



WPI director – a new fulltime position to start July 1, 2019

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Mission

The Women's Philanthropy Institute increases understanding of women's philanthropy through rigorous research and education, interpreting and sharing these insights broadly to improve philanthropy.

Context

The Women's Philanthropy Institute at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (WPI) seeks a fulltime director to advance its mission. For the past ten years, Dr. Debra Mesch has served part-time as WPI Director and has also been a philanthropic studies faculty member. In 2015, she was appointed the Eileen Lamb O'Gara Chair in Women's Philanthropy, holding the first and only endowed chair in this field. Under her leadership, WPI has experienced significant growth and has accelerated the research on gender and philanthropy with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As the research activity has expanded, so, too, has the need for an externally-focused fulltime director to catalyze WPI's growth.

WPI is one of three institutes at the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy; the others are the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving and the Mays Family Institute on Diverse Philanthropy. Located in an urban setting on the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) campus, the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy is the world's first school dedicated solely to education and research about philanthropy. It educates, trains, and empowers the next generation of nonprofit professionals, social entrepreneurs, scholars, and philanthropists to bring positive and lasting change to the world. With a focus on gender and philanthropy, WPI contributes to and benefits from the School's expertise.

WPI's work is currently centered on five strategic goals:

1. **Advance** women's philanthropy through original research by addressing significant and ground-breaking research questions.
2. **Translate** research into increased understanding and improvements in practice.
3. **Provide** a continuum of research-based educational services to inform donors, fundraisers, institutions, and other constituencies about women's philanthropy.
4. **Increase** awareness of WPI as the leading resource for women's philanthropy trends, best practices, and information.
5. **Disseminate** knowledge to leaders, decision makers, the public, and the media.

History

The seeds from which the Women's Philanthropy Institute grew germinated in 1991 when Sondra Shaw Hardy and Martha Taylor established the National Network of Women as Philanthropists (NNWP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. NNWP changed its name to the Women's Philanthropy Institute (WPI) and incorporated as a free-standing nonprofit in 1997. WPI became part of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University in January 2004 and Dr. Debra Mesch was appointed director in 2008.



Since 2004, WPI has convened five national symposia, started the signature research *Women Give* series, awarded fellowships to eight doctoral students, announced the Eileen Lamb O'Gara Chair in Women's Philanthropy, created the first-ever online graduate level course on gender and philanthropy, and conducted more than a dozen research studies through a grant awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2014.

Primary Role

The Women's Philanthropy Institute (WPI) Director is a senior level leadership position working directly with the dean to integrate the Institute's work across the School's initiatives, providing overarching vision and leadership for WPI's strategic direction including the WPI strategic planning process. The director works in partnership with the holder of the Eileen Lamb O'Gara Chair in Women's Philanthropy to structure research and related WPI activities, including the *Women Give* reports. The director translates WPI research into practical application, while working with faculty, research associates, scholars and students to incorporate the research on gender and philanthropy into the broader philanthropic studies curriculum.

The director provides full operational and strategic leadership and management of WPI to ensure that it increases visibility nationally and globally and attracts financial support for its programs. The director will achieve these goals by establishing and leading WPI's strategic vision; and developing relationships with internal and external stakeholders, including the WPI Council, other directors at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, donors, and strategic partners. The director is responsible for oversight of WPI operations along with generating revenue through strategic partnerships and individual philanthropy.

The director will supervise the WPI Associate Director, WPI Assistant Director of Research and Partnerships, and the Visiting Research Associate.

Duties and Responsibilities

40% Leadership: The director will work directly with the dean to integrate the Institute's work across the School's initiatives, providing overarching vision and leadership for WPI's strategic direction including the WPI strategic planning process. The director will work in partnership with the holder of the Eileen Lamb O'Gara Chair in Women's Philanthropy to coordinate research and related WPI activities, including the *Women Give* reports. The director will translate WPI research into practical application and work with faculty and students to incorporate the research on gender and philanthropy into the broader philanthropic studies curriculum. The director will build, expand, and sustain WPI's national/international reputation through presentations at conferences, symposia, and other high profile activities and increase WPI outreach to new audiences. The director represents WPI at events, conferences, and programs nationally and internationally. The director will engage with students to create a new generation of leaders who understand the importance of gender in philanthropy. The director serves as primary liaison to the WPI Council and exercises full authority over organizational resources, objectives, and programs.



35% Resource generation: Direct and manage resource generation efforts of the WPI by identification, outreach, and cultivation of strategic partners in a collaborative effort with the Lilly Family School Development staff. These will include executive education, and corporate and foundation partnerships to disseminate the research broadly and to new audiences as well as convening nationally prominent thought leaders.

15% Communications: Direct and manage communications strategy to expand WPI's audience with internal and external stakeholders, which include writing, strategizing convenings and media outreach in partnership with the holder of the Eileen Lamb O'Gara Chair in Women's Philanthropy. Oversee creation of publications related to WPI research, marketing, and programs.

10% Strategic Management: Oversee WPI Council governance and work with Council to establish strong volunteer leadership pipeline; represent WPI at the School's Directors' meetings; manage the WPI team, budget, and financial strategies.

Perform other related duties incidental to the work described within.

Qualifications

Minimum Education: BS/BA in a related field from an accredited institution required. Combination of related education and experience will be considered.

Minimum experience: At least seven years of relevant leadership and management experience in nonprofit management, philanthropy or related field is required with a bachelor's degree. If the candidate possessed a Master's degree, four years of experience as listed above is the requirement.

Required knowledge, skills, and abilities: An understanding of the field of philanthropy and/or women's philanthropy; demonstrated success in fundraising from individuals, businesses, and/or foundations; proven leadership and supervisory skills; demonstrated oral and written communication skills; strong interpersonal skills and experience dealing with diverse stakeholders and audiences; demonstrated success in public speaking and business development; strategic thinker. Must possess an entrepreneurial style and ability to multi-task.

The starting date is July 1, 2019. The position is located in Indianapolis, IN.