JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Posted December 10, 2018

Climate Assessment Specialist, Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program
The University of Oklahoma

Position: The Oklahoma Climatological Survey at the University of Oklahoma invites applications for the position of a Research Associate for the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP). This position is a full-time appointment ending August 31, 2020. Extension is possible pending acceptable performance and availability of funds.

Salary: $45,000 – $55,000 annual; salary commensurate with skills and experience.

Beginning Date: The appointment will be available February 1, 2019.

Responsibilities: The individual selected for this position will conduct research, assessments, and stakeholder engagement projects with the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, a NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program team. In particular, the Research Associate will work closely with selected communities and professional associations to increase use of products from the National Climate Assessment (NCA), to provide information about sector concerns, needs, actions, and indicators of climate change to the NCA process, and to promote the use of climate information in planning decisions across the region. The individual will be part of a national network of Sustained Assessment Specialists who work through other RISA teams to assess and promote use of NCA information.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Assessing stakeholders’ current use of climate information and adaptive capacity and their long-term climate information needs;
- Working with cities and professional associations to identify how climate information can inform their planning processes to improve resilience to climate extremes;
- Conducting a regional social network analysis to identify providers of science information, their use of NCA information, and how stakeholders are connected to these sources;
- Participating in regional, state, and local meetings to present information from the NCA and other relevant climate information and translate climate information into formats that promote use by stakeholders;
- Preparing findings of research and engagement results for technical and non-technical audiences;
- Promoting opportunities to provide input or comments into the NCA process;
- Routine communication and collaborations with other Sustained Assessment Specialists;
- Collaborating with colleagues at the NCA, other RISA Teams, and NOAA partners to identify adaptation strategies used by communities to address the impacts of climate change;
- Leveraging SCIPP core activities to gather feedback from participants on needs, actions, adaptation strategies, or other information required by the NCA;
- Highlighting for the SCIPP team the need for additional products, indicators, summary documents, or research identified from community interactions;
• Contributing to routine and special documents as needed, including newsletters, news and events notices, annual reports, and special publications or information as events warrant.

Requirements: Applicants should have completed a postgraduate degree (Masters or PhD), prior to appointment, in a field related to climate, planning, or environmental sustainability. Exceptional applicants from other disciplines will be considered. The position requires well-developed human relations and communication skills, including written and oral. Candidates must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the findings in the 2014 and 2018 National Climate Assessment reports and be able to explain them to multiple types of audiences. Candidates must also demonstrate general understanding of climate processes, whether through formal education or collaboration with climate and weather scientists. Experience working with communities, organizations or agencies related to climate adaptation planning is preferred. Frequent travel to regional and national meetings and stakeholder engagement activities is required. Proficiency with computer applications, including Powerpoint, MS-Word, and Excel is required. Familiarity with GIS is preferred. Applicants should be motivated and have the ability to follow through on projects with minimal supervision.

Deadline: Application should be submitted by January 14, 2019 via the OU Jobs website position #183575 and addressed to Dr. Mark Shafer, Director, Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, Oklahoma Climatological Survey, 120 David L. Boren Blvd., Suite 2900, Norman, Ok 73072. Include cover letter, resume, and references. For further information, applicants may contact Dr. Mark Shafer at mshafer@ou.edu or SCIPP Program Manager Margret Boone, mboone@ocs.ou.edu. Position will remain open until filled.

About SCIPP: The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) is a climate hazards and research program in the South Central United States whose mission is to increase the region’s resiliency and preparedness for weather extremes now and in the future. The area we serve includes the 4-state region of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, plus coastal Mississippi. From severe storms, flooding, drought, hurricanes and storm surge, heat waves, wildfires, to winter storms, the South experiences among the nation’s most extensive collection of climate-related hazards with many southern states ranking at or near the top of the lists in disaster declarations and billion dollar disasters. SCIPP is a Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) team supported by the Climate Program Office at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). SCIPP is a collaborative effort between the University of Oklahoma, Louisiana State University, Texas A&M University, the University of Kansas, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Together, these institutions and organizations combine their expertise in climate, outreach, education, data quality and dissemination, and mapping to address the issues of climate hazards across the southern United States.

About the University of Oklahoma: Established in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a comprehensive public research university offering a wide array of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and extensive continuing education and public service programs. Its 2000 acre Norman Campus houses 15 colleges with approximately 1300 faculty serving more than 26,000 students. The 277-acre Research Campus provides more than 750,000 square feet of space constructed since 2003 and includes the National Weather Center, the Stephenson Research and Technology Center, the Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center, and several Partners Place buildings that co-locate University offices with more than 350 private sector employees across more than a dozen companies.