



1400 West Mars Hill Rd | Flagstaff, Arizona 86001-4499 | USA  
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## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Deputy Director for Science

Lowell Observatory invites applications for the position of Deputy Director for Science (DDS). The DDS is responsible for the Observatory's scientific management and vision. This is a full-time, exempt, employment-at-will position reporting to the Director. The DDS will be a tenured member of the scientific staff. The term as DDS is five years, renewable upon mutual agreement with the Director. Salary is based on experience and is set by the Director.

Lowell Observatory is an independent, 501(c)(3) institution that conducts research and outreach in astronomy and planetary science. Founded in 1894 by Percival Lowell, the Observatory operates three sites: its main campus on Mars Hill overlooking Flagstaff, Arizona and two dark sky sites at Anderson Mesa and Happy Jack, 10 and 40 miles from Flagstaff, respectively. Lowell has an operating budget of approximately \$14M and employs a staff of ~125, including a faculty of 15 astronomers and planetary scientists as well as several postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate research interns.

The faculty's research expertise includes solar system studies including Pluto and the Kuiper belt, icy moons, occultations, and comets and NEOs; stellar astrophysics including massive star evolution, fundamental stellar parameters, and solar and stellar variations; star formation and exoplanetary systems; galactic structure and evolution; and large-scale structure of the Universe. In support of its research programs, Lowell owns and operates several telescopes, including the 4.3-meter Lowell Discovery Telescope (LDT) and the 1.1-meter John Hall telescope. Partners in the LDT include Boston University, the University of Maryland, the University of Toledo, Northern Arizona University, and Yale University. Lowell also operates the Navy Precision Optical Interferometer (NPOI) under a contract from the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and in partnership with NRL and the United States Naval Observatory (USNO). With a maximum baseline of 437 m, the NPOI is presently undergoing a multi-million-dollar upgrade that will substantially increase its sensitivity and scientific potential. Faculty collaborate extensively in the rich scientific environment of Flagstaff, including with staff at the NAU Department of Astronomy and Planetary Science, the USNO Flagstaff Station, and the astrogeology branch of the United States Geological Survey.

Lowell also operates one of the nation's largest informal astronomy outreach programs, which prior to Covid-19 attracted more than 105,000 visitors each year to its visitor center on its main campus. In response to demand well beyond current infrastructure capacity, the Observatory embarked in 2017 on planning for substantially expanded outreach capabilities. The first component of this expansion is the \$4.4M Giovale Open Deck Observatory, which opened in September 2019 and features six premier telescopes permanently mounted in a rollaway building. In 2023, Lowell will open the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation Astronomy Discovery Center (ADC), a 40,000-square-foot, \$38M facility that will accommodate 200,000 visitors or more per year. The

ADC will feature several marquee attractions including the 200-seat Universe Theater, with an immersive, wrap-around, micro-LED screen; and the 180-seat, open-air Richard F. Caris Dark Sky Planetarium on the roof, allowing visitors to experience tours given by staff of Flagstaff's exemplary dark skies from a panoramic vantage point 50 feet above the surroundings. After 19 months of fundraising, Lowell has secured \$28M in gifts and expects to break ground for the ADC in Spring 2021. The Observatory's vision is to be the premier astronomy education destination in the world.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The principal responsibility of the DDS is to manage and implement the scientific goals and vision of the Observatory, in close collaboration with the faculty and scientific staff. The Science Master Plan and the Strategic Plan, both of which are developed by staff and approved by the Trustee and the Director, capture many of the ways this will be pursued. The DDS will lead periodic reviews of these plans to maintain and evolve them as needed, and the DDS will work with all Observatory senior management to ensure the science vision is correctly integrated and prioritized within the Observatory's overall Strategic Plan. The DDS also acts as the principal source of support and assistance for the faculty, including mentoring of faculty on the tenure track, providing letters of support for individuals and for proposals, managing hiring of tenure-track astronomers, and overseeing 3-year and 6-year tenure reviews.

The DDS also works closely with Lowell's Deputy Director for Technology and technical staff, ensuring the Observatory's facility and instrumentation plans are optimally aligned with its scientific goals. The Observatory is also in the early stages of planning a new and expanded technical services center that will accommodate its scientific and instrumentation vision; planning for this facility will involve ongoing collaboration between the scientific and technical staff.

Lowell is also careful to communicate the nature and discoveries of its wide-ranging research programs and facilities to its guests, and the DDS plays an important role in working with the outreach staff to facilitate this. The DDS and scientific staff are encouraged to participate directly in the outreach programs through the Observatory's public "Meet an Astronomer" nights, among other outlets; direct connection to working professionals in the field provides a deeply meaningful experience for the Observatory guests and is critical to fostering the critical thinking and valuation of science Lowell hopes to instill in the mind of every guest.

Philanthropy is critical to the Observatory's success, and the DDS will occasionally work with the Deputy Director for Development to communicate the needs and excitement of Lowell's research programs and facilities to current and potential donors.

## EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

The DDS will hold a Ph.D. in astronomy, planetary science, or closely related field, and will have a strong record of scientific accomplishment as well as leadership experience. Experience with astronomical outreach and with philanthropy is a plus.

The DDS reports to the Lowell Director. Faculty report to the DDS, and other scientific staff report to the DDS or to a faculty member as appropriate.

For further information about the position, Lowell Observatory, and/or a complete job description, applicants may contact the Observatory's Director, Jeffrey Hall, at [jch@lowell.edu](mailto:jch@lowell.edu). The Observatory greatly appreciates the time and interest of all applicants for this position.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

Working at a computer and sitting for extended periods. Walking around Lowell's hilly, high-elevation campus. Driving to remote telescope sites and elsewhere as needed. Candidate must have or be able to obtain a valid AZ Driver's license and have an excellent driving record. A Motor Vehicle department background check will be performed annually. COVID procedures are in place. Masks are required for both guests and staff members.

<b>Status:</b>	Full-Time, Regular
<b>Compensation:</b>	Based on experience
<b>FLSA Classification:</b>	Exempt
<b>Benefit Eligible:</b>	Yes*
<b>Location:</b>	Lowell Observatory's Mars Hill Campus- Flagstaff, AZ

### To Apply:

Please send the following documents to [humanresources@lowell.edu](mailto:humanresources@lowell.edu):

- Lowell Short Form Application (<http://lowell.edu/about/employment>)
- Letter of interest addressing your qualifications and interest in this position
- CV
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional references (do not have letters sent in advance)

**The application deadline is April 30, 2021.**

\*Benefits Overview: In addition to 10 scheduled paid holidays, Lowell Observatory offers a Flexible Paid Time Off policy for all full-time, benefit eligible employees which allows you to determine how much time you need to rest and enjoy yourself outside of work. The cost of premiums for medical, life & long term disability insurances for benefit eligible employees is 100% paid by the company, and includes a contribution to either an H.S.A or HRA account for first dollar medical expenses

### Employment is subject to passing a background check

Lowell Observatory is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace and is an affirmative action employer. We are committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital status, disability, gender identity or Veteran status. Lowell Observatory has always been, and always will be, committed to diversity and inclusion. We seek individuals from all backgrounds to join our teams, and we encourage our employees to bring their authentic, original, and best selves to work.

Lowell Observatory sits at the base of mountains sacred to tribes throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

Lowell Observatory is committed to providing access, and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Our non-smoking campus is at an elevation of 7,200ft/2200m, and the LDT is 40 miles south of Flagstaff at an elevation of 7,800 ft/2370m. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Human Resources office for assistance.