



PLANETARY SCIENCE INSTITUTE CEO POSITION

After more than 20 years, Mark Sykes will be stepping down as CEO and Director of the Planetary Science Institute at the end of 2025. Over that time, PSI has witnessed profound growth, from 18 PhDs and 32 total employees in 2003, to 134 PhDs and 186 employees in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and numerous international locations today. The reach of science conducted by PSI today covers all traditional areas of planetary science and is carving inroads into new areas of study enabled by the discovery of thousands of new worlds around other stars in our galaxy, and by the increasingly granular information being returned in the exploration of worlds in our own Solar System, including Earth. PSI scientists are committed to sharing the resultant knowledge with the public at large to promote science education and science literacy. They engage the public in the process of science and are ambassadors to communities where science is often viewed skeptically. By the breadth and quality of its science staff, PSI is one of the pre-eminent planetary research institutes in the world. The new CEO is expected to provide visionary scientific leadership and facilitate a new era of scientific accomplishment by the Institute.

PSI is a very interconnected community of scientists, educators, and Institute staff. We help each other to be successful in our professional and even personal endeavors. We celebrate each other's accomplishments and support each other in adversity. The CEO, by example and action, helps to foster this Institutional culture. The Institute has a broadly horizontal organizational structure, in which the CEO engages all staff without bureaucratic barriers. The CEO is a strong advocate on behalf of our scientists and other employees to secure and sustain external funding. The CEO supports the ambitions of our employees.

We have a very dedicated and accomplished administrative staff with whom the CEO works every day. As a deeply experienced scientist, the CEO can anticipate and assess the impacts to scientists of contemplated administrative actions and policies in real time. All PSI employees are given voice to the decision-making process on critical-path policies and procedures, including in choosing the next CEO.

We are committed and look forward to a smooth transition. To ensure continuity, the future CEO will be initially hired as Deputy CEO, to work with Mark for up to 6 months to acclimatize to the dynamic environment of the job, understand the workflows across all departments, learn our regulatory environment, and build connections and confidence across the entire Institute. Everyone looks forward to engaging and supporting the new CEO as that person takes the Institute into a vibrant future.

If you are interested in this position, please see the posting at:

<https://www.psi.edu/about/jobs/>