

The logo features a large, stylized orange letter 'I' followed by the word 'ILLINOIS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Local Foods / Small Farms)

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Extension Educator serves as a regular, full time, 12-month academic professional with primary responsibility for the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programs supporting the mission of the University of Illinois Extension. Agriculture and Natural Resources Educators support one of the four core Extension program areas and within that program area may focus on one or more of the following interdisciplinary initiatives: Community; Economy; Environment; Food, and/or Health. Programmatic objectives of Extension Educators will be consistent with national and statewide initiatives considered of significant important to residents of the state of Illinois.

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The Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Local Food Systems and Small Farms), is expected to concentrate programmatically in Local Food Systems within diverse urban production settings. Close collaboration with other Local Food Systems/Small Farms, Horticulture, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H Youth Development, and Community and Economic Development Extension Educators is required. The Extension Educator also will be expected to build networks among diverse groups within St. Clair County, specifically within East St. Louis, who have strong interests in the increased production and dissemination of local food products that can be used to improve the diets of underserved audiences. The Extension Educator is expected to engage with urban growers, community members and volunteers, schools, decision-makers, and other stakeholders and clientele involved in the production of local food within an urban environment. The Extension Educator will develop and deliver high impact and culturally relevant educational programs and resources in several of the following areas: 1) urban production of fruits, vegetables, and other local edible foods; 2) entrepreneurship in local food distribution and marketing of urban food initiatives for delivery of a diverse supply of nutritious foods; 3) food safety and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs); 4) youth development in food and agriculture; 5) organic and integrated pest management plant protection systems, and 6) building networks and increasing collaboration with urban agriculture stakeholders and clientele that stress environmental stewardship and economic promise.

This Extension Educator will be located in Unit 22, primarily at the Jackie Joyner Kersee (JJK) Foundation Community Center and available to the East St. Louis community, focusing primarily within this urban setting. The Extension Educator will collaborate closely with the Extension Educator for Local Food Systems/Small Farms in Cook County and the Extension Educator for the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) to achieve common goals regarding urban food systems.

One full time position is available.

Location: Unit 22 (Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties)

(Position will be housed at the Jackie Joyner Kersee Center, East St. Louis, IL and Unit 22 Office, Collinsville, IL)

Additional positions may become available in other locations

This is a security-sensitive position. Comprehensive background checks, including but not limited to a criminal conviction information check, a CANTS check, and a review of the Registered Sex Offender list, will be conducted.

APPLICATION DUE

November 27, 2019

PROPOSED START DATE

As soon as possible after the closing date

SALARY

Commensurate with experience and qualifications

TO APPLY

Go to

<http://go.illinois.edu/124733>

Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume, as well as the names and contact information of three professional references.

MORE INFORMATION

The position is a full-time, benefits-eligible, non-tenure academic professional position appointed on a 12-month service basis. Generous vacation and sick leave. State Universities Retirement System. Group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

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Program Development, Delivery and Evaluation

- Assess the needs of local clientele in a systematic, analytical, and culturally competent manner. This will include networking and collaborating with community organizations and other relevant groups.
- Within the designated area of specialization, develop innovative curricula and programs to address local needs as well as to mesh with the broader state and national interdisciplinary initiatives.
- Deliver high impact programs to diverse audiences utilizing a selection of innovative delivery mechanisms to optimize reach, effectiveness, and cultural relevance.
- Partner with the Director of the College of ACES Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems (MFST) major and others in the College of ACES to develop and deliver appropriate college-preparation educational materials and programs using traditional and innovative educational platforms.
- Develop effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g., twitter, Facebook, blogs, e-learning, etc.) used in culturally appropriate ways.
- Evaluate the impact of program initiatives in a planned and statistically relevant fashion. Evaluation plans should focus not only on short-term impacts but also on long-term changes in clientele practices.
- Serve as a preceptor for undergraduate students in the MFST major that are completing independent study, experiential learning, and research experiences in the College of ACES.
- Guide program expansion and program quality processes by providing training and support to employees or volunteers who teach and work with urban food systems programs.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Minorities, women, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/EEO.

