Fixed-Term Position Announcement

Academic Specialist – Outreach
Forest Carbon and Climate Program
Department of Forestry

Position description: The Department of Forestry at Michigan State University invites applications for a full-time, 12-month Academic Specialist focused on forests, carbon, and climate change. The successful candidate will help lead the department’s Forest Carbon and Climate Program, with a special focus on activities and projects in the United States and Canada. The mission of the Forest Carbon and Climate Program (FCCP) is to meet the educational needs of professionals and the public on forest carbon and its relationship to mitigating climate change. The position will consist of outreach and non-credit online education (55%), curriculum development (20%), research (20%), and other activities (5%). This is a fixed-term position with annual renewals available depending on satisfactory performance and continued funding availability. The position is supported by MSU and a coalition of external partners from industry, conservation, and government.

This role is a unique opportunity to shape an important and timely disciplinary intersection of forest management, conservation, forest products, and global climate change. The specialist will: develop and implement training and educational material for North American professionals; track science and policy in forest carbon and climate topics; present at influential events and professional gatherings; design and lead workshop sessions; collect and analyze data; build relationships with partners; contribute to proposal development and pursue funding for specific projects; monitor and report on sponsored activities; support policymakers and natural resource decisionmakers; contribute to a research agenda; and complete limited administrative tasks related to educational programming offered by the FCCP, including the Graduate Certificate in Forest Carbon Science, Policy, and Management.

Required Qualifications: Master’s degree in forestry, natural resource management, environmental economics, environmental policy, or a related field. At least 3 to 5 years of demonstrated leadership in relevant research, science communication, conservation, program or project management, or environmental education. Strong written and verbal communication (including public speaking), knowledge of foundational environmental science methods and outputs, and a passion to learn, including tracking new developments in this evolving field. Eagerness to interpret and translate research findings for diverse audiences, visualize and analyze data, and utilize cutting-edge software to help further an effective and vibrant Forest Carbon and Climate Program at MSU.

Preferred Qualifications: Doctoral degree in above fields. Experience or background in grant writing, publishing in academic journals and opinion pieces, community engagement, adult education, and/or teaching at the college level. Knowledge of or experience in forest carbon project development, forest carbon baseline modeling, risk assessments, and monitoring, reporting, and verification.

Location: The position will be based at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, USA. Formally established in 1902, Michigan State’s Department of Forestry was among the first undergraduate forestry programs in the U.S. and is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. The Department is a vibrant, growing, internationally recognized unit committed to interdisciplinary education, research, and extension to understand and resolve environmental and natural resource issues.

MSU enjoys a park-like campus with outlying research facilities and natural areas. The campus is located in the city of East Lansing, adjacent to the capital city of Lansing. The Lansing metropolitan area has a diverse population of approximately 450,000. Local communities have excellent school systems and place a high value on education. The
University is proactive about its obligations under the ADA and provides individual accessibility plans to students and employees with disabilities. Michigan State University is also proactive in exploring opportunities for employment for dual career families, both inside and outside the University, and respects all family forms. Information about MSU’s dual career support can be found at http://miwin.msu.edu/. Information about WorkLife at MSU can be found at http://worklife.msu.edu/. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University is committed to achieving excellence by creating and sustaining an accessible and inclusive culture that values cultural and academic diversity. We are an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. The CANR is particularly interested in candidates of all backgrounds who are committed to the principle that academic excellence is achieved through open access and proactive inclusion.

The position will be office-based, with intermittent North American travel. Office environment will include some remote work, largely in professional settings. Occasional opportunities to visit the field may arise.

To Apply: For consideration, submit your application online at http://careers.msu.edu to position number 623271. Upload the following required documents: a) letter of interest that includes qualifications for the position; b) current curriculum vitae; c) summary of your experience supporting diversity in previous employment and a description of how you will contribute to our goals of inclusive excellence; and d) contact information for three professional references. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application deadline: The search committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. The position is targeted to begin in early 2020. Questions regarding this position can be addressed to the Search Committee Chair: Lauren Cooper, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA, email: ltcooper@msu.edu.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. We actively encourage applications from, and nominations of, women, persons of color, veterans, persons with disabilities and other individuals who can contribute to the intellectual diversity and cultural richness at Michigan State University. MSU is committed to providing a work environment that supports employees’ work and personal life and offers employment assistance to the spouse or partner of candidates for faculty and academic staff positions.