

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Office of Academic Affairs

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To: Academic Deans and Directors
From: Nicole Ballenger
Date: January 31, 2013
Subject: Allocation of EPSCoR WyCEHG position
Copies: Myron Allen, Andy Hansen, Carol Frost, Bill Gern, Anne Sylvester, Steve Holbrook, Scott Miller, Kathie Hull, Paul Heller, Dick Schmidt

This memo documents the allocation of a new assistant professor position in hydrogeophysics to the Department of Geology and Geophysics in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. The departments are authorized to search this spring in order to fill the position as of fall semester 2013. The position is allocated in response to a call for position proposals issued by the leadership team of the newly formed Wyoming Center for Environmental Hydrology and Geophysics (WyCEHG), which is funded by a \$20 million NSF EPSCoR grant for the 2012-2017 period. Representatives from Academic Affairs, the Office of Research, and the EPSCoR program reviewed proposals submitted in response to the call.

There are several noteworthy aspects of the position allocation.

This position was selected and allocated by Academic Affairs not only because it meets the criteria identified by the WyCEHG leadership team, including the potential to advance WyCEHG's interdisciplinary research mission, but also because it cements a new commitment by the two departments to enhance and derive mutual benefits from their scholarly and curricular connections.

In particular, the position is designed by the two departments to bolster the already-advancing contributions of the College of Engineering and Applied Science to UW's distinction in hydrological sciences as called for in University Plan 3. Along with the recent allocation of a snow hydrologist position, this position will contribute to the development of new courses in the WyCEHG-related curriculum at the undergraduate level and in the interdisciplinary Ph.d. program in Hydrology.

The position is allocated off-cycle from the annual Central Position Management (CPM) process because of the timing of the NSF EPSCoR award. The grant will provide bridge funding to support the position for the first year. In the following year the salary will be integrated into CPM such that it will be a fully state-supported position. In addition, the grant will contribute to a competitive start-up package for the successful candidate.

The WyCEHG leadership team anticipates soliciting proposals and providing support for 3 additional faculty positions over a five-year period in the following areas: hydrological systems modeling, groundwater hydrology, and rock physics. All departments with the potential to contribute to these areas are encouraged to begin now to consider how current and anticipated vacancies could be directed toward these priority areas of expertise in hydrological resource sciences.