Research Scientist/Engineer III Position in STEM Education Research at University of Washington

The Department of Biology has an exciting opportunity for a Research Scientist III. This is a full-time, 12-month per year position, to begin as early as November 2014 and continuing for up to four years, working on a Howard Hughes Medical Institute-funded initiative to design and implement a course that supports under-prepared students who are enrolled in general chemistry. The course will be offered as a Freshman Interest Group or a 2-credit General Studies and will be based on evidence-based interventions that 1) build study skills, 2) increase confidence, sense of belonging, ability to cope with academic challenges, and identity as a STEM professional-in-training, and 3) promote metacognition and reduce test anxiety. The goal is to improve the performance and retention of women in male-dominated STEM fields and under-represented minority, first-generation, and economically or educationally disadvantaged students in all STEM fields.

The research scientist will be responsible for developing the companion course—in effect, designing a sequence of research-based interventions that build the skills and habits of mind required for success in rigorous STEM courses, and assessing its impact on student performance and retention. The research scientist will also work with upper-division undergraduates who will serve as mentors and facilitators for the course.

Requirements
Candidates should have 1) completed a PhD in a STEM discipline in the last three years with at least 1 year of post-doc experience, 2) a solid grasp of the general chemistry curriculum, 3) a thorough familiarity with the relevant literature from educational psychology, cognitive psychology, and discipline-based education research in STEM, 4) excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, and 5) a demonstrated interest in innovative teaching and especially in efforts to improve the performance and retention of under-prepared students. English fluency is required. Post-doctoral research experience and expertise in course design and assessment will be considered an asset.

To apply: Applicants must apply through the University of Washington’s Hiring System (https://uwhires.admin.washington.edu/eng/candidates/default.cfm?szLocationID=88) in response to Requisition #111489. In addition to your resume or curriculum vita (entered directly into the system), please also submit an application letter, statement of research interests, statement of teaching philosophy, and contact information for three references when prompted to complete the assessments. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.