

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

The College of Agricultural Sciences at The Pennsylvania State University is seeking a dynamic individual as Department Head to provide leadership and vision for guiding the future development of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

The Department: The Department is a multi-disciplinary organization with a faculty trained in agricultural economics, economics, rural sociology, sociology, demography, planning and law. Baccalaureate degree programs are offered in Agribusiness Management (approximately 120 majors); Community, Environment and Development (about 40 majors); and a two-year Associate Degree in Agricultural Business. M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs are offered in Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics (35 students on average), and Rural Sociology (25 students on average), and both a post-baccalaureate certificate (about 70 students) and an on-line Master of Professional Studies (MPS) degree (about 30 students) in Community and Economic Development. Research and extension programs are focused on food and agricultural systems, agribusiness, natural resources and environment, economic and social demography, and community and international development. The department's multidisciplinary and multi-functional character offers unique opportunities to address contemporary research and education issues in these areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the nation and the world.

The Department has 24 tenure track faculty in Agricultural Economics and 11 in Rural Sociology, 2 adjunct and fixed-term academic personnel, 1 administrative and technology management staff, 3 information technology support staff, 8 support staff, 5 extension support staff and 13 staff supported by contracts and grants. The Department houses the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, The Environmental and Natural Resources Institute, The Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network, The Rural Leadership Program (RULE), and the Consumer Services Information System (CSIS). The Department and its faculty are affiliated with and play key roles in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment, and the Social Sciences Research Institute. Our graduate programs also participate in dual degree offerings in Demography, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment, Operations Research, and Women's Studies.

For additional information on the Department see www.aers.psu.edu, and for the College see www.cas.psu.edu. The most recent strategic plans also can be found on both of these sites.

Responsibilities: The Head is the Department's administrative officer and program leader, and reports directly to the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. The Head will:

1. Lead faculty and staff in evaluating and enhancing the Department's undergraduate, graduate, and cooperative extension education and outreach initiatives to ensure outstanding educational programs that are highly responsive to the evolving interests and

needs of students and society.

2. Guide and monitor the Department's research environment to assure outstanding research programs that are highly responsive to stakeholders and sponsors in the Commonwealth and nation, and that lead to national and international recognition for research excellence in areas of significant contemporary scientific and societal interest.
3. Administer and manage the Department's academic affairs, personnel, finances, and physical facilities.
4. Represent, promote and advocate for the Department within the College and University, and with disciplinary groups, alumni and other private and public stakeholders within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond.
5. Provide leadership for the social sciences within the College, and coordinate with the Social Sciences Research Institute and its affiliate programs, as well as other social science institutes and units on campus, to set the future of the social sciences within the College and the University.
6. Create an environment that facilitates an effective shared vision; highly productive, innovative, and entrepreneurial faculty and staff; enhanced collaborative opportunities; and a mutually supportive, diverse and intellectually stimulating environment for faculty, staff, and students.
7. Support College development programs and lead development on behalf of the Department to attract outside resources to support programs.

Qualifications: Candidates should have a Ph.D. in agricultural economics, rural sociology, or a closely related field, plus the following attributes:

1. Demonstrated ability or strong potential for highly effective administrative leadership and management of a multi-disciplinary, multi-function department.
2. Significant understanding and appreciation of the evolving mission of the land-grant university system, and of the evolving expectations, opportunities and constraints facing faculty and departments in a major public research and education institution.
3. Substantial knowledge of university research, cooperative extension and outreach, and teaching functions.
4. A significant period of academic experience with a record of significant scholarly achievement in agricultural economics, rural sociology, or related fields.
5. Demonstrated ability or strong potential to work effectively and to foster collaboration within the College and University, and with academic and disciplinary organizations, alumni, and other private and public stakeholders to advance the mission of the

Department, College, and University.

6. Demonstrated ability and interest in effective leadership that stresses participatory decision-making, strong personnel management, and a commitment to diversity and professional development.
7. Demonstrated ability or strong potential to manage budgets to effectively balance a diverse array of needs within the Department.

Location: The Department is located at the University Park Campus.

Salary: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Starting Date: July 1, 2009.

Closing Date: Review of applications will begin February 27, 2009 and continue until a qualified candidate is identified.

Applications: Qualified persons are invited to submit a cover letter and a complete resume documenting teaching, cooperative extension and outreach, research, administrative, and/or program leadership experience. The names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of five references should be submitted.

Nominations also are solicited and should include a brief statement of the nominee's qualifications.

Applications and Nominations (both hardcopy and email) should be directed to:

Ms. Dawn Holsopple
Search Committee Coordinator
College of Agricultural Sciences
238 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802
Email: dlh5@psu.edu
814-865-2542 (phone)
814-865-3103 (fax)

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.