POST-DOCTORAL EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED STATISTICS IN CHILDREN’S RESEARCH

Postdoctoral Program at the Juniper Gardens Children’s Project (JGCP) seeks a postdoctoral researcher. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a Quantitative Postdoctoral Researcher with experience that will enable them to conduct high quality behavioral, educational, and special education research in childhood settings. The goal of the training program is to prepare quantitative researchers with the collaborative and methodological skills necessary to conduct next generation of research.

The JGCP is a community-based research center within KU’s Institute for Life Span Studies. JGCP has a mission to promote children’s social well-being and academic achievement by improving the quality of their early experiences and education through the development of evidence-based practices (http://www.jgcp.ku.edu).

The Postdoctoral researcher will learn first-hand the advances in prevention, intervention, and measurement used at the JGCP. These include:

1. **The next generation intervention research with children, families, and youth Knowledge and Content domains** of the JGCP that shape research designs and methodological issues. The postdoctoral researcher will work with faculty mentors to develop an individualized training plan to further their knowledge of, and apply their quantitative skills to, one or more of the research content areas focused on at the JGCP. These include the Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) prevention/intervention framework; advances in intervention models in early childhood and early education; language, social-emotional, and early literacy competency domains; special populations of children with developmental disabilities or behavioral disorders; and instructional interventions, curricula, and wearable sensor technology.

2. **The interrelated Measurement and Research Methods domains** embracing universal screening and progress monitoring measurement including their unique design and psychometric properties as well as website supports for achieving scalability; rigorous experimental study designs (i.e., single case and randomized control trials); and univariate and latent growth modeling techniques (i.e., HLM, SEM) for use in applied research settings.

3. **Research mentors and collaborative experiences** provided by faculty with active research programs/teams will be provided. Their work is funded by research grants from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, among others. The successful candidate will affiliate with these teams and provide quantitative support for ongoing research, new research grant development, and publication/dissemination. In addition, the candidate will have the opportunity to receive supplemental statistical and methodological
mentorship from quantitative methodologists affiliated with the LSI’s Research Design and Analysis Unit (https://lsi.ku.edu/rda).

Previous Post-Doctoral Fellows at the JGCP have gone on to major research careers and faculty positions at major universities including Florida International University, University of Washington, Kent State, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, University of Indiana, Iowa State University, University of Kansas, among others (i.e., Kennedy Krieger Institute). The successful applicant will work with doctoral level researchers and their colleagues across a range of projects gaining important experiences, collaborative skills, and lessons needed for a successful career. **Continuation in year 2 is dependent on an excellent annual evaluation.**

**Funding source mandates that applicants must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident.**

**Travel & trainee budget:** $5,000 for presenting at conferences, IES or NIH methodology training workshops, summer stats camps, or other topically related meetings.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Researcher will work with faculty mentors as follows:

(30%) Affiliate with two Research Faculty Mentors and their research programs for research participation in order to collaborate with this research team in the conduct of applied research with young children at risk/with delays and from diverse subpopulations including attending weekly meetings and conducting a complimentary intervention study.

(20%) Conduct statistical analyses and reports for the research team as often as weekly for presentation and discussion at project meetings for use in planning next steps, exploration, and final reporting.

(10%) Consult with other Research Faculty, Post Docs, and Graduate Research Assistants as needed regarding statistical and quantitative questions and procedures.

(10%) Produce statistical research documents for the research team (analysis reports, write-ups and data displays for publication) and communications for dissemination findings to the larger community of early intervention, early childhood special education, and early education.

(10%) Identify an innovative methodological topic or issue arising from the research data, prepare a publication in collaboration with the team and submit to a peer-reviewed journal and/or professional organizations for presentation at their national conferences.

(10%) Learn the statistical properties of in-house measurement tools being used by JGCP researchers (i.e., eco-behavioral observation, digital sensors (e.g., movement, language pedometer, fidelity of intervention checklists, progress and mastery monitoring measures) to identify and design learning experiences for children and create improvements or advances in this work.
Attend/monitor agreed upon courses, workshops, and seminars to increase knowledge in the content and methods foci of the project. Develop, maintain, and evaluate an annual Individual Fellow Plan (IFP) based on the Postdocs strengths, weaknesses, and interests that can be used to organize and evaluate the individual’s progress in the training program.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. PhD in a quantitative discipline focused on the use of mathematics in the analysis and interpretation of data such as statistics, quantitative psychology, applied statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, etc.

2. Demonstrated interest/experiences in children’s learning, education, and development such as language/communication disorders, early intervention or special education, early education, applied behavior analysis, or the psychology disciplines (e.g., quantitative, child, developmental, educational, school psychology, etc.).

3. One-year minimum experience conducting research as evidenced by application materials.

4. Excellent writing skills as evidenced by the quality of application materials, peer-reviewed publications, dissertation, or writing sample.

NOTE: To be appointed at the Postdoctoral Researcher title, it is necessary to have the PhD in hand. Appointments made without a diploma or certified transcript indicating an earned doctorate are conditional hires and are appointed on an acting basis not to exceed six months.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Experience with statistics and quantitative methods (e.g., multi-level growth modeling) and skills coding statistical software command language for such software packages as R, SAS, SPSS, Mplus as required for the conduct of analyses.

2. Analytic experiences with data from (a) single subject experimental design studies, and/or (b) randomized control trials developing/evaluating intervention techniques.

3. Demonstrated experience constructing, validating, and explaining advanced statistical models appropriate for researchers in applied settings (e.g., preschool, schools or child care programs).

4. Interests in the uses of information (i.e., database management) and communication technologies (i.e., internet) in research.

5. Experience with children with/at risk for developmental delay, language delays, social-emotional problems, and/or delays in early literacy.

6. Publication in peer-reviewed journals.
7. Strong oral communication skills as evidenced by work, education experience, persons well-served by the candidate).

FTE: 100%

SALARY: $64,634 annually, plus health benefits

HOW TO APPLY: For more information and to apply online, go to https://employment.ku.edu/staff/15828BR

A complete online application includes a cover letter, vitae, professional writing sample (e.g., publication, dissertation) and contact information for three professional references who can speak to your experiences and qualifications are required. In the cover letter, please indicate how you see this particular training experience helping advance your professional skills and goals in applied statistical research. In your letter, please include paragraphs describing what you would like to accomplish given the three content domains. Candidates who do not submit ALL of the above through the online system, will not be considered. Please do not email application materials.

Selected candidates under consideration may be asked to complete a statistical analysis and related report as requested by the committee

DEADLINE: Review of applications will begin November 11, 2019 and will continue until a qualified applicant pool has been identified.

Please note that all offers of employment are contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a background check.

START DATE: Start date is tentatively set for January 1, 2020.

For questions about the position, please contact Dr.Greenwood at greenwood@ku.edu
For questions about the application process, please contact Diana Skill at 913 735 2612, dskill@ku.edu

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