

Position Announcement
Director and Full Professor
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) seeks a dynamic and visionary scholar-leader who will catalyze formation of strong partnerships across the region to foster greater university impact on rural development outcomes. The Director will be 100% time with the Center and tenured at the full professor level in an appropriate unit at Michigan State University.

The Center is funded via a partnership with the USDA and the twelve 1862 land grant universities of the North Central region (see map). The Center's mission also includes interactions with the 1890, 1994 land grants and federally recognized Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities in the region. The Center recently moved from Iowa State University to Michigan State University (MSU), and is now located on the main campus in East Lansing. As part of the move, MSU has enhanced the financial resources available to the Center Director. In preparation for this announcement, transitional Center staff conducted a regional issues identification process. Priority issues for the Center in the near term will be rural perspectives on:



- Assessment and adoption of technologies, including agricultural technologies
- Sustainable communities
- Entrepreneurial development
- Leadership development

The Center plays a major role in strengthening networks across the region to foster active partnerships across the research and extension mission of its land grant constituents. The Center is currently implementing its themes through a seed grant program aimed at Land Grant personnel, interactions with graduate students, and by supporting multi-state training programs for Extension professionals.

The Center also has opportunities to coordinate with non-profits and federal agencies in fulfillment of its mission. The North Central Center works actively with the other three USDA funded Regional Rural Development Centers and USDA on issues of broader geographic or national concern.

The Center Director is advised by a Board of Directors drawn from knowledgeable stakeholders and partners across the region and Washington DC based USDA personnel. The Director is supported by the board and will also have the opportunity to interact with and influence other key university administrators across the twelve-state region. The Director reports jointly to the Director of Michigan State University Extension (lead), the Director of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. More information about the Center and its mission are found at: <http://ncrcrd.org>

Qualifications. The incumbent will possess a doctorate in a social or agricultural-related science and a significant track record of grant-writing, research publications, and outreach activities appropriate for appointment at the rank of full professor at Michigan State University. The candidate should demonstrate a long-standing interest in program development and evaluation related to community and rural issues, and capacity to form and mentor spatially distributed multi-disciplinary teams and move them to action. Administrative experience in a university setting is considered an asset.

To apply, send full academic vita, vision statement, and list of references to Scott Loveridge, Transitional Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, 302 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI, 48824. Review of applications will begin on December 4, 2009, and continue until the successful candidate is identified.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.