STAFF VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Instructor of Developmental Mathematics

Department: Department of Mathematics
Position: Full-time, 10 month position, non-tenure track
Wage: $35,000 to $38,000
Union Affiliation: MEA/MFT
Posting Date: April 17, 2014

Description

The Department of Mathematics at the University of Montana Western invites applications for a full-time Instructor position (four, four-credit courses per semester) that will be focused on the effective teaching of developmental mathematics, general education mathematics, and statistics courses. The position also involves collaborative development, improvement, and implementation of a common curriculum and an associated assessment plan for the developmental mathematics program. The developmental mathematics program currently consists of two college prep courses (Introductory Algebra and Intermediate Algebra) and a common text has already been developed for both courses. However, the department is currently investigating the possibility of redesigning the curriculum in order to make use of a "flipped" format in which students are responsible for learning and practicing basic concepts outside of class so that they can integrate and apply them at a deeper level during class. Under this format, students would also be expected to participate in workshops or other activities that would be aimed at helping them to develop college level learning and studying skills. It would be expected that candidate who fills this position would become an active participant in this redesign process.

Since 2005, the University of Montana Western has been the only publicly funded, four-year baccalaureate degree granting university to operate fully on a block schedule. Each semester, students enroll in a full time load of four classes that they take once at a time for three hours per day for 18 consecutive weekdays. Experiential learning, in the sense that it is the authentic practice of a given academic discipline, is emphasized at UMW.
Qualifications

The successful candidate must possess the following qualifications:

1. Has earned a M.S. or M.A. (or higher) in mathematics, applied mathematics, or a closely and demonstrably related area.
2. Can demonstrate an interest (or, preferred, experience) in creating and using online homework systems such as WeBWork for developmental students.
3. Has adopted a teaching philosophy that includes setting and enforcing class standards that enable developmental students to learn from course materials both in and outside of the classroom. A preferred qualification is that the candidate can illustrate how they already live by this philosophy.
4. Has adopted a teaching philosophy that embraces the idea that when much is expected in a well-managed classroom, students can learn more than might seem possible at first glance. The successful candidate will be able to clearly describe what "well-managed" means to them. A preferred qualification is that the candidate can illustrate how they already live by this philosophy.
5. Is genuinely willing to learn departmental culture and effective techniques for teaching developmental students on a block schedule from peer faculty.
6. Has experience teaching developmental mathematics courses but can demonstrate that they recognize that teaching these courses in a block format (provided this is not part of their experience) will require some flexibility on their part and that they are willing to employ that flexibility as they integrate into the department.

Application

Interested applicants will send a complete application in electronic (MS Word or PDF only please) to the chair of the Mathematics Department, Dr. Eric Wright at eric.wright@umwestern.edu. Review of applications will begin on May 15, 2014 and will continue until the position is filled. The start date for the position is August 1, 2014.

1. A complete application includes:
2. A standard AMS cover sheet
3. A current curriculum vita
4. Unofficial academic transcripts that verify the required degree qualifications (official transcripts will be required at the time of hire)
5. A well-composed and concise teaching statement that illustrates how the candidate meets or exceeds the qualifications for the position that are listed above.
6. A list of four current professional references and their telephone and email contact information. These references should be able to speak frankly to the candidate's qualifications for this position.

The University and Dillon Area

The University of Montana Western, located in Dillon, Mont., is an innovative institution nestled in a scenic valley in the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Montana. The current campus student headcount is 1,447 and the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for student enrollment is approximately 1,392.

Montana Western has over 60 FTE faculty members, features small classes for all students and has been recognized for excellence by U.S. News and World Report. Montana Western’s small size and focus on education innovation have earned it the reputation of being a place where faculty and staff chose to collegially and creatively make a difference in the education of students. Montana Western is the first and only public four-year college in the nation to use block scheduling in which students take a single class at a time. This immersion learning program facilitates increased opportunities for experiential types of learning.

The mission of the University of Montana Western is to provide innovative interdisciplinary education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice. Montana Western services citizens of all ages with its academic, community service, and lifelong-learning programs. As part of the global community, Montana Western encourages diversity, international awareness, environmental responsibility, and mastery of technology as a gateway to the world.

Dillon, a community of 5,000 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.*