

A DIRECTOR FOR THE 21st CENTURY

The Penland Search Committee is looking for a person to become the fifth director of Penland School and lead it into the twenty-first century. The school is in excellent condition financially with strong enrollments and a physical plant that has grown and improved dramatically under the directorship of Hunter Kariher. We are looking for a director who will value the rich history of the school while shaping an institution that responds to the available technology and trends that characterize the crafts movement of the nineties.

When the preeminent weaver Edward Worst came to Penland 63 years ago to teach local women and seven outside students how to weave, he did so out of his love of the craft and his desire to see people continue as weavers. We are looking for that same intensity of feeling about crafts in our new director—someone who cares passionately about crafts and will dedicate the time it takes to assure that Penland School continues to flourish. We expect the new director will have attained proven stature in visual arts and crafts and will bring a broad knowledge of crafts to bear on the directorship of Penland. This is particularly important in the development of existing programs and in planning for the winter program, projected to begin in 1994-95.

Penland School already has an accomplished staff. We look to the director to have a demonstrated administrative ability which recognizes the capacities of others and uses them to the best advantage of the organization and the individual. The board of directors will give encouragement and support to the new director to develop a second layer of management to assist in carrying out the responsibilities assigned. This might mean the appointment of one person to be in charge of the building and grounds, for example. Keeping all the buildings functional has proved challenging to previous directors. Recognizing this, the board of directors will give the authority to the new director to hire someone to manage the facilities if he or she desires.

We expect that the director will have clear conceptual and organizational skills, including an ability to prepare the annual budget and monitor and report to the board on the fiscal health of the school each month. In the past decade Penland has developed computerized reporting systems, and Penland publications are composed on computers. Since computers are such an integral part of the management of Penland, the new director should have facility with computers.

The director of Penland is asked to represent the school in a wide variety of situations. We hope the new director will feel comfortable talking with the local population, meeting the arts community, serving on a national panel or making a call on a corporate CEO. While the school has relied on earned income for the major portion of its budget, it has a development program which requires some leadership from the director.

The Search Committee is looking for a person with mature interpersonal skills who will interact with instructors and students, gaining a picture of Penland close-up. At the same time, we are looking for a person with a vision for the future of the school.

Will we have to wait till the 21st century to find these qualifications in one person? We think we can find this person, and we ask your assistance in identifying him or her (or perhaps you). The committee formed to find a new director includes **John Ehle, Dot Hodges, Susan Larson, Rob Levin, Doug Lewis, Mary Ann Scherr, Zach Smith, and Bill Watson.** The process is indeed a search. In addition to placing notices and advertising in arts publications across the country, we have written to all past instructors soliciting their nominations for the position, and we have met with the staff to get their views about the position. A complete job description is available by writing to: Susan Larson, Penland Search Committee, P.O. Box 100, Penland, NC 28765. We invite inquiries by October 15; review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

— SUSAN LARSON

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

The Board of Directors has named **Connie Sedberry** to serve as Interim Director effective October 1 and continuing until a new director is in place. In addition Connie will continue with her responsibilities as program coordinator. She has been at Penland since 1983 and has held the positions of school secretary, registrar and assistant to the director before being named Assistant Director last spring.



The Penland Line

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THE PENLAND LINE IS PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR TO COMMUNICATE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS, PEOPLE AND PHILOSOPHY OF PENLAND AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL GROUPS OF PEOPLE AT ONCE: CRAFTSPEOPLE AND FRIENDS LIVING NEARBY, INSTRUCTORS, DONORS AND FRIENDS OF PENLAND. WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR NEWS, OPINIONS AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS WITH US. WRITE: EDITOR, PENLAND LINE, PENLAND, NC 28765