FACULTY VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant Professor of Environmental Geochemistry

Department: Environmental Sciences
Position: Full-time, tenure track Assistant Professor
Wage: $42,000-$50,000
Union Affiliation: MEA-MFT
Starting Date: August 2016

Description

The Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Montana Western seeks an innovative, passionate, field-based, geoscience educator/researcher in the area of environmental geochemistry. The position is a full-time, tenure-track appointment at the assistant-professor level. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the ability to use Montana Western’s unique immersion scheduling model to engage undergraduate students in field and project learning as a part of her/his teaching and research agenda. Our immersion-scheduling model, where students take and faculty teach a single class at a time, is the mission of the campus and an unparalleled opportunity for a talented and creative educator to merge research with undergraduate learning.

The Environmental Sciences Department consists of an interdisciplinary group of natural scientists dedicated to working with undergraduate students pursuing careers as natural resource scientists and managers, wetlands managers, environmental educators and naturalists. Not only do we serve the campus general education and teacher education programs, we have approximately 100 students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in Environmental Science and Environmental Interpretation. Our post-graduation placement is extremely high, which is a primary goal of our program. We also foster a family atmosphere, which we consider essential to student success and a positive faculty work environment.

Initial teaching responsibilities may include major’s courses in environmental geochemistry, geologic research and writing, rocks, minerals and resources, and geology of the American west. Introductory course responsibilities will include introductory chemistry, physical geology, and environmental geology. Ability to contribute to our environmental interpretation program is preferred. The teaching load is 12 semester credits, which are taught during three of four blocks per semester. The fourth block is for conducting required professional development activities, including publishing results from class-based research, writing grants to further undergraduate research and presenting at professional meetings.
Qualifications

The successful candidate will hold a doctorate in the geosciences (ABD considered) with an emphasis in environmental geochemistry. In addition, the successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to merge research and project-based learning using an immersion schedule, a demonstrated commitment to experiential learning and innovative undergraduate education, and a demonstrated ability to design student projects that benefit and improve society. College-level teaching experience (including introductory geology and chemistry courses) preferred.

Application

Application materials should include a letter of interest responding to the position description, a curriculum vitae including the contact information for at least three professional references, and official or unofficial graduate transcripts. Official transcripts will be required at the time of hire. Inquiries can be made to Professor Rob Thomas at (406) 683-7615; rob.thomas@umwestern.edu. Review of applications will begin January 8, 2016 and continue until the position is filled. This position announcement can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

Send application materials to
Dr. Rob Thomas
Environmental Geochemistry Search
The University of Montana Western
710 S. Atlantic Street
Dillon, MT 59725

The University & Dillon Area

The University of Montana Western, located in Dillon, Mont., is an innovative institution nestled in a scenic valley in the Rocky Mountains of south western Montana. The campus Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for student enrollment is approximately 1,289. Montana Western has over 60 FTE faculty members, features small cases for all students and has been recognized for excellence by U.S. News and World Report. Montana Western’s small size and focus on education innovation have earned it the reputation of being a place where faculty and staff chose to collegially and creatively make a difference in the education of students. Montana Western is the first and only public four-year college in the nation to use block scheduling in which students take a single class at a time. This immersion learning program facilitates increased opportunities for experiential types of learning.

The mission of the University of Montana Western is to provide innovative interdisciplinary education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice. Montana Western services citizens of all ages with its academic, community service, and lifelong-learning programs. As part of the global community, Montana Western encourages diversity, international awareness, environmental responsibility, and mastery of technology as a gateway to the world.
Dillon, a community of 5,000 people, is known for outstanding public schools, safe environments, recreational opportunities and an excellent quality of life.

*The University of Montana Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from qualified women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities. Qualified candidates may request veterans, or disabilities preference in accordance with state law. Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. Finalists for this position will be subject to a criminal background investigation.*