POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT  # 00014156

Title: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Location: GULF COAST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS) 14625 CR 672 WIMAUMA, FL 33598

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position Open To: Formal review of applications will begin on April 12, 2007 and continue until the position is filled.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position that will be 70% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) and 30% research available at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC), Wimauma campus, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit, IFAS and the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation. Tenure will accrue in the Department of Environmental Horticulture. The position offers opportunities to pursue extension and research activities in commercial urban landscape management, and specifically to develop extension and research programs oriented for professionals that plan and maintain human-dominated landscapes. This position is responsible for providing leadership for planning and implementing the statewide educational programs for commercial landscape management. He/she is expected to interact closely with other faculty working in the UF’s Center for Landscape Ecology, the faculty at the GCREC, and faculty in Environmental Horticulture and other related disciplines statewide. As part of the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation, the faculty member is expected to foster the goals of this interdisciplinary and integrated program and the statewide mission of IFAS. Extension programs offered throughout the state, extension and trade publications and demonstrations are important outputs of this position as well as the development of a Commercial Landscape Horticulture website to complement the ‘Solutions for Your Life’ website. The incumbent should be prepared to team with other faculty to change the approach to commercial landscape management related to water use, fertilizer use and runoff and plant use and management to encourage and promote practices leading to an environmentally and ecologically friendly landscape.

Excellent opportunities exist to develop collaborative programs with faculty statewide, the landscape industry and governmental agencies related to landscape management and urban landscape ecology, restoration and conservation. Active participation as an affiliated faculty member of the UF’s Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation would be expected to address critical needs of the professional commercial landscape industry, regulatory agencies and colleagues in the areas of Urban Landscape Ecology and Environmental Horticulture conservation and restoration. The faculty member will actively participate in graduate education by chairing graduate committees, serving on graduate committees, supervising thesis and dissertation research, and publishing.
the results with their graduate students. The incumbent will be expected to develop strong state- and nationally-funded extension and research programs and to participate and lead state and national academic and extension programs in the area of commercial landscape management. The faculty member will seek contract and grant funding actively to support his/her program. The faculty member will engage in Extension activities in his or her program area. All IFAS faculty are expected to demonstrate commitment and responsibility to the three functions of the Land Grant mission.

**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants must have a Ph.D. and a strong background in landscape management, environmental horticulture, native and non-native plants, plant restoration and conservation, education and communication or related disciplines. Postdoctoral and/or prior experience in teaching and extension are desirable. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication and interpersonal relationships. Candidates are expected to support programs through procurement of extramural funding and must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The University of Florida’s Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) has a new $16 million regional research center located near Wimauma, southeast of Tampa, FL. Research and extension programs at the GCREC are focused on environmental horticulture (landscape and flowering ornamentals), vegetable, and strawberry production. Excellent facilities including office, laboratory and field and greenhouse space is provided for 20 faculty, support staff and graduate students. A plant diagnostic laboratory aids county extension faculty and local growers in determining disease and nutrition problems and solutions. The GCREC is located near several large landscape plant and tree production nurseries and over 25% of the Hillsborough County’s agricultural income is generated by the landscape plant nurseries.

The Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation is a legislatively funded initiative that was created in response to the Green Industry’s concern for the long-term sustainability of current landscape management practices. The interdisciplinary center has faculty throughout the state advancing research, extension, and education efforts in multiple fields.

The University of Florida (UF) is a Land-Grant and Sea Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of over 48,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, and encompasses 15 academic departments and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, 9 interdisciplinary centers, 13 research and educational centers throughout the state, and Cooperative Extension units in each of Florida's 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe.

**EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:**
This position is available April 12, 2007, and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

**NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS:**
Both nominations and applications are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee.

Individuals wishing to apply should submit the following materials: (1) A letter of application discussing career goals and satisfaction of the stated qualifications; (2) A detailed curriculum vitae; (3) Official academic transcripts from all institutions attended (transcripts must be sent directly from the Institution to the address below); and (4) Three (3) letters of recommendation (letters must be sent directly from the person writing the recommendation to the address below). All of the above items must be postmarked by the closing date of April 12, 2007. **Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.**

Contact Information and Application and Nomination Submission Information:
Please refer to position # 00014156
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The University of Florida is an equal opportunity, equal access employer. The “government in the sunshine” laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application/nomination and reference, except transcripts, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.