SDSU Extension is offering an exciting career opportunity as an Agronomy Extension Field Specialist. We are looking for an individual to join us in growing and building our new regional extension center located in Rapid City, SD. This is a 12 month, full-time, non-faculty exempt position.

PURPOSE OF POSITION:
To provide strong regional and statewide leadership in delivering research-based programming in the Competitive Crops capstone area. The Agronomy-Crops Field Specialist will be responsible for development and dissemination of research-based programming and resources in support of producers growing the major field crops across South Dakota. They will travel extensively to build strong relationships with producer groups, agribusinesses and governmental agencies to identify ongoing and emerging needs of crop producers.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
This position requires strong knowledge and experience in developing or leading learning communities; ability to conduct impactful programming based on needs assessments; commitment to the development of emerging technology materials for program development and delivery; ability to collaborate on emerging issues; and to develop relationships with pertinent stakeholders. The position has a responsibility to secure programmatic funding, conduct evaluation, and successfully engage with the public by bridging research to practice. This position is accountable to the Plant Science Department Head and serves under the programmatic direction of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Director, and will work collaboratively with other Competitive Crops Field Specialists, State Specialists, and other faculty members in their respective department.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:
- Master’s Degree, completed by first day of employment. One degree in agronomy or other closely related field.
- Certified Crop Advisor or ability to obtain within two years of employment.
- Experience with crop production in the upper Great Plains.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences.
- Strong interpersonal skills; ability to work as a team member.
- Demonstrated use of technology in managing and/or delivering educational programs.
- Demonstrated ability or potential to plan, implement, and evaluate educational materials and direct effective programs.
- Valid South Dakota driver’s license or ability to obtain one within 30 days of hire, and willingness to travel.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
- Previous Extension Service experience.
- Demonstrated leadership in developing or leading learning communities.
- Demonstrated leadership and teamwork with stakeholders.
- Demonstrated collaboration in developing funding proposals to support new and/or enhanced programming.
- Experience in publishing extension materials and peer reviewed journals.

SALARY:
Commensurate with qualifications.
SDSU EXTENSION:
SDSU Extension is one mode of outreach utilized by South Dakota State University. It brings educational programs and research-based information to the citizens of South Dakota. The mission of SDSU Extension is “Growing South Dakota”. It works with academic departments and the Agricultural Experiment Station to provide unbiased, science-based knowledge focused on issues and needs. Extension has five capstone program areas, Competitive Crops Systems, Competitive Livestock Systems, Youth and Community Leadership, Food and Families, and Urban/Rural Initiatives which are part of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and College of Education and Human Sciences.

DEPARTMENT:
The Department of Plant Science includes 53 faculty whose expertise spans the fields of agronomy, entomology, genetics/breeding, horticulture, landscape architecture, plant pathology, plant physiology, soil science, and weed science. Plant Science has a robust research program that consistently ranks at or near the top of departments at SDSU. Grant awards have increased 48% between FY07 and FY11. This strong record is due to our outstanding research faculty. Dissemination of science-based knowledge is a core mission of the Department of Plant Science. Our faculty Extension Specialists and Field Specialist provide a robust structure for meeting this mission. In Academic Programs, the department provides nationally competitive training for undergraduate students leading to B.S. degrees in agronomy, horticulture and landscape architecture. Plant Science also offers a strong graduate training environment leading to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant science and biological sciences. The department is housed in 6 buildings on campus and six research and outreach stations across the state. The department is also home to two service laboratories and two research collections.

UNIVERSITY/COMMUNITY:
SDSU is a land grant institution and the state's largest institution of higher education with an enrollment of approximately 13,000 students. SDSU is located in Brookings, South Dakota, a community of approximately 22,100 near the east central border of South Dakota on Interstate 29. This position will be located in Rapid City, SD. Rapid City is a vibrant and growing community of nearly 70,000 citizens located in the heart of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Positions are open until filled with full consideration given to application materials received by April 15, 2013.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
SDSU accepts applications through an on-line employment site. To apply, visit: https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu, search by the position title, view the job announcement, and click on “apply for this posting.” The system will guide you through the electronic application form. The employment site will also require the attachment of a cover letter, resume, and reference page. Please contact SDSU Human Resources at (605) 688-4128 if you require assistance with this process.

For questions on the position, contact Shawn Burke at shawn.burke@sdstate.edu or 605-394-2236.

South Dakota State University is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its faculty, staff and students. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Arrangements for accommodations required by disabilities can be made at TTY (605) 688-4394. SDSU prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, gender, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran’s status or any other protected class in the offering of all educational programs and employment opportunities. Individuals with concerns regarding discrimination should contact: Equal Opportunity Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Human Resources, Administration 318, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007. Phone: (605) 688-4128.