

Assistant Professor in Rural Sustainability and Economic Development  
Agricultural and Applied Economics / Center for Coupled Urban/Rural  
Environmental Sustainability (CURES)

**Major/Essential Functions**

The West Texas regional economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, energy, and healthcare that is created by the interaction of rural and secondary (under 500,000 residents) urban centers. The region is at an important crossroads as reduced groundwater availability is leading to a transition from irrigated row-crop agriculture to integrated rainfed systems. Focus on high-value agriculture, agro- and eco-tourism, and alternative energy systems are largely viewed as pathways to maintaining/increasing economic output and standards of living in the rural sector. Urban centers are adjusting to a future with less dependence on agriculture and a more diverse citizenry. Regional sustainability is dependent on rural healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, including sustainable agricultural production, and its coupling with adjacent urban centers. The successful candidate will coordinate research and outreach activities across departments within Davis College, CURES, and other programs and initiatives at Texas Tech University to address these multidisciplinary research areas.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech University is seeking to fill a nine-month tenure track assistant professor position in regional economic development. The person filling this position will possess expertise in rural and regional economic development, economic impact analysis, integrated production systems, energy, small urban settings, and related fields. Interest in developing online curricula and experience in coordinating with communities and agribusinesses is desirable.

CURES is a new, interdisciplinary University-wide Center being established to address the need for novel research in the neglected area of coupled urban/rural environmental sustainability. The successful candidate will join with existing faculty from around campus, as well as several new hires, to create a new and exciting collaborative, multidisciplinary, and federal-funding oriented entity. Faculty associated with the Center will be based and eventually tenured within an existing department but expected to engage with Center-wide research efforts. The goal is to gradually expand from a regional focus to one that is national, and eventually international in scope.

Texas Tech University is actively engaged in One Health initiatives and research in the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. The person filling this position is expected to engage in research and outreach related to One Health and collaborate with researchers across the university. Research funding from federal sources such as NIH, NSF, and USDA is a priority.

Duties include teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students, attracting external funding, and publishing research results in reputed national and international peer-reviewed journals. Service to the department, Center, college, university, and community is expected.

The anticipated start date is September 2024, and the salary will be commensurate based on the qualifications of the individual selected and the budgetary guidelines of the department, and competitive with other public universities.

### **Qualifications**

- A Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Agribusiness, Economics, Business Administration, or a closely related field.
- Excellent training in quantitative methods, microeconomics as well as topics related to rural and/or urban development, agribusiness, and entrepreneurship.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Strong record of scholarship supported by extramural funding and proven capacity or clear potential to bring externally sponsored research to Texas Tech University.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics currently has 18 tenured/tenure-track faculty members, 1 professor of practice, 1 adjunct faculty, 485 undergraduate students, and 70 graduate students. The Department offers B.S. degrees in Agribusiness and Agricultural and Applied Economics as well as a concentration in International Agribusiness with programs in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural and Applied Economics, and a Master of Agribusiness. Additional departmental information can be found on the departmental website at <http://www.aaec.ttu.edu>. Center Ph.D. students will be based in the interdisciplinary LPMD program), based in the university Graduate School (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/Programs/INDS/LPMD.php>).

The Davis College includes the departments of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Agricultural Education and Communications, Animal and Food Sciences, Landscape Architecture, Natural Resources Management, Plant and Soil Science, and Veterinary Sciences, along with eight research centers and institutes including the Center for AgriScience Communications, Davis College Water Center, Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute, Institute for Genomics of Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance, International Center for Agricultural Competitiveness, International Center for Food Industry Excellence, Texas Cooperative Research Unit, and the Thornton Agricultural Finance Institute. For the current academic year, the College has 2,747 undergraduate students and 519 graduate students. Davis College employs 111 tenure-track faculty, 30 non-tenure track faculty, and 169 support staff. Faculty in Davis College generated approximately \$16 million in extramural funding to support research in 2022-2023, teaching, and outreach and engagement missions. Cooperative relationships exist between the College and Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension and USDA-ARS.

The University is one of four major state-supported comprehensive research universities in Texas. More than 40,000 students are enrolled on the University's 1,800-acre campus located in Lubbock, a city of approximately 250,000 people. Texas Tech University has been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The University consists of 11 academic Colleges, the Graduate School, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the School of Law. Other components of the Texas Tech University System include the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health; Angelo State University

in San Angelo, TX; Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, TX; and the first international satellite campus of Texas Tech University in Costa Rica.

**To Apply**

Please apply online at <https://www.texastech.edu/careers/hr>, referencing requisition number 36110BR. Applicants should include a letter of application, CV, unofficial graduate transcripts, sample publications (if available), and letters from three references. The letters of recommendation should be sent directly to Dr. Sukant Misra, Search Committee Chair. Queries should also be directed to Dr. Sukant Misra (sukant.misra@ttu.edu).

**Closing Date:** April 1, 2024.

*As an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, Texas Tech University is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse faculty committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment. We actively encourage applications from all those who can contribute, through their research, teaching, and/or service, to the diversity and excellence of the academic community at Texas Tech University. The university welcomes applications from minorities, women, protected veterans, persons with disabilities, and dual-career couples.*