St.Clair County/East St. Louis/JJK Foundation Center Program Leadership

- Provide program leadership to the East St. Louis metropolitan area, including St. Clair County and the JJK Foundation Community Center regarding the mission of the University of Illinois Extension. This will include marketing and representing Extension's interests to external partners and stakeholders in areas related to expertise.
- Develop and maintain professional collaborations with the County Director, Region 3 Director, other Specialists and Educators, and Extension Council Members, as well as the JJK Foundation Center Director and JJK Foundation Board.
- Lead, interpret, and integrate information to best assist local clientele in developing and maintaining government, non-government, industry, and academic partnerships.
- Establish positive relationships and partnerships with area food and beverage companies, community organizations, industries, government, and non-profit organizations to promote urban food, agriculture, environmental sciences, and related topics.
- Cooperate with the County Director and JJK Foundation to develop grants regarding metropolitan food and environmental systems, positive youth development, and other relevant grant initiatives.
- As requested, supervise civil service personnel and hourly personnel.

Organizational Leadership and Development

- Serve as a culturally competent and effective team member and volunteer for leadership roles as appropriate.
- Compete for internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact.
- Assist with and support the total University of Illinois Extension and Outreach program.
- As needed, accept statewide responsibilities as requested by the Associate Dean and Director of Extension and Outreach.
- Cooperate fully with the Associate Dean and Director of Extension and Outreach to achieve budget goals, address staffing needs, fulfill relevant grant initiatives, report impacts, and carry out all other items relevant to the JJK Foundation partnership.
- Continually seek professional development opportunities to enhance content and cultural competency in subject matter area.
- Perform other duties that contribute to the mission of University of Illinois Extension and Outreach programming, as assigned.
- Comply with all reporting deadlines and requirements (e.g., plans of work, activity and impact reporting, database entry, etc.).

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Scholarship

- Establish professional relationships and participate in campus-based partnerships that tie academic programs and research to complement Extension programming by partnering with Extension Specialists and/or faculty members on research projects as appropriate within the initiatives connected to urban food systems.
- Be an active member within a professional society(ies) to keep abreast of changes within the discipline. Continually seek professional development opportunities to enhance content and cultural competency in metropolitan food and environmental systems and subject matter areas.
- Use research and evaluation findings to create innovative programs and make changes to existing programs in order to improve quality.
- Share principles of evidence-based best practices with peers.

Other Information

- Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines in all aspects of Extension work; assist unit staff with data collection for Affirmative Action, Gender, and Targeted reports.
- Local, regional and (limited) statewide travel required; personal transportation required.
- To perform the functions of this position, the employee will be required to perform work both within an office and outside in the communities that are served, and must have the capability to travel from one location to the other in a timely fashion. Employee is responsible for securing personal transportation. A valid driver's license is preferred. Some work will be required during evenings and/or weekends. When working, the employee may be exposed to a variety of environmental factors to include, but not limited to, hot or cold weather, exposure to noise and allergens, and uneven ground. In performing the functions of this position, the employee may be subjected to various mental and physical demands as well to include, but not limited to, independently traveling to and performing work at different locations, lifting and moving items that may occasionally weigh up to forty (40) pounds and frequently weigh up to twenty (20) pounds, and twisting, pushing and pulling movements.

Administrative Relationship: The Extension Educator is administratively responsible to the County Director.

Programmatic Relationship: The Extension Educator is programmatically responsible to the Program Leader(s) for the delivery of programs that mesh with identified national and state priorities.

Qualifications

Required: Master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Appropriate fields of study include Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Agricultural and Consumer Economics; Animal Sciences; Crop Sciences; Horticulture; Food Science; Human Nutrition; Human Development and Family Studies; Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; Urban Planning; Extension Education; or other related field. Candidates with a Master's degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date. Evidence of knowledge of and experience with metropolitan food and environmental systems, urban food and agriculture, urban planning and/or underserved audiences.

Preferred: Interdisciplinary training with related teaching or research experience. Experience within the specialty field is highly desirable. Teaching experience in formal and informal settings. Field and/or applied research. Previous work experience with urban agriculture. Evidence of entrepreneurship. Experience working with volunteers, including recruitment and support. Experience with program planning for audiences of all socio-demographic characteristics. Experience in evaluation and impact reporting. Experience in leadership role and/or evidenced ability to guide the work of others.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Strong oral and written communication skills. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills and ability to work within a team environment and with diverse cultural groups. Demonstrated ability to build and maintain diverse networks. Cultural competency.

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APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To apply, go to <http://go.illinois.edu/124733> Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume, as well as the names and contact information of three professional references. Resume dates must be in month/year format and employment history, at a minimum, should include all work dating back to the completion of your undergraduate degree. Positions that were less than full-time/100% must be noted as being part-time. Transcripts may be requested at a later date. To receive full consideration, all requested application materials must be submitted via the online system by the close date of **November 27, 2019**.

For further information about the position please contact Julie Ritchey at julie7@illinois.edu. For Technical assistance with the online application process, please email jobs@illinois.edu.