

**Clif Bar Endowed Presidential Director for the UC ANR California Organic Institute**

Request for Proposals opens February 10, 2020

**I. Overview**

In partnership with Clif Bar & Company, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) has established a \$1 million **Directorship for the UC ANR California Organic Institute**. The Clif Bar Endowed Presidential Directorship will provide a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) scientist a dedicated source of funds to support scholarly activities and outreach focused on improvement of California organic crop production. Half of the funds for the endowed Directorship were provided through a generous donation by the Clif Bar & Company, the other half was provided by UC President Janet Napolitano as matching funds. Other partners will be invited to further support the endowment.

**II. Purpose and Use of the Presidential Directorship**

The Directorship funds will support the Director of the newly formed institute, with an overarching goal to research and promote the improvement of organic crop production systems in California. The institute will serve as a hub for farmers, researchers, and industry to accelerate development and adoption of systems-level approaches to increased performance and sustainability. Research should prioritize the issues of greatest relevance for mid- and large-sized organic production systems (recognizing that many issues are scale neutral and thus relevant to all producers). The work will identify, test, and disseminate appropriate solutions. Issues may include forms of organic weed and pest control, fertility management, classical plant breeding, resource conservation, etc..

The annual payout will provide the appointed Director funds to support program activities (which might include graduate student support) for research and dissemination to producers.

As the institute grows, additional funding for staffing, research and/or other activities to support the organic sector will occur.

**III. Eligibility**

The Director must be a UC Cooperative Extension advisor or specialist with a demonstrated commitment to organic agriculture.

#### **IV. Submission Process**

Director applicants will submit a 7-year proposed scope of work<sup>1</sup> including:

- Anticipated work plan outcomes and anticipated impacts for the improvement of California's organic production. (Proposed impacts should tie in to the relevant UC ANR Public Values Statement(s)).
- Proposed use of the Directorship fund (Note: The current annual payout is estimated at approximately \$42,000 based on 2019 rates).
- Information regarding potential internal and/or external collaborators involved with the proposed work.
- Other pertinent information that will support the proposal, including letters of support, C.V., relevance to other work in this area, why this work is groundbreaking, etc.
- Perspective on developing UC System capacities for research and extension on organic production.

#### **V. Selection of the Directorship Holder**

Selection of the Directorship holder will be made in accordance with University and UC ANR policies and procedures and will follow a competitive selection process to ensure access to all eligible UC Cooperative Extension advisors and specialists, system wide. The Director selection committee ("Selection Committee") will be convened by the Vice President UC ANR and will include the following representation:

1. UC ANR Extension Specialist or Advisor with experience in organic agriculture (Panel Chair)
2. UC Researcher with experience in organic production research
3. Clif Bar representative
4. CA organic grower
5. CA organic stakeholder
6. Ex Officio (with voting rights): UC ANR Vice Provost for Statewide Programs and Strategic Initiatives

The identification of potential Committee members will be with UC ANR in collaboration with Clif.

#### **VI. Notification Process**

Once selected, the Directorship recipient will receive an award letter outlining the expectations and requirements of the appointment. The Presidential Directorship will be awarded initially for a 7-

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<sup>1</sup> After the initial appointment, subsequent appointments will be for 5 years.

year term. A competitive Directorship holder selection process will occur every five years. A current Directorship holder will be eligible to apply for a renewed 5-year appointment at that time.

## **VII. Program Priorities and Goals: Roles & Responsibilities**

The Director will be responsible for leading all aspects related to achievement of the Institute's mission. Responsibilities include:

1. Establish the Institute and an Institute Advisory Committee
2. Initiate a planning process for the Institute's programs and organizational development, including location within the UC system
3. Conduct research and extension activities sufficient to support the Director's status as a leading scientist and the Institute as a leader in organic research
4. Administer the use of the annual Directorship Fund distribution
5. Prepare an annual report for UC ANR and Clif (et al) on the use and major impacts of the Directorship Funds
6. Conduct outreach to the ANR/UC Cooperative Extension network to solicit collaborations.

## **VIII. Establishment of the Institute Advisory Committee**

A robust advisory and review process will ensure the Institute is delivering high quality work, in compliance with UC standards and the mission of the Institute. A core component of this process is the Institute Advisory Committee ("Advisory Committee"), which will consist of representatives from across California's organic sector— including a minimum of one organic grower, UC Cooperative Extension Specialists/Advisors, and a minimum of one Clif representative.

The Director shall seek the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the UC community to identify relevant issues and establish program goals in alignment with industry needs. The Director is expected to engage regularly with the Advisory Committee to discuss progress and findings.

The composition of the Advisory Committee will be revisited regularly to ensure that it includes the individuals best suited to the needs of the Institute. This will be especially important as Clif and UC ANR collaborate to grow the Institute and recruit other partners, expanding the Advisory Committee's role to cover the Institute's full scope of work.

## **IX. Institute Location**

The institute (at least to begin with) is expected to be virtual - developed by the Director. As such, the Director (and thus the institute) will be located within the University-UC ANR system to provide the needed support for the target clientele (namely medium-large scale organic producers). The Director is expected to 1) have access to researchers and extension specialists who support farmers

in crop production and supply chains of tree nuts, tree fruit, raisins or rice, and 2) have access to experimental fields that can be utilized for organic agriculture research; being accessible to a wide range of ANR faculty and students.

### X. Directorship Holder Reporting Requirements

UC ANR has defined initial expectations for the inaugural Directorship holders:

- An annual report will be submitted to the Associate Vice President and the Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Statewide Programs to outline the work carried out and the outcomes and impacts achieved as a result of this work. The report should include:
  - Any significant accomplishments, challenges or revisions to the original scope of work.
  - Examples of how information was extended to growers and example impacts and condition changes that resulted from the work.
  - A financial report indicating how endowed payout funds were expended, demonstrating that the funds have been used in keeping with the terms of the endowed fund. If funds remain at the end of the program year, the report will include an explanation for the carryover and a plan for how those funds will be used in the new program year.
- The report will be shared with the Clif Bar & Company and UC ANR Leadership.

If (as hoped) the institute grows, these expectations will be reviewed.

### XI. Timeline

- **February 10 2020** (or earlier) - RFP Released
- **March 30, 2020**– Proposals Due to Mark Bell, UC ANR Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Statewide Programs, via email [mozbell@ucanr.edu](mailto:mozbell@ucanr.edu) by 5:00 p.m.
- **June 1, 2020** (or earlier) – Directorship Holder Selection Announced
- **July 1, 2020** – Directorship Holder Term Commences and Funding Available