Position Specification

Director of the Center for Cooperative Media

This Position Specification is intended to provide information about Montclair State University and the position of Director of the Center for Cooperative Media. It is designed to assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest in this position.
Overview: Montclair State University

Montclair State was founded in 1908 as the New Jersey State Normal School in Montclair and conferred degrees to its first class of 45 graduates in 1910. Today, it is a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey that is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report in the top tier of Northern Regional Universities.

More than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in the University’s six colleges and schools. Together, the College of the Arts; the College of Education and Human Services; the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Science and Mathematics; the School of Business; and The Graduate School offer more than 300 majors, minors, concentrations and degree certificates.

Campus life is vibrant and varied. Student athletes compete in 17 Division III varsity sports. More than 120 organizations and clubs serve student interests.

While the University offers all the resources of a leading public research institution, a student to teacher ratio of 17 to 1 and average class size of 22 provide students with individualized attention from a top-tier faculty.

The dynamic diversity of the University’s community is regularly recognized. The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine regularly ranks Montclair State as a top college for Hispanics. Diverse Issues in Higher Education named the University a “Top Degree Producer” among institutions that confer the most degrees to minority students.

Long a leader in educational innovation, Montclair State was the first New Jersey state college to offer master’s degrees and the first state institution to offer a doctoral program. Montclair State broadcast the nation’s first educational television programs. Its New Jersey School of Conservation is the nation’s largest and oldest university-operated environmental education center. The campus is home to a number of leading edge centers, including the world’s first Center for Quantitative Obesity Research and the innovative Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship.

A center for the creation of new knowledge, development of existing knowledge and center for artistic excellence and creativity, the University partners and collaborates at local, state, national and international levels to make positive contributions to addressing issues of importance to society, to enable students to experience their ability to use knowledge in constructive ways in the world, and to share its rich array of intellectual and cultural resources with the people of New Jersey.
Montclair, New Jersey: An Exceptional Location

The University’s park-like, 250-acre campus is primarily located in Montclair, New Jersey, a diverse, affluent suburban community of nearly 38,000 residents. A picture-perfect college town, Montclair is filled with cafés and bistros, boutiques and restaurants, movie theaters and art galleries. It is home to the Montclair Art Museum, which is nationally known for its collections of American and Native American art. Live theater venues include the Montclair Operetta Company and the Wellmont Theatre.

There are numerous parks and nature reserves in Montclair, as well as public tennis courts, skating rinks and swimming pools. The town is home to minor league baseball’s New Jersey Jackals, a rugby club and a cricket team.

Montclair’s public schools serve students from kindergarten through grade 12, as do a number of private and parochial schools.

The neighboring towns of Bloomfield, Clifton and Little Falls each offer restaurants and shops and cultural activities to explore, while Newark – New Jersey’s largest city and hub for professional sports and big-name concerts – is minutes away.

Montclair is just 14 miles west of New York City and all that it has to offer. Two campus train stations provide regular service into and out of Manhattan.

The Opportunity

The Director of the Center for Cooperative Media will manage all activities of the Center and oversee existing partnerships while continuing initiatives for expanding the New Jersey news ecosystem and engaging new partners and funders. A leader with broad authority in matters of editorial and product development, policy, and personnel, the Director will be a collegial member of the school team, managing assigned initiatives, providing assistance in a variety of projects, and ensuring open communication among all stakeholders. The Director will also work closely with the faculty and staff to ensure the maximum benefits of each collaborative relationship and to support internships and other student opportunities. Beyond the school, the Director will be the public face of the Center, networking with industry, foundation, and civic leaders regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The Center for Cooperative Media, based in the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University, was born of the belief that an informed citizenry is the lifeblood of a democracy and that New Jersey has historically been underserved in the coverage of news in the state. Since its inception in 2012, the Center has partnered with 129 news organizations, presented numerous civic and journalistic events, curated and distributed news content across platforms, created a Story Exchange to facilitate sharing among news sites, and seeded a dozen news start-ups in the state. Now, the opportunity for the right individual to lead the organization to even greater success is available in the position of Director of the Center for Cooperative Media.
Duties and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the Director of the Center for Cooperative Media is the effective management of all facets of the Center and existing partnerships while continuing initiatives for expanding the New Jersey news ecosystem and engaging new partners and funders. Specifically, the Director will:

