

Position Announcement

Job Title

Assistant Professor of Environmental Geochemistry

Department: Environmental Sciences

Position: Full time, tenure track Assistant Professor

Starting Date: August, 2016

Description

The Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Montana Western seeks an innovative, passionate, field-based, geoscience educator/researcher in the area of environmental geochemistry. The position is a full-time, tenure-track appointment at the assistant-professor level. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the ability to use Montana Western's unique immersion scheduling model to engage undergraduate students in field and project learning as a part of her/his teaching and research agenda. Our immersion-scheduling model, where students take and faculty teach a single class at a time, is the mission of the campus and an unparalleled opportunity for a talented and creative educator to merge research with undergraduate learning.

The Environmental Sciences Department consists of an interdisciplinary group of natural scientists dedicated to working with undergraduate students pursuing careers as natural resource scientists and managers, wetlands managers, environmental educators and naturalists. Not only do we serve the campus general education and teacher education programs, we have approximately 100 students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in Environmental Science and Environmental Interpretation. Our post-graduation placement is extremely high, which is a primary goal of our program. We also foster a family atmosphere, which we consider essential to student success and a positive faculty work environment.

Initial teaching responsibilities may include major's courses in environmental geochemistry, geologic research and writing, rocks, minerals and resources, and geology of the American west. Introductory course responsibilities will include introductory chemistry, physical geology, and environmental geology. Ability to contribute to our environmental interpretation program is preferred. The teaching load is 12 semester credits, which are taught during three of four blocks per semester. The fourth block is for conducting required professional development activities, including publishing results from class-based research, writing grants to further undergraduate research and presenting at professional meetings.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will hold a doctorate in the geosciences (ABD considered) with an emphasis in environmental geochemistry. In addition, the successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to merge research and project-based learning using an immersion schedule, a demonstrated commitment to experiential learning and innovative undergraduate education, and a demonstrated ability to design student projects that benefit and improve society. College-level teaching experience (including introductory geology and chemistry courses) preferred.

Application

Application materials should include a letter of interest responding to the position description, a curriculum vitae including the contact information for at least three professional references, and official or unofficial graduate transcripts. Official transcripts will be required at the time of hire. Inquiries can be made to Professor Rob Thomas at (406) 683-7615; rob.thomas@umwestern.edu. Review of applications will begin January 8, 2016 and continue until the position is filled. This position announcement can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

Send application materials to

Dr. Rob Thomas

Environmental Geochemistry Search

The University of Montana Western

710 S. Atlantic Street

Dillon, MT 59725

The University & Dillon Area

The University of Montana Western, located in Dillon, Montana, is an innovative institution nestled in a scenic valley in the heart of the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Montana. Student enrollment is approximately 1,400, and features small class sizes and experiential learning. Montana Western is the first and only public four-year college in the nation to use an immersion scheduling system in which students take, and faculty teach, a single class at a time. This approach facilitates and demands that faculty engage students in experiential types of learning, which has brought the campus national recognition. For example, The Chronicle of Higher Education and U.S. News and World Report have recently recognized Montana Western for educational excellence and our faculty have been awarded numerous Carnegie/CASE Professor of the Year awards, including the first U.S. Professor of the Year awarded to a Montana professor. Dillon, a community of ~6,000 people, is known for outstanding public schools, safe environments, recreational opportunities and an excellent quality of life.

The University of Montana Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from qualified women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities. Qualified candidates may request veterans, or disabilities preference in accordance with state law. Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. Finalists for this position will be subject to a criminal background investigation.

