

Battelle appoints Peters as new director for PNNL



Peters

Leonard Peters has been appointed director of the Battelle-operated Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, according to an announcement Feb. 13 by Battelle President and Chief Executive Office Carl Kohrt.

“Dr. Peters, who will begin his duties on April 1, joins Pacific Northwest National Laboratory after a diverse and distinguished career in research, most recently serving as vice provost for research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,” said Kohrt. “We believe that Dr. Peters’ science and technology credentials, experience in leading diverse research programs and community-service record are a great match for the laboratory and its future direction.”

Peters has managed Virginia Tech’s diverse \$230 million research program since 1993, overseeing work in biotechnology, materials, transportation and information technology. As the senior leader responsible for university research, he initiated a unique program to stimulate and nurture interdisciplinary research, including the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, a multi-million-dollar Department of Transportation research center working on “intelligent” highway systems.

In addition to his accomplishments as a research manager, Peters has had an outstanding career as a researcher in atmospheric chemistry through Alcoa Research Laboratories and PNNL.

“His commitment to community service also is noteworthy,” Kohrt said. “He has developed numerous public-private partnerships and received a 1990 National Science Foundation Award for contributions to science and technology.”

Peters earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

“We are very excited that Dr. Peters will be joining Pacific Northwest National Laboratory,” said Raymond Orbach, director of the Department of Energy Office of Science. “He has a strong track record in science and technology and is a proven innovator in research and public-private partnerships. Just as important, he has been nationally recognized for his science and community-service innovations at the state and local levels.”

Peters will be at the PNNL Richland campus periodically between now and April 1 to acquaint himself with the laboratory staff and facilities. ■