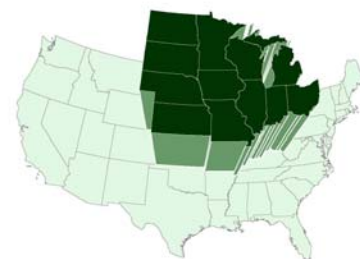


Virtual Visiting Fellow
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
12 months

The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) at Michigan State University announces a competition for an Virtual Visiting Fellow. The Virtual Fellow will lead an initiative for the NCRCRD. The NCRCRD works with Land Grant institutions to positively influence the quality of life in rural areas of the North Central region of the United States (see figure). The Center is creating this position to actively engage with the full range of partner institutions to deliver high quality, relevant and timely research outputs or extension models.



Eligible applicants include current faculty and staff of Land Grant institutions in the North Central region who are recognized intellectual leaders in their sphere of activities. Proposals that blend faculty/staff sabbatical or study leaves with Center funding are particularly encouraged. Proposals should specify high visibility outcomes to be accomplished during the period of association with the Center. The Fellow is expected to travel to East Lansing at least once, and is expected to interact with the NCRCRD Board of Directors via conference calls and the annual board meeting, but is not required to relocate. The Fellow is expected to lead a highly visible program engaging others in the region in an initiative consistent with the goals of the Center. Leading the initiative may require travel for meetings and lectures at other Land Grants in the region, the annual Mini-Land Grant meeting of AES and CES Directors, or other interactions with existing Center-supported regional research or work groups. Office space at Michigan State University will be provided if the successful candidate desires to relocate for the period of the contract. Example activities might be one or more of the following:

1. Coordinate a major a rural development-related research or extension activity of significance to multiple states in the region.
2. Engage multiple contributors in the production of a book or regular blog on emerging issues of importance to rural areas of North Central states.
3. Organize conferences and proceedings relevant to topical rural development issues in North Central states (conference location must be in North Central region.)
4. Pilot Extension curricula aimed at enhancing the system's ability to deliver educational programming on rural development topics.
5. Build lasting NCRCRD relationships with agencies, for-profits, and non-profits with interests in rural development.

Potential topic areas include:

- Sustainable communities
- Technology assessment strategies for communities
- Economic diversification and revitalization
- Social entrepreneurship
- Value-added systems for agriculture and natural resource industries

One proposal for \$40,000 per year will be awarded. The Center does not pay overhead. Priority will be assigned to proposals that can be implemented in a year or less, but renewals are possible. Longer-term proposals should specify deliverables for each year. Proposals should include:

Investigator contact information

Project narrative (10 pages maximum), including information on how the activity will connect the Center to Land Grants other than the PI's home institution.

Time table including specific deliverable or deliverables

Indication of whether the home institution is supplementing the proposal with sabbatical or study leave time.

Description of how the individual's current assignment will be modified to account for the new assignment.

Full curriculum vita.

Signoff from AES Director for AES appointed persons.

Signoff from Extension Director for CES appointed persons.

Signoff from PI and Co-PI immediate supervisors.

Review. Proposals will be reviewed by the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Board of Directors.

Entire proposal package should be saved as one pdf and emailed to: loverid2@msu.edu

Proposals are due at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, September 10, 2009. Pre-proposals are welcome and can take the form of a brief (half-page) project abstract and list of collaborators. Pre-proposals received before August 14, 2009 will receive higher priority for timely feedback.

Award decisions will be made at the NCRCRD meeting on October 8, 2009.

A list of frequently asked questions is available on the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Facebook group.