

Student Motivation and Engagement, Postdoctoral Scholar

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Michigan State University invite applications for Student Motivation and Engagement, Postdoctoral Scholar, UNLV College of Education [R0113719] and MSU College of Education [#551952]

COMMITMENT to DIVERSITY

The successful candidate will demonstrate support for diversity, equity and inclusiveness as well as participate in maintaining a respectful, positive work environment.

ROLE of the POSITION

As part of a collaborative project among Michigan State University (NSF Award, 1813047), the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (NSF Award, 1812976), and WestEd (NSF Award, 1813086), we are seeking **two post-doctoral research associates** to work with us on the development and implementation of a professional learning model, entitled *Motivation - Planning Lessons to Activate eNgagement in Science (M-PLANS)*, for teachers to learn how to support student motivation and engagement in the context of NGSS instruction. The project team includes both motivational researchers and science education researchers from multiple institutions: Dr. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia, Dr. Jennifer Schmidt, and Dr. Joseph Krajcik from MSU; Dr. Gwen Marchand from UNLV; and Dr. Christopher Harris from WestEd. The project team will develop M-PLANS collaboratively with a team of middle school science teachers and district level science coordinators from both Michigan and Nevada in 2019-20. In summer and fall of 2020, a small group of teachers will be trained using the M-PLANS toolkit to evaluate its effectiveness. The final year (2021) will be used to analyze findings, further refine the M-PLANS toolkit, and disseminate results and materials. The post-doctoral research associate will have the opportunity to actively engage in these three phases of the project.

We anticipate hiring one post-doctoral associate to work with the MSU team and live in Michigan and the other to work with the UNLV team and live in Nevada. Applicants who are interested in both positions are strongly encouraged to apply for both positions. The post-doctoral associate will have the opportunity to work closely with entire collaborative project team across all research sites. The start date of the position is flexible, but we desire an individual to begin work no later than May 15, 2019.

Duties

- Aid in the oversight of the project for the respective site (MSU or UNLV), including mentoring graduate and undergraduate students at each site and overseeing data collection and processing.
- Coordinate with the co-design team for the respective location (Nevada or Michigan) and serve as the primary point of contact for data collection at school sites.
- Actively participate in the design, development, and testing of the M-PLANS professional learning approach.
- Work with middle school science teachers to integrate motivational principles into science instructional planning.
- Conduct qualitative and quantitative analyses on the effectiveness of M-PLANS in changing teacher behavior/beliefs and student motivation, engagement, and learning.
- Contribute to manuscript preparation, grant-related reporting activities, and other dissemination efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS

This position requires a doctoral degree in educational psychology, learning sciences, science education, or a related field from an accredited college or university and experience conducting psychological and/or educational research in school settings; knowledge and expertise in the use of SPSS and Excel and/or qualitative data analysis.

Preferred Qualifications

Background in either motivation or science education. Experience working with practicing K-12 teachers to develop and/or implement new curricular or pedagogical approaches. Interest in statistics, including structural equation modeling and/or multi-level modeling. It is not expected that all candidates will have all of these areas of expertise and thus we encourage applicants with at least one or more of these desired qualifications to apply.

SALARY RANGE

Salary competitive with those at similarly situated institutions. Position is contingent upon funding.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Please submit the following: (1) cover letter detailing qualifications for the position, including a clear statement of research interests and description of relevant statistical and/or data management experience, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) up to three representative publications, and (4) names and contact information for three references.

To apply for the MSU position, please submit online at careers.msu.edu. Please refer to Posting #551952: Research Associate-Fixed Term in Counseling, Educ Psych & Spec Educ. Materials should be addressed to Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia, Search Committee Chair, and are to be submitted online as we do not accept emailed materials.

To apply for the UNLV position, please submit online and refer to Posting R0113719. Materials should be addressed to Gwen Marchand, Search Committee Chair, and are to be submitted online as we do not accept emailed materials. For assistance with the application process, please contact UNLV Human Resources at (702) 895-3504 or applicant.inquiry@unlv.edu.

Although this position will remain open until filled, review of candidates' materials will begin on **February 1, 2019**, and best consideration will be gained for materials submitted prior to that date.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERNAL NSHE CANDIDATES FOR THE UNLV POSITION

UNLV employees or employees within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) MUST use the "Find Jobs" process within Workday to find and apply for jobs at UNLV and other NSHE Institutions. Once you log into Workday, type "Find Jobs" in the search box which will navigate to the internal job posting site. Locate this specific job posting by typing the requisition number, "R0113719" in the search box.

If you complete an application outside of the internal application process, your application will be returned and you will have to reapply as an internal applicant which may delay your application.

EEO/AA STATEMENT

MSU and UNLV are affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employers. MSU and UNLV are committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to, among other things, race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or any other factor protected by anti-discrimination laws. The universities actively encourage applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.