LRDC Seeking Research Scientists in STEM Learning or Applied Statistical Methods

The Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh is searching to fill one or two faculty-level non-tenure stream research positions in the following areas.

Cognition and the learning of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. We are interested in individuals whose research examines higher-level student learning in the STEM disciplines including topics such as project-based learning, student learning progressions, the assessment of higher-level thinking and reasoning, the study or design of intelligent tutoring systems, peer instruction, or the learning of STEM in informal settings. Candidates should have a doctoral degree in a relevant area such as science education, mathematics education, engineering education, psychology, or other cognitive and learning science related areas.

Application of statistics/measurement techniques to the design and analysis of large-scale data. We seek individuals who can apply a variety of methodologies (e.g., multilevel and growth models, multivariate analyses, mixed-effects models, cross-classified models, item response theory, structural equation modeling, social network analysis) to the study of teaching and learning in both formal and informal settings. Candidates should have a doctoral degree in statistics, education, psychology or a related area and interest and expertise in applied statistics, including strategies for experimental and quasi-experimental methods (e.g., propensity score matching, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, etc.).

LRDC is an internationally renowned center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. Its mission is to promote basic and applied research on learning in its cognitive, neural, social, and organizational aspects and to make research and development links to formal education practice, policy, and out-of-school settings. For both of the above positions, strong preference will be given to candidates with experience or interest in collaborating on multi-disciplinary projects.

Although these research positions are outside of the tenure-stream, successful candidates will become fully participating members of the LRDC scientist community. Additionally, they may be appointed as Research Assistant Professor with an appropriate partnering department (e.g. Psychology, Education). They will receive an initial three-year contract that includes start-up funding for research. Contract renewals beyond the third year depend in part on securing external funding through collaborative or individual grant applications.

Please send a cover letter, CV, research statement, up to 3 papers, and the names and contact information for 3 individuals who can serve as references for you to LRDCsrch@pitt.edu. Candidate review will begin on February 1, 2012 and continue until suitable candidates are identified. For more information please contact either Mary Kay Stein (mkstein@pitt.edu) or Christian Schunn (schunn@pitt.edu), co-chairs of the search committee.

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups under-represented in academia are especially encouraged to apply.