- Coordinate and manage the editorial and product development as well as personnel across all activities and functions of the CCM which includes the media industry partnerships and the NJ Commons
- Develop new products and initiatives consistent with the goals of the CCM
- Work on a day-to-day basis with participants in CCM activities to initiate, produce, write, and edit projects that advance CCM goals and those of its partners
- Coordinate and review contracts with funders of the CCM as well as those of partners and other third parties doing work with the CCM. Work with the Director and MSU legal counsel to complete such agreements
- Identify and establish new opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborative relationships with those additional media entities whose interests, objectives and activities align with and support those of the School of Communication and Media, the College of the Arts, and the University
- Communicate, advise, and consult with selected members of the University’s faculty and staff as a means of ensuring they are appropriately informed of and engaged with key School, College, and University initiatives in the area of media partnerships
- Network with industry leaders regionally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance the School’s position in the field

Qualifications

- Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline is required.
- Highly desirable would be an advanced degree in Journalism or related field with a minimum of ten years of experience in a non-profit, academic, or business enterprise related to the fields of communication and journalism.
- An additional five years of significant experience working in the communication and/or media industries is preferred.
- Demonstrated editorial skills must include editing and writing and could also include web production and TV/Radio/multimedia content production.
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills, team and consensus building skills, and the ability to work comfortably both within an academic environment and with external audiences.

For further details regarding the responsibilities and qualifications for this position, please visit: https://jobs-montclairedu.icims.com/jobs/1338/director-of-the-center-for-cooperative-media/job
Leadership

Daniel Gurskis, Dean of the College of the Arts

Daniel Gurskis joined Montclair State as Dean of the College of the Arts in 2012. He previously served as professor and chair of the Department of Film, as well as special assistant to the president, at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. While at Brooklyn College, he oversaw the creation of a new graduate school of cinema to be located at Steiner Studios, the largest film and television production facility outside of Los Angeles.

Gurskis also held creative and management positions in film, television, theatre, and advertising, and has performed pro bono work in arts management in addition to his academic role. He has written numerous screenplays for film and television, and received an Emmy Award in 1989 for his documentary James Stewart’s Wonderful Life.

Gurskis received a Bachelor of Arts in History of American Ideas from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts from Brandeis University.

Merrill Brown, Director of the School of Communication and Media

Merrill Brown joined Montclair State as the Director of the School of Communication and Media in 2012. Brown, who came to Montclair State from MMB Media LLC, of which he was founder and principal, brings extensive experience in traditional and digital media as well as journalism education. A former business reporter for The Washington Post, Brown was the founding editor-in-chief of MSNBC.com. He was also instrumental in the launch of Court TV, for which he managed programming, marketing and business development. As first national editorial director of news for the 21st Century, a Carnegie Corp-Knight Foundation initiative on the future of journalism, he helped expand a five-school pilot program into a twelve-school program based at Arizona State University.

Brown has advised, raised capital for and helped develop early stage digital media and technology companies on the east and west coasts and continues to be engaged as a director and advisor in those activities as part of his work at Montclair State. He has also served on numerous corporate boards and advisory committees, including the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism Advisory Board and the Knight Foundation Journalism Advisory Committee. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis.
Procedure for Candidacy

Interested candidates may apply and submit a resume and cover letter at:
https://jobs-montclairedu.icims.com/jobs/1338/director-of-the-center-for-cooperative-media/job

Montclair State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution with a strong commitment to diversity. Additional information can be found on the MSU website at www.montclair.edu.