POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Working Title: Science Writer

Position Description: This is an academic staff position serving as a science writer for the University of Wisconsin Aquatic Sciences Center, which manages two statewide programs of multidisciplinary research, education and outreach dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of Great Lakes, inland surface waters and groundwater resources. Basic duties and responsibilities are to work with the ASC staff to:

65% Research and write reports, newsletter articles, and Internet Web pages about ASC activities and related Great Lakes and Wisconsin water resources issues. Research and write copy for news releases, magazine articles, fact sheets and booklets in collaboration with program scientists, outreach specialists and institute staff.

20% Work on special ASC communications projects as they develop. Such projects may include but are not limited to working with Sea Grant and Water Resources scientists, outreach specialists and staff to develop grant proposals, media relations projects, radio/video programs, research/outreach conferences, educational/outreach activities, multimedia presentations and exhibits.

10% Prepare information for and assist with the development and maintenance of the ASC (www.aqua.wisc.edu) and its two institutes' Web sites.

5% Research, conduct taped interviews with sources and write scripts for the "Earthwatch" public service radio program. Assist with editing the scripts of student writers, selecting "sound bites" from taped interviews and conducting the annual survey of "Earthwatch" stations.

Qualifications—Required: Bachelor's degree in journalism/mass communications or a science discipline, with at least three years of full-time professional writing experience (or an equivalent combination of education and experience). Demonstrated ability to write accurately and in a clear and concise manner. Demonstrated ability to adapt writing style to communicate effectively with different audiences. Self-starter, able to work independently as well as in a team setting. Good telephone and in-person interviewing skills. Proficiency in computer word processing.

Qualifications—Preferred: Master's degree in a science or communications discipline. Extensive science or environmental writing experience at a newspaper, magazine or university. Some radio writing/programming experience. Demonstrated ability to understand and interpret complex issues and scientific research findings for professional as well as lay audiences. Experience with World Wide Web sites and water resources issues, particularly those involving the Great Lakes and groundwater.

Salary and Status: This position is a renewable appointment to the University of Wisconsin-Madison academic staff. Salary is commensurate with professional qualifications and experience. Minimum: $37,000.

Percentage of Time of Appointment: 50 to 100 percent.

To Apply, Please Submit:

-> A letter describing your interest in the position.
-> A resume, including post-high school education, a chronological list of professional work experience, a list of computer software training or experience, and other relevant information.
-> The names and phone numbers of at least three references we may contact for a recommendation.

Send your Application to: Linda Campbell, Aquatic Sciences Center, 1975 Willow Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1177.

Deadline for Applications: Applications must be received by March 3, 2004.

Selection Process: Semifinalists will be asked to complete a writing exercise. Finalists invited for an interview will be asked to bring at least three examples of published work that demonstrate the variety of their writing experience and abilities.

Projected Start Date: March 15, 2004, or as soon thereafter as possible.

NOTE: Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants and nominees must be released upon request. Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality.

The University of Wisconsin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.