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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Description for Position # 103309
Assistant Professor
Grape and Small Fruit Pathology

This is a 12 month position with a 50% University of Maryland Extension (UME) and a 50% Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) appointment. The tenure home for this position is in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

The primary responsibility of the incumbent is to develop an extension and research program in grape and small fruit pathology to support Maryland growers and cooperate with campus and field-faculty in the Mid-Atlantic Region. To attain tenure, the incumbent must demonstrate regional and national recognition for their extension and research programs in grape and small fruit pathology.

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland is committed to serving the diverse needs of the state of Maryland. Candidates who have experience working with a range of faculty, staff, constituents and organizations and who have an interest or experience in developing programs that serve diverse populations are strongly encouraged to apply.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Extension

- Address economically-significant grape and small fruit disease problems that significantly reduce the profitability and sustainability of the industry.
- Develop and disseminate annual disease management recommendations and educational programs that address disease problems using diverse and innovative techniques, ranging from traditional extension publications to electronic methods of communication.
- Participate in regional team objectives and shared educational programs with other faculty members in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Work closely with allied Extension specialists to plan and develop effective in-service programs to train UME field faculty in grape and small fruit disease management.
- Assess the outcomes (e.g. improved knowledge and/or disease management skills) and impacts (economic, environmental and/or social) resulting from this Extension program.

Research

- Develop an extramurally-funded program that aims to solve grape and small fruit disease problems of economic importance. Research programs may focus on one or more of the following areas: pathogen detection and disease diagnostics, mechanisms of pathogenesis, mechanisms of pesticide resistance in pathogens, mechanisms of pathogen resistance in host plants, sustainable disease management technologies and organic production practices.
- Establish local, regional or national collaborations on grape and small fruit pathology.
- Publish research in relevant scientific journals, university publications, on websites and electronic media.
- Contribute to the mentoring of undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral scholars.

The incumbent is also expected to serve their professional community. The review of manuscripts and research proposals, participation on grant-review panels, attendance at national and international professional meetings, and similar professional activities are expected. Participation in other duties and committees as required by the department, college, and university, and interactions with educational organizations representing commercial producers in the state and region are also necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The incumbent must have:

Required—

- A Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, or a closely-related area in the Life Sciences.
- Expertise in plant disease management, pathogen biology, pathogen ecology, epidemiology, or host-plant resistance in horticultural crops.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Preferred—

- Experience with extension programming in plant pathology.
- Post-doctoral research experience.
- Experience in writing successful interdisciplinary grant proposals.
- Relevant experience using a range of electronic delivery methods for timely plant pathogen information.
- Experience working with diverse grower audiences.

Salary/Benefits: Salary will be commensurate with experience. The University of Maryland offers an extensive competitive benefits package.

Applications: Candidates must apply online at ejobs.umd.edu (Position # 103309). Application packets should include 1) a cover letter that addresses each required and preferred qualification, 2) a curriculum vitae, 3) a detailed statement of research interests, teaching philosophy, and extension strategy relevant to the level of activity specified herein, 4) at least three references with addresses and email contact information.

Closing Date: The position is open until filled. For best consideration, application should be received by March 15, 2017.

Questions may be sent to Dr. Chris Walsh, Faculty Search Committee Chair, at cswalsh@umd.edu.

For more information on the Department, visit our website at www.psla.umd.edu.

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