Illinois State Archaeologist

Qualifications and Experience
Employee of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey with at least a master’s degree in archaeology or related discipline, such as anthropology or historical archaeology; ten years of experience as scientific leader of successful multidisciplinary archaeological research programs in public service; extensive knowledge of the archaeology of Illinois and the midcontinental U.S.; meets certification requirements for the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Role and Responsibilities
Serves as the authoritative spokesperson on matters of archaeological fact for ISAS, Prairie Research Institute, and the State of Illinois. Serves as the Illinois member of the National Association of State Archaeologists. Provides current information on the results of archaeological-related research and scientific inquiries to the public at large, communities, scientists, industry, and governmental agencies.

Related Resources
ISAS will support participation by the State Archaeologist in meetings and events of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, the Midwest Archaeological Conference, the Society for American Archaeology, and other matters and activities requiring the involvement of the State Archaeologist.

History
The position was established by Public Act 98-0346 and signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 14, 2013. The Executive Director of the Prairie Research Institute appoints the State Archaeologist. Typically, the Director of the Survey is designated, unless he or she does not meet the qualifications, in which case, a senior research scientist is designated. The Director of ISAS has been appointed as the first Illinois State Archaeologist.

1. Thomas E. Emerson, PhD, 2013 – present

12/4/13