Application Process
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Open Date
Feb 8, 2019

Description
This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position that will be 70% Cooperative Extension, 30% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) available in the Family, Youth and Community Sciences Department (FYCS), Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida. This position, housed at the Mid Florida Research and Extension Center (MREC) in Apopka (near Orlando), will work closely with colleagues, clientele and stakeholders to conduct programs in community/urban food systems. The nature of the assignment may change in accordance with evolving needs of MREC and IFAS. Tenure will accrue in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS).

FYCS is seeking a well-qualified candidate to support Extension and research activities that focus on enhancing opportunities for Florida’s family and youth to engage in and benefit from evolving urban/community food systems programs and activities. The successful candidate is expected to have expertise in youth development, family science and/or family and consumer sciences. They will have opportunity to use their expertise to build Extension education/research programs that raise awareness of and connect youth, families, consumers and communities to agricultural producers, processors, and other stakeholders involved in sustainable community food systems. The Extension assignment for this position has two dimensions. One will be to work collaboratively with state and local governments, civil society, and the private sector to model from nationally-tested programs in evaluating local regulatory and tax policies that increase incentives while reducing barriers and risk to community food production. The other dimension is the opportunity to develop and implement programs to educate county faculty and community leaders on incentives and reduced barriers to entrepreneurial, profitable, reliably healthy, safe and local food production and consumption that builds communities. This opportunity involves collaborating with other state and county extension faculty, conduct in-service trainings and participate in field days and other client-focused Extension programs, workshops and events.

The research assignment for this position will be integrated closely with the Extension appointment to...
develop a systems approach to examine application of theoretical models to complex community food networks. Opportunities exist to study how government, the private sector, and civil society interact with production motivation (i.e. commercial hydroponics to community gardens), distribution venue (i.e. food hubs to farmers markets), and demand drivers (i.e. organic certified to price). The research assignment will require the successful candidate to create an innovative applied research program that will lead to extramural funding for research and Extension activities, to participate in graduate education through chairing and serving on student committees and to publish results with his/her graduate students in appropriate leading journals in the field.

Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description.

**Background Information:**

The Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (http://www.fycs.ufl.edu) is an academic unit in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida and has diverse teaching, research and Extension education programs. Additionally, this position will complete a two-person food systems team at MREC, will be a member of the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology (https://clce.ifas.ufl.edu/) in their mission to increase sustainability of urban plant systems, and will interact closely with other organic/food system specialists in IFAS.

**Qualifications**

**Required:**

The candidate must have a doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in human and social science with required human health and nutrition background and food systems expertise. ABD candidates that will have defended their dissertation by September 30, 2019 are also welcome to apply. The candidate will be expected to provide statewide leadership for research in community food systems. The successful candidate will collaborate with Extension and research faculty from numerous departments and centers in IFAS representing the range of disciplines and subject matter areas in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, as well as faculty members in other colleges and units of the University of Florida engaged in community food systems research. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

**Preferred:**

Postdoctoral experience; record of extramural funding; experience developing, implementing, and evaluating food systems programs.

**Application Instructions**
For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by 22 March 2019. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

Nominations

Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Requisition # 43699

Dr. M. E. Swisher
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Family, Youth & Community Sciences
3025 McCarty Hall
Phone 352-273-3538
Fax 352-392-8196
mesw@ufl.edu

Application Information

- Individuals wishing to apply should go online to http://apply.interfolio.com/60264 and submit:
  - Cover letter that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Contact information (including email addresses) for 3 individuals willing to write letters of recommendation
  - Unofficial transcripts

Selected candidate will be required to provide an official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD). Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the US. Searches are conducted in accordance with Florida’s Sunshine Law.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is committed to creating an
environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment through their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and professional service. The University and greater Gainesville community enjoy a diversity of cultural events, restaurants, year-round outdoor recreational activities, and social opportunities.

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Equal Employment Opportunity Statement
The University of Florida is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status in all aspects of employment including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, discipline, terminations, wage and salary administration, benefits, and training.