

PhD Research Assistantship Available in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Bio-based Materials Education

Virginia Tech Dept. of Sustainable Biomaterials, Blacksburg, Virginia

National statistics indicate that on average *only 42% of students that transfer from a community college into four-year universities complete a bachelor's degree within six years* of starting their post-secondary education. In addition, gaps in training of essential skills and declining enrollments in certain bio-based materials science programs have converged to create a clear educational need for new curriculum development and instructional delivery effectiveness that assists transfer students become better prepared for higher level coursework and career opportunities in Bio-based Materials science.

Funding for a Graduate Research Assistantship is available from USDA's Higher Education Program to create and test curriculum materials that incorporate proven techniques for improving transfer student success through student-centered training that pushes beyond the boundaries of traditional instruction methods and classroom environs.

Research focus for the doctoral student assistant would include development, assessment, and delivery of two undergraduate level courses. One focused on analytical and technical skills and a second on leadership and communication skills. Additional opportunities include assisting with developing an educators' network, collecting and analyzing data, and creating a project website for dissemination and discussion of results.

Required Qualifications: Master's degree in education, curriculum development, chemistry, biology, materials science, engineering, renewable materials, forestry, agriculture, or related disciplines.

Target start date: Summer, Fall semester 2023 or before if possible

For more information: contact Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp, Professor, agzink@vt.edu or visit <https://sbio.vt.edu/>

See an example of past programs related to this project:
<https://sbio.vt.edu/SummerCamp/InfoSummerCamp.html>
and <https://doi.org/10.13073/FPJ-D-22-00030>



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