Assistant Professor in Center for Urban-Rural Environmental Sustainability (CURES)
Department of Geosciences, Texas Tech University

Summary

Small- and mid-sized cities in the United States represent the largest population groups in the United States. These cities are culturally and economically vibrant hubs that are intimately connected to surrounding rural areas. Migration from rural to small- and mid-sized urban communities changes relationships between communities and their environments. Significant challenges faced by rural to smaller communities include lack of modern infrastructure, economic disparities, differential access to education and health-care, rapidly changing work-force demographics, and, all communities face increasing challenges from changes to climate, resource availability and land use.

The Center for Urban-Rural Environmental Sustainability (CURES), in conjunction with the THRIVE! initiative at Texas Tech University (TTU) will lead scholarship on the challenges of communities in small- to mid-sized cities and the rural areas that surround them. It unites leaders from the fields of science, engineering, resource management, human- and social-sciences, and the humanities to improve knowledge, develop strategies and build frameworks that will improve human health and well-being, and increase regional and environmental sustainability.

Texas Tech University, CURES and the Department of Geosciences are seeking applicants for a full-time 9-month tenure-track faculty position in the field of Geography. The successful applicant will build a vibrant externally-funded research program using a variety of traditional and non-traditional sources, generate a scholarly publication record, advise graduate and undergraduate students, possess an enthusiasm for diverse and innovative teaching, participate in national and international technical committees and outreach activities, and work within a multi-disciplinary group to develop actionable strategies that contribute to urban-rural environmental sustainability.

In line with TTU's strategic priorities to engage and empower a diverse student body, enable innovative research and creative activities, and transform lives and communities through outreach and engaged scholarship and service, applicants should have experience working with diverse student populations.

Required Qualifications

Specific required qualifications include:
1. Completion (by the time of the appointment) of a Ph.D. in a related field with emphasis on or relatable to urban-rural sustainability.
2. A documented record or demonstrated potential for teaching in the undergraduate and graduate programs in their area of expertise;
3. The ability to develop and sustain a vibrant, nationally recognized and externally funded research program;
4. Demonstrated potential for mentoring M.S. and Ph.D. students.

5. A commitment to work in a multi-disciplinary group to develop actionable strategies that contribute to increased resilience and sustainability in urban and rural communities.

Preferred Qualifications

Individuals who have expertise in one of the following preferred areas are strongly encouraged to apply:

1. Socio-spatial factors that impact healthcare access, interactions between environment and health outcomes, community health inequalities, issues concerning environmental and health justice, and the complexities of healthcare disparity at urban / rural interfaces. Candidates working in the areas of water and health, rural and urban health disparities, as well as rural healthcare.
2. Geographers who combine research on water resources, energy, public health, and environmental and economic sustainability to help communities in arid environments, such as West Texas, to prepare for the changes to come.
3. The impact of climate and land use change on human activities at the urban-rural interface, with emphasis on socio-economic approaches. Research interests tracking interconnected urban-rural land use changes through geospatial modeling tools and linking changes to local urban and rural sustainable development strategies.
4. Geospatial artificial intelligence (GeoAI) applied to human-centered and community-driven artificial intelligence for a comprehensive analysis of human-environment interactions within the context of environmental and climate challenges. This may include social-hydrology, disaster risk assessment, agricultural planning, and the development of climate change mitigation strategies. Application of computational grounded theory within the fields of geography and GIS to address challenges encompassing community resilience, digital twin cities, and community-centric modeling with spatial analysis is expected.

Equal Opportunity Statement

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or status as a protected veteran.

To Apply

Please include the following documents in your application:
1. Cover Letter
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Three equally important statements that describe (a) research experience and future goals, including a 5-year plan for establishing and maintaining and recognized and well-funded research program, (b) a plan for excellence in teaching that recognizes the value of self-reflective professional development, and (c) a statement of interdisciplinary vision related to Urban-Rural Environmental Sustainability
4. List of references

Questions about this announcement should be directed to Dr. Callum Hetherington, Chair, Department of Geosciences at callum.hetherington@ttu.edu. If you need assistance with the

application process, contact Human Resources, Talent Acquisition at hrs.recruiting@ttu.edu or 806-742-3851.

Application Process
Review of applications will begin on February 20, 2024. To ensure full consideration, please complete an [online application here](#). Requisition #36054BR.

About the University and College
Established in 1923, Texas Tech University is a Carnegie R1 (very high research activity) Doctoral/Research-Extensive, Hispanic Serving, and state-assisted institution. Located on a beautiful 1,850-acre campus in Lubbock, a city in West Texas with a growing metropolitan-area population of over 300,000, the university enrolls over 40,000 students with 33,000 undergraduate and 7,000 graduate students. As the primary research institution in the western two-thirds of the state, Texas Tech University is home to 10 colleges, the Schools of Law and Veterinary Medicine, and the Graduate School. The flagship of the Texas Tech University System, Texas Tech is dedicated to student success by preparing learners to be ethical leaders for a diverse and globally competitive workforce. It is committed to enhancing the cultural and economic development of the state, nation, and world.

The College of Arts & Sciences is an original academic area that comprises 15 departments, offering a wide variety of courses and programs in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and natural sciences. The College has more than 10,000 students enrolled representing more than a quarter of the overall Texas Tech University student population while maintaining a 22:1 student to faculty ratio.

About Lubbock
Referred to as the "Hub City" because it serves as the educational, cultural, economic, and health care hub of the South Plains region, Lubbock boasts a diverse population and a strong connection to community, history, and land. With a mild climate, highly rated public schools, and a low cost of living, Lubbock is a family-friendly community that is ranked as one of the best places to live in Texas. Lubbock is home to a celebrated and ever-evolving music scene, a vibrant arts community, and is within driving distance of Dallas, Austin, Santa Fe, and other major metropolitan cities. [Lubbock's Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the Lubbock community and its resources, programs, events, and histories.