

March 8, 2021

POSITION TITLE:

Executive Director (ED) for the Christian Study Center (CSC) of Gainesville

HISTORY:

By the grace of God as expressed through the generosity of the Davis family and a committed group of board members, the center opened its doors in 2000, hosting our first seminars. In the spring of 2001, Dr. Richard Horner came to Gainesville to become our founding director. Since then he has guided the institution from its nascent stages through its development into a central ministry of the university community by encouraging a thoughtful consideration of a Christian understanding of life. Focusing on enduring human questions, the Center has brought together students, faculty, clergy and members of the community to explore the intellectual resources of the Christian tradition in addressing contemporary culture. Through the years, the Center has also provided a place for Christian students to gather, pray and encourage one another in a hospitable environment. As students consider the many questions that arise during their education, our director and staff offer guidance from Scripture and the long history of Christian wisdom. We welcome thoughtful conversation with those who share our faith, those of other faiths and those who profess no faith.

Our programs include culture seminars, reading groups and classes covering a broad range of topics such as Biblical studies, faith and vocation, creativity and the arts, philosophy, technology and the human, creation care and many others. We have a history of partnering with the university, local churches and other likeminded organizations as we serve those within the university community. Pascal's Coffeeshouse offers the best coffee and pastries in town and serves as our most visible outreach.

We are now looking for our second Executive director to shape and guide the center for the next phase of our growth and ministry.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The Christian Study Center is seeking an Executive Director to oversee every facet of the ministry and provide leadership for our future growth and direction. The Executive Director working with the Board of Directors and staff, will cultivate and implement a vision for continuing our work of encouraging a thoughtful consideration of a Christian understanding of life in the academy and in our chosen vocations. The ideal candidate will value working in collaboration with CSC stakeholders, the university, campus ministries, local churches and the larger Gainesville community.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The board of the CSC is searching for a passionate and energetic leader to succeed our founding director, Dr. Richard Horner. This person will be expected to oversee the various ministries of the center including our educational program, publications, and communications. Throughout our history, the study center has respected the work of the university and our executive director will continue that posture working alongside rather than in opposition to the academic community. As we move into our next 20 years, this person will have the responsibility and freedom to cast a vision for the future of the institution, working with the board and fulltime staff. The ED will be the direct supervisor of the Associate Director of Educational Programming, Office Manager, Pascal's Coffeeshouse Manager and will have oversight of and responsibility for institutional and financial development. As part of his/her duties, the Executive Director will ensure that financial development expands allowing for growth as the Lord leads. He/she will continue our tradition of grounding our working relationships in love, truth and grace while being sustained through prayer.

Specific duties: *these may be delegated as appropriate*

- teaching in appropriate venues
- leading the staff in their personal and professional development while leading the institution
- serving as the face and spokesperson for the CSC
- financial development and oversight
- relationship building with the university including faculty, chairs and administrators
- engagement with other study centers and the Consortium of Christian Study Centers
- communications of all types and through different media
- writing for our publications and scholarly work within his/her own discipline
- building and maintaining relationships with local churches and clergy

Minimum Qualifications:

The Executive Director must have a clear commitment to Christ and to a Christian understanding of life and culture, affirming the historic creeds and engaged in the life of the local church as well as:

- an advanced degree, PhD or equivalent in a discipline related to our purpose and mission.
- at least 5 years of experience working within an academic community
- at least 3 years of leadership experience
- a history of successfully teaching a variety of audiences (academic, clergy and community)
- excellent written and oral communication skills
- a commitment to hospitality expressed within the home as well as the center
- humility and a posture of interest in learning from others as well as teaching
- collaborative spirit of warmth, respect, and trust towards colleagues

Highly Desirable Experience and Attributes:

Preferred qualities of the candidate include:

- self-motivated, self-directed commitment to high professional ideals and standards
- formal theological education
- financial development experience
- experience working with college students and staff
- emotional Intelligence
- pastoral gifts and experience
- energy to manage professional demands flexibly
- demonstrated ability to interact well with diverse individuals and groups

Salary negotiable based on qualifications and experience.

REGION DESCRIPTION:

The Christian Study Center is located in Gainesville Florida, a community ranked as one of the best places to live in the United States. The Center is located just two blocks from the Humanities departments at the University of Florida. As a top-ten public university consistently rated among the best values in higher education, UF attracts excellent students, many of whom have been accepted at other fine universities but who chose to attend UF for financial reasons and for a good education. The Center sees a lot of these motivated, curious, thoughtful students in our programs. Gainesville has its own urban forest with canopy coverage for 60% of the city. The city of Gainesville is an ideal locale for outdoor enthusiasts. Nearby are many recreational lakes and rivers; the north Florida beaches of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean are just a short drive away. UF consistently attracts world-class performing arts. Sports fans can enjoy Gator athletics, with UF ranking among the nation's 10 best athletic programs in both men's and women's sports.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS:

Persons interested in applying for this position should send application via email to info@christianstudycenter.org. The required application materials include: Cover letter with a description of your qualifications and vision for the position, evidence of teaching effectiveness, philosophy of education, résumé/CV, and contact information for at least three references.

Any questions should be directed to the Search Committee Chair and President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Jay Lynch lynchjw@ufl.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

To ensure full consideration, all materials should be submitted no later than May 31, 2021