Michigan State University Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences

Position Title/Rank: Director of RS&GIS Research and Outreach Services - Department of Geography, Environment and Spatial Sciences

Major Administrative Unit/College: College of Social Sciences

Appointment Basis: Annual Year, 12 months

Appointment Status: Assistant Professor Fixed-Term

Employment %: 100

Faculty: Salary Range
Support Staff: Pay Minimum Salary Commensurate with Experience

Position Summary: The Department of Geography, Environment and Spatial Sciences at Michigan State University is seeking a candidate to fill the position of Director for the program, Remote Sensing & GIS Research and Outreach Services (RS&GIS). Successful candidates are expected to conduct research at the forefront of Geographic Information Science (GIScience) to solve problems from local to global scales and will be expected to teach one class per year within the Department. Primary responsibilities include obtaining external grant funding and conducting research that utilizes the skillset of existing staff employed by RS&GIS and the Department. The Director will also serve as the principal investigator for the program's outreach opportunities. This position will both pursue their own research interests, as well as integrate geospatial technologies into research initiatives through interdisciplinary collaboration across campus. To assist with this, the Director will have access to a successful, innovative, collaborative team of analysts and developers, as well as talented and ambitious Department faculty.

To ensure success, the candidate must have a strong grasp of geospatial technologies and a demonstrated ability to solve real-world problems using innovative techniques within a team environment. Postdoctoral experience is expected as well as capacities in, but not be limited to, spatial data analysis, data analytics, data automation, remote sensing, image processing, location intelligence, software development, 3D modeling, GPS, spatial statistics and unmanned systems.

Background: Remote Sensing and GIS Research and Outreach Services (RS&GIS) provides geospatial technology services and training to the MSU research community, state/federal governments, municipalities, not-for-profits, and the private sector. Comprised of nine professional staff and supporting student technicians, the program maintains over a century of combined expertise in the areas of GIS, remote sensing (RS), global positioning systems (GPS), application development, cartography and graphic design. Housed in the Department of Geography, Environment and Spatial Sciences at Michigan State University, RS&GIS is in a unique position to access technical, innovative, and human resources of the University, while maintaining a competitive research and service oriented mission.

Educational requirements include a Ph.D. in Geography or a Ph.D. in another field that relied on the candidate utilizing geospatial technologies as the primary analysis technique.

Appointment Details: This is a 12-month, full-time (100% FTE), fixed-term Assistant Professor, with the potential to be renewed annually based on satisfactory review and continued funding. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the likelihood of the appointment's renewal, contingent upon satisfactory job performance, is high. Salary for this position is commensurate with experience. During the semesters when this position teaches a course, they will be a member of the Union of Untenured Faculty (UNTF) at MSU. Michigan State University offers an excellent selection of benefits; please see www.hr.msu.edu for more information.

Minimum Qualifications: A PhD in Geography or a related field, including other degrees with a strong geographic emphasis; Experience using geospatial tools and technology, including GIS, remote sensing, cartography, GPS, spatial analysis, and programming; Strong interpersonal skills and written and oral communication skills, including proficiency with the English language, are required as the candidate will need to communicate (in writing and orally) effectively across media platforms, and venues; will be expected to teach one class per year within the Department.

Desired Qualifications: Research experience with and interests in geospatial technologies. Familiarity with applying geospatial tools in fields such as agriculture, engineering, Geodesign, environmental/natural resource management, archaeology, business, et cetera. An interest in pedagogy, especially online; broad knowledge of best teaching practices and familiarity with basic learning-design principles. An interest in exploring and using new technologies to enhance research initiatives across disciplines. The ideal candidate would be highly self-motivated, have excellent organizational and project management skills, be able to articulate big-picture perspectives, and be excited about developing and working toward the program's vision and mission with a proven success in gaining external funding.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Review of applications will begin January 16, 2017 and will continue until a suitable candidate is selected.

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter describing qualifications and interest in the position, a curriculum vita, a philosophy (vision/mission) statement, a statement of research interests and history of grant funding, a writing sample, and the names and contact information of three (3) references. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Alan Arbogast via email to: dunes@msu.edu.

Department Website Address: geo.msu.edu; www.rsgis.msu.edu

Name/Title/Email Address of Search Committee Chair: Dr. Alan F. Arbogast, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences
Email: dunes@msu.edu

Union Affiliation: UNTF when teaching