NISS Education Statistics Research Associate

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), in its role as a partner of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in the Education Statistics Services Institute Network (ESSIN), seeks to appoint a research associate to play an important, exciting role in support of ESSIN’s client, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NCES conducts studies and produces reports that cut across all levels of education, from early childhood through life-long learning. The agency also oversees planning, design, operations, statistical analysis, reporting and dissemination for elementary, secondary and library surveys at the national, state, and local levels.

The research associate will be located at AIR headquarters in Washington, DC, working closely with colleagues from NCES, AIR and NISS. He or she will report to both the director of NISS and the AIR/ESSIN project leader.

Responsibilities
The research associate will provide methodological and statistical support for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including leading reviews and providing substantive and technical comments on draft NCES products such as reports, data files, file documentation and web sites. He or she will develop and maintain electronic databases, and will report and produce key deliverables containing findings. Responsibilities may also include conducting data analyses and writing research and technical reports.

Qualifications
Required qualifications are a Master’s degree or equivalent in Statistics, Survey/Research Methods, Economics, Education, Psychology, Sociology, or a related field, experience in education and social science research, knowledge of applied statistics, and experience in data analysis and quantitative research. Candidates must be proficient with statistical software (SAS, Stata or SPSS), as well as Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. Knowledge or experience with large-scale surveys and management of large data sets is desirable. The position requires attention to detail, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and the ability and willingness to work both independently and as part of a team.

Salary and Benefits
Salary for the position will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. NISS offers a range of benefits including health insurance, a 401(k) plan with employer match up to 4% of salary, flexible medical spending accounts and a “personal time off” plan that combines vacation and sick leave. Transportation subsidies are provided for employees working in Washington.

How to Apply
Applications consisting of a letter of interest that responds to the responsibilities and qualifications listed above, a resume, and the names of three references should be submitted electronically to edstatassociate2013@niss.org, or mailed to NISS at the address above. Electronic submission is preferred.

Review of applications will commence at once, and continue until the position is filled. Applications received before October 31, 2013 will receive full consideration. Applicants must be willing, if offered the position, to undergo a background check and a government security investigation.

About NISS and AIR
NISS (www.niss.org) is an independent research institute that conducts high-impact cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research involving the statistical sciences. Its headquarters are in Research Triangle Park, NC, and there is a significant presence in Washington, DC.
AIR (www.air.org) is an established, successful non-profit social science research and development organization headquartered in Washington, DC.

Diversity Statement
NISS is committed to recognizing and nurturing merit, talent, and achievement by supporting diversity and equal opportunity in all of our research, service and administrative activities. We do not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally recognized basis, including, but not restricted to, race, color, religion, gender, national original, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or uniformed service member status. NISS seeks and welcome applications from women and members of historically underrepresented groups.