POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLAR IN POVERTY POLICY ANALYSIS AND MEASUREMENT

POSITION – The Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families at Oregon State University (OSU) is seeking a postdoctoral scholar to develop a state/local poverty measure and use it to analyze Federal and State safety net policies and their impacts. This postdoc position will focus on spearheading the Oregon Poverty Measure (OrPM) project, a pioneering effort to create a more accurate measure of poverty and economic hardship across Oregon’s diverse demographic and geographic landscape. Building on other state-level poverty measure efforts in Wisconsin and California, the OrPM project involves combining data from the American Community Survey, administrative data from the Department of Human Services and Employment Department, and tax models. In addition to measuring poverty, the project seeks to understand how changes in the economy and labor market, demographics, and state policies affect the poverty rate. Oregon is a rich social laboratory to study innovative social policy and their relationship to poverty. There will be considerable opportunity for the postdoctoral scholar to lead research into relevant topics. Examples include minimum wage increases, expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit, and a relatively generous cash assistance safety net. In addition to the cross-sectional data linkage, we anticipate building a longitudinal panel dataset to examine questions of poverty policy analysis and measurement over time.

The research team includes study lead David Rothwell, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Families Sciences in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences and Bruce Weber, Emeritus Professor of Applied Economics and Director of the Rural Studies program. The postdoctoral scholar will be directly supervised by Dr. Rothwell.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS – The ideal candidate for this position will have demonstrated experience studying poverty (measurement, policy impacts, causes/consequences), have strong initiative and problem-solving skills, and be proficient in data linkages and relevant statistical analysis. Most of the data management and analysis will use Stata. Prior experience with administrative data is preferred.

RESPONSIBILITIES
The individual in this position will work with faculty and staff to create the Oregon Poverty Measure. This effort will include compiling various data sources, analyzing data, and writing abstracts and manuscripts. A number of efforts to engage stakeholders and disseminate results are expected.

Specific activities include:
• Writing progress and final reports
• Writing policy brief(s) and working with College media relations to create infographics
• Developing a Technical Appendix with all the documentation necessary to reproduce and replicate
• Contribute to and manage project webspace/blog

The first year of the project will be dedicated to preparing the three data sources and modelling the impact of taxes and tax credits. Careful and detailed data management and coding is essential.

At least 15% of the position will be reserved for professional development.
COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY
As the College of Public Health and Human Sciences (CPHHS) we seek colleagues who can join us in our quest to ensure life-long health and well-being for every person, every family and every community in Oregon and beyond. We are united in taking bold steps to redesign and integrate our academic programs to provide a learning environment that supports interdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching and prepares the next generation of globally-minded public health and human sciences professionals. Our College has 2 Schools (Social & Behavioral Health Sciences and Biological & Population Health Sciences) comprising 9 nine dynamic academic programs (Human Development & Family Sciences; Health Management & Policy; Health Promotion & Health Behavior; Biostatistics; Environmental and Occupational Health; Epidemiology; Exercise & Sport Science; International Health; and Nutrition) and 4 collaborative Research Centers (the Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children & Families; the Center for Healthy Aging Research; the Moore Family Center for Whole Grain Foods, Nutrition and Preventive Health; and the Center for Global Health). Visit our website (http://health.oregonstate.edu) for more information about the College.

OSU is one of two U.S. universities to hold the Land-, Sea-, Sun-, and Space-Grant designation and is recognized for its “very high research activity” (RU/VH) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. OSU is comprised of 11 academic colleges with strengths in natural resources, earth dynamics and sustainability, life sciences, entrepreneurship, and the arts and sciences. OSU has facilities and/or programs in every county in the state, including 12 regional experiment stations, 41 county extension offices, a branch campus in Bend, a major marine science center in Newport, and a range of programs and facilities in Portland. OSU has an institution-wide commitment to diversity, multiculturalism, and community. OSU actively engage in recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and student body that includes members of historically underrepresented groups. Please visit the OSU web site: http://oregonstate.edu/.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Submit the following to Dr. David Rothwell (david.rothwell@oregonstate.edu).
• 1 page Cover letter
• CV
• Sample publication
• Sample code demonstrating data management and analysis
• Names of three references

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
• The degree of fit between applicant career interests and goals of the project
• How the postdoctoral training will help to further the postdoctoral scholar’s research trajectory
• Demonstrated ability to work with relevant data
• Demonstrated quality of writing

The position will remain open until filled.