivate individuals and teams to meet self-imposed deadlines and results;
- Results-focus with demonstrated experience creating and managing operational reporting, tracking, and evaluation systems, providing specific examples;
- A solid business acumen with the ability to manage an annual operating budget of up to $6 million; capable of ensuring the long term financial sustainability of G360 and its projects;
- Technical writing skills and experience preparing compelling research, grant and contract proposals;
- A reputation as an exceptional communicator and relationship builder with diverse groups of internal and external stakeholders; and
- An entrepreneurial spirit and the capability to transfer academic research into practice and inspire and enable the development of innovative ideas and commercialization opportunities.

This is a contractually limited term of three years initially, with the possibility of renewal. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Sarah Lima, Senior Talent Advisor at (519) 824-4120 x 56495.

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