Director for the Institute for Collaborative Environment Studies

Position Description

The University of Southern California, in collaboration with the US Army, is establishing a new research institute, the Institute for Collaborative Environment Studies (ICES). The vision is to create the world-class institute for research, application and education in computer graphics and virtual environment technologies for the defense and entertainment modeling and simulation (M&S) communities. The institute will carry out basic and applied research of defense and entertainment industry M&S interest, and advanced prototypes for defense and entertainment M&S.

The University of Southern California is searching for a director for that institute. The ideal candidate should be an academic who currently holds the rank of professor, whose research parallels that planned for the institute, as specified in the National Research Council report "Modeling and Simulation – Linking Entertainment and Defense". Technologies for immersion, networked simulation, computer-generated autonomy, and tools for creating simulated environments are the agenda from that report. The candidate should have an international reputation as recognized via membership on relevant NRC committees and panels.

The director of the institute will be responsible for building a world-class research organization from the ground-up. The director should have prior experience as the head of a research organization. The director should have technical expertise in computer graphics and virtual environments, an understanding of the defense modeling and simulation agenda, a working relationship with the entertainment industry, an understanding of the technical issues facing the entertainment industry, experience in basics as well as application in his/her field, and an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of the planned institute.

The director will report to the Provost of the University of Southern California and hence will require prior administrative academic experience. The director should have a willingness to work with both technical and creative researchers in this innovative setting. The director will be a tenured position at the rank of professor with the university.

The director should have experience with novel curriculum development. The institute plans on developing degrees similar to the following: Entertainment Technology and Content, Computer Graphics and Virtual Environment Authoring, and Modeling, Virtual Environments and Simulation.

Salary for the director will be competitive with those found for the best talent in the technical end of the entertainment and research communities. Benefits for the director will include those typically provided for professors at the University of Southern California.