Nominations and applications are invited for the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professorship in Botanical Studies to be filled by an outstanding scientist in an area of research that incorporates molecular and genomic approaches to the study of plant diversity, including phylogenetics and systematics. The appointment may be made at either the associate or full professor rank. This tenured position was established to enhance the partnership between the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden, where the endowed professor will have research associate status. The professorship is one of 36 endowed professorships comprising the Des Lee Collaborative Vision (DLCV), which are distinct from more traditional academic positions in having a primary responsibility for community outreach and engagement.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is a leader in partnerships with key institutions in the St. Louis Region. Alliances and programs have resulted from collaborations with the Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Zoo, St. Louis Science Center, Danforth Plant Science Center, and many others. The partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden includes collaboration with the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at UMSL, which promotes research and education in tropical biology and conservation, and participation in our outstanding graduate program in ecology, evolution, systematics, and conservation that attracts top scholars from all over the world. The Department of Biology also has an active research group in cell and molecular biology and participates in a joint program in biochemistry and biotechnology. The Missouri Botanical Garden, with more than 45 Ph.D. scientists, has a renowned research program, an outstanding library, and a world-class herbarium with more than 7 million plant specimens.

The Des Lee Endowed Professor in Botanical Studies will be expected to pursue an active program of research in botanical studies and oversee a laboratory at the University that facilitates the training of students in molecular techniques. Areas of particular interest are plant systematics and evolution, biodiversity studies, population genetics, ecology and conservation. In keeping with existing strengths in our program, research emphasis on tropical organisms, communities or florals is particularly welcome. The endowed professor will be equally engaged in community outreach and will have teaching responsibilities. The professor is expected to take an active and integrative approach and exhibit, in his or her scholarship, both intellectual rigor and accessibility to a wide range of diverse audiences. In keeping with the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, the successful candidate will have demonstrated interest in, and skills relevant to, engaging scholars outside his or her focused research specialty, and in engaging a public outside the academy. Therefore, we seek a broadly interactive colleague who is interested in crossing disciplinary boundaries within science and from science to the larger community. Laboratory and office space at the University, in addition to all research facilities at the Missouri Botanical Garden, will be available to the successful candidate. The position includes an annual budget in support of the collaboration between the University and the Garden.

The application review process is ongoing and will continue until the position is filled. The position will be available beginning Fall 2018, but the start date is negotiable. For full consideration, candidates must provide a cover letter outlining qualifications and interests, detailed curriculum vitae, statement of current and future research plans, statement of experience and plans in community outreach, along with names and contact information for three references from whom letters may be requested. Formal submission of application materials must be done via the University’s website: www.umsl.jobs. Click on the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professorship in Botanical Studies, and follow the instructions provided. Job posting ID is 24884.
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