Digest of Items of Interest to the Caucus of Academic Reps - July 26, 2013

*General information about funding sources is always available at* [http://www.amstat.org/careers/efs.cfm](http://www.amstat.org/careers/efs.cfm)

**Funding opportunities:**

- NIH Big Data Centers of Excellence  
- Data-Intensive Research to Improve Teaching and Learning - An Ideas Lab to Foster Transformative Approaches to Teaching and Learning

**Position announcements:**

- Postdoctoral Research Scholar Positions, North Carolina State University  
- Instructor/Lecturer – Statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Other opportunities:**

- See you at JSM!

**Funding opportunities**

**NIH Big Data Centers of Excellence**


Biomedical research is becoming more data-intensive as researchers are generating and using increasingly large, complex, and diverse data sets. This era of "Big Data" taxes the ability of biomedical researchers to locate, analyze, and interact with these data (and more generally all biomedical data) and associated software due to the lack of tools, accessibility, and training. In response to these new challenges in biomedical research, NIH has developed the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative. Under this FOA, BD2K Centers of Excellence are sought to conduct research to advance the science and utility of Big Data in the context of biomedical and behavioral research, and to create innovative new approaches, methods, software, tools, and related resources. The Centers will advance the ability of the biomedical research enterprise to use Big Data by producing tools and resources from early-stage to mature development that will be broadly useful to the research community.

**Data-Intensive Research to Improve Teaching and Learning - An Ideas Lab to Foster Transformative Approaches to Teaching and Learning**

Solicitation 13-565

The goal of this activity is to foster novel, transformative, multidisciplinary approaches that address the use of large data sets to create actionable knowledge for improving STEM teaching and learning environments (formal and informal) in the medium term, and to revolutionize learning in the longer term. These approaches will involve the work of learning scientists, STEM disciplinary experts, computer scientists, statisticians, database experts and educational researchers who design and study learning environments. Among the potential benefits of integrating approaches from these disciplines are improving student learning and engagement, optimizing personalized instruction, and supporting rapid decision making to help educators respond more effectively to the learning needs of individuals and groups of learners in multiple settings. These approaches may be risky but should have the potential to rapidly advance the field. The scope of this activity does not include infrastructure development focused on data base design and development for education domains. The new approaches envisioned in this solicitation will require the generation and use of data that range from micro-level data on individual learners, to data from online learning sources (such as massively open online courses), to meso-level data from the classroom that provide information to students and teachers about how learning is progressing, to macro-level data such as school, district, state, and national data, including data from federal science and policy agencies. Participants in the Ideas Lab, selected through an open application process, will engage in an intensive five-day residential workshop, the development of multidisciplinary collaborative proposals through a real-time and iterative review process, and, for the participant teams invited to submit full proposals, the subsequent submission of full proposals.

Position announcements

Postdoctoral Research Scholar Positions (Dr. Montse Fuentes), North Carolina State University

The Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University invites applications for two Postdoctoral Research Scholar positions. These research scholar positions provide full funding at a competitive salary for up to 2 years.

One of the positions is supported by the NSF network STATMOS and brings with it opportunities to travel in the network and to spend an extended period of time at another institution in the STATMOS network. The first year of your appointment potentially could be at one of the other institutions. This position is available immediately. You can find more information about STATMOS by visiting the following link http://www.statmos.washington.edu/.

The other postdoctoral position would primarily work at NC State University and would not have the same travel opportunities in the STATMOS network. This position begins August 2014.

Qualifications

A Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics or geophysical sciences with a strong interest in statistics is required before appointment begins. Criteria for selection include demonstrated research ability in statistics, an
interest in environmental problems, and in particular an interest in climate change, together with strengths in computation and spatial statistics. Verbal and written communication skills are also important. Women and members of under-represented minority groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

To view more information about the positions, visit https://jobs.ncsu.edu and designate position number 00102500. This one posting will be used to hire for both positions. To apply applicants must complete an applicant profile and attach a cover letter and curriculum vitae. Additionally, three letters of reference should be sent directly to the department to the attention of the Executive Assistant. This information is specified in the formal posting.

All applicants will be considered until the positions are filled.

For more information about the department, see http://www.stat.ncsu.edu.

North Carolina State University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation or genetic information. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should call (919) 515-3148.

Instructor/Lecturer – Statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties & Responsibilities: Teaching duties include 3 courses per semester. Service responsibilities are focused on enhancement of the undergraduate educational experience.

Position Qualifications: The Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign invites applications for Lecturer or Instructor positions (100% for 9 months). The target starting date is either January 1, 2014 or August 16, 2014. Applicants for Lecturer must have a PhD in Statistics, Biostatistics, or a related field by the starting date. Applicants for Instructor must have a Master’s degree in Statistics, Biostatistics or related field by the starting date. The successful applicant will demonstrate the potential for excellent teaching at the college level, emphasizing introductory statistics and biostatistics for majors and non-majors, and the potential to teach a variety of Statistics for undergraduate students.

Apply online at https://jobs.illinois.edu/. To ensure full consideration submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, teaching statement and contact information for at least three reference letters. Referees will be contacted electronically upon the submission of the application. To ensure full consideration, all required application materials must be submitted by August 27, 2013. Letters of recommendation must be received no later than September 2, 2013. For further information please contact Ellen Fireman (fireman@illinois.edu).

Salary Range: Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications.
Contact Email: Ellen Fireman (fireman@illinois.edu)

Application Deadline: 08/27/2013

Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu).

Other opportunities