



Postdoctoral Position in Quantitative Biology Education

A postdoctoral position at the BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium is available as part of the Quantitative Undergraduate Biology Education and Synthesis (QUBES) project (www.qubeshub.org). The QUBES project is a national NSF funded project with investigators at the University of Pittsburgh, North Carolina State University, Radford University, the College of William and Mary, Roanoke College, Unity College, and the BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium (<http://bioquest.org>).

Project: The QUBES project aims to improve learning opportunities for all students enrolled in undergraduate biology courses by reflecting the centrality of quantitative approaches in modern biology. An important component of this effort involves building a community (QUBESHub) where biology instructors can share resources and ideas to support curricular change. We use Faculty Mentoring Networks, small groups of faculty interested in implementing specific quantitative approaches in their courses, as a mechanism for connecting instructors with experts in the field and helping them implement pedagogical changes in their own classes. You can read more about the Faculty Mentoring Networks and other project components here: www.qubeshub.org.

Position: The postdoctoral research position will involve implementing faculty mentoring networks, QUBESHub community building, and assessment of QUBES project outcomes. The work will be directly supervised by Dr. Kristin Jenkins, Director of BioQUEST, but will also include close interactions with the QUBES Project Director, Dr. Sam Donovan at the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Jeremy Wojdak at Radford University. This is an excellent opportunity for a recent Ph.D. with career interests in science education. The postdoctoral researcher will have frequent opportunities to collaborate with a wide range of faculty interested in quantitative biology education across the country. This position will allow the postdoctoral researcher to gain meaningful experience in curriculum reform, project management, and assessment. The project team has a wealth of experience in STEM education pedagogy, scientific publishing, grant writing, and faculty development.

Salary will be \$45,000 per year. Funding for this position is available for four years. The candidate will initially be hired for one year, with renewal possible, contingent on performance. Grant funding will provide support for travel to conferences and project team meetings.

Qualifications/ Requirements: Applicants must have a Ph.D. in the biological sciences or a related STEM field, or science education, preferably including experience/expertise in mathematical biology or statistics. Preference will be given to applicants who have

demonstrated a strong interest in undergraduate STEM education. Indications of interest in STEM education include participation in professional development programs (e.g., FIRST IV, HHMI Teaching Fellows program, or participation in CIRTLL, or coursework in education/pedagogy), experience with outreach (e.g., GK12 project, directing REU program or summer program for high school students), or extensive teaching experience.

Applicants must have strong verbal and written communication skills, good social and organizational skills, and a robust work ethic. Familiarity with basic program evaluation is desirable, as is experience working with diverse faculty and student populations. Relocation to the Madison, WI area is expected.

BioQUEST:

The BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium is a community of scientists, teachers and learners who are interested in promoting biology education that reflects realistic scientific practices. BioQUEST was founded in 1986 based on the “3P’s” approach which engages students in problem posing, problem solving and peer persuasion. BioQUEST has a rich history of exploring, enhancing and disseminating curriculum materials that combine evidence based pedagogical methods with cutting edge research tools to generate authentic scientific experiences for students. This commitment to developing students’ scientific reasoning can be seen in software, computer simulations, and models and other BioQUEST curriculum materials, demonstrating a continuing emphasis on quantitative reasoning and developing scientific research skills. These resources are supported by BioQUEST’s faculty development programs which support faculty in STEM education reform. Over the years, BioQUEST has offered professional development workshops for faculty at various scientific and education conferences around the country and internationally, as well as an annual week-long workshop. For more information, explore the BioQUEST website at: <http://www.bioquest.org>

Application: Applications received by April 13 will receive full consideration; applications received after April 13 will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Questions and applications should be addressed to Kristin Jenkins, Director of BioQUEST (kristin.jenkins@bioquest.org). Applications should include a CV, a statement of research and career interests including relationships between applicant’s interests and QUBES project goals and plans, a statement of teaching philosophy, and the names and contact information for three professional references. Additional materials may be requested at a later time. The ideal starting date is May 2015; interviews will continue until the position is filled.

BioQUEST is an EO/AA employer committed to diversity.