Notice of Vacancy
Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology
Position #130946

TITLE:

Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology

LOCATION:

Washington State University Mount Vernon Northwest Washington Research & Extension Center (NWREC), Mount Vernon, Washington.

SALARY:

Commensurate with qualifications and experience. Washington State University provides health insurance and contributes to the TIAA Retirement Plan.

START:

July 1, 2020, negotiable

THE OPPORTUNITY:

The Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State University (WSU) is recruiting for a full-time (12 months), tenure-track position in plant pathology at the rank of Assistant Professor. The successful candidate is expected to develop a nationally and internationally recognized fundamental and translational research program leading to the development and adoption of novel approaches for management of diseases of blueberries and potatoes, as well as other small fruits and vegetables produced in Northwestern Washington State and the Pacific Northwest (PNW). The successful candidate is also expected to develop an extension outreach program relevant to Washington small fruit and vegetable production, contribute to the teaching mission of the department and college, and provide service contributions to the department, WSU Mount Vernon NWREC, college, and university.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate will be part of a dynamic research team comprising WSU scientists over several academic units based at the WSU Mount Vernon NWREC in Mount Vernon, WA. Washington is a leading producer of blueberries in the United States and has substantial table and seed potato production. The successful candidate is expected to participate in transdisciplinary teams, collaborate with faculty at WSU as well as with state, federal, and industry scientists in the region. Potential research areas may include, but are not limited to: etiology, ecology, epidemiology, diagnostics, population biology, and integrative pest management of pathogens relevant to blueberry, and table and seed potato production in Washington. The successful candidate is expected to acquire competitive grant funding from national, regional, state, and industry sources, and to develop an extension outreach program relevant to the PNW small fruit and vegetable industries.

Teaching duties include an introductory undergraduate plant pathology course and/or a graduate level course in the candidate's area of expertise. The person filling this position is expected to serve as an effective mentor to both undergraduate and graduate students and to serve as major

advisor and committee member for students working toward M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. The successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to student recruitment and retention, and participate in departmental, university, and professional service activities. The successful applicant will be expected to conduct a program of research and outreach consistent with the mission of the WSU Agricultural Research Center (http://arc.wsu.edu).

QUALIFICATIONS:

Required:

- An earned doctorate in plant pathology or related field at the time of hire.
- Evidence of research productivity commensurate with career level.
- Ability to develop an original research and extension program addressing the biology and management of plant diseases.
- Ability to develop a dynamic and innovative teaching program.

Preferred:

- Evidence of effective and timely oral, written, and electronic communication skills.
- Ability to teach, advise, and mentor graduate and undergraduate students.
- Ability to communicate with and interact effectively with stakeholder constituencies such as producer associations, agribusinesses, and other organizations and agencies.
- Evidence of obtaining external funding in the form of competitive grants, gifts, and in-kind resources to support research and extension programs commensurate with career level.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY:

The department (http://plantpath.wsu.edu) is in the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS, http://cahnrs.wsu.edu). The department has fully integrated programs in teaching, research, and extension, involving approximately 14 faculty, 15 adjunct faculty, 20 research associates, and numerous administrative professionals and support staff statewide. The Department offers one of the most comprehensive plant pathology programs in the country. Faculty are engaged in a wide range of research activities that address biological, molecular, epidemiological, and biotechnological investigations into diverse groups of microorganisms that threaten the sustainability and profitability of numerous economically important crops. Protecting crops from destructive diseases and ensuring plant health by using environmentally friendly and sustainable strategies are some of the core strengths of our department. The Department's administrative office is located on the main campus in Pullman with faculty located across four statewide Research and Extension Centers:

- WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington (http://prosser.wsu.edu)
- WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (http://mtvernon.wsu.edu)
- WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center (http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu)
- WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, Washington (http://tfrec.wsu.edu)

WSU MOUNT VERNON NORTHWEST RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER:

The successful candidate will be housed at the WSU Mount Vernon NWREC and may teach

courses at the WSU-Everett campus in Everett, both located in northwestern Washington. The NWREC in Mount Vernon serves the agricultural and natural resource science interests of the region through research, extension, and teaching activities. The WSU Mount Vernon NWREC is a full-service research facility and farm equipped for farming systems research; it currently has faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students in multiple disciplines including plant pathology, horticulture, soil science, plant breeding, weed science, and entomology. The NWREC is also poised to hire new faculty in small fruit breeding. Faculty are very involved in training graduate students, which currently number 17. Mount Vernon is about 60 miles north of Seattle and 90 miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, positioning residents near an international array of recreational and cultural options.

WSU-Everett is the newest branch campus of WSU charged with significantly expanding access to high-quality baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in the region and Washington State. With a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the growth of WSU-Everett will align with the economic development and vitality of the region and the state of Washington to prepare graduates for leadership in a rapidly changing and globally connected world.

For more information on WSU-NWREC, visit http://mtvernon.wsu.edu.
For more information on WSU-Everett, visit https://everett.wsu.edu/about/mission.

LIFE IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON AND MOUNT VERNON:

The Skagit, Nooksack, and Snohomish River Valleys of northwestern Washington are well known for their scenic beauty, reflected in the Cascade Mountain Range, waters of the Puget Sound, annual Tulip Festival, and ferries to the San Juan Islands and Victoria, British Columbia. The region is characterized by a mild marine climate, diverse farming enterprises that include annual and perennial production systems, and close rural-urban interactions. The region is also noted for its food culture, which includes local, sustainable, and organic production and processing systems with a focus on value-added enterprises.

For more information on Mount Vernon, visit https://mountvernonwa.gov

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES:

Recognizing its unique land-grant research and educational mission to the people of Washington State and beyond, the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources (CAHNRS) is proud to provide leadership in discovering, accessing, and sharing knowledge through high quality research, instruction, and extension programs that contribute to a safe and abundant food and fiber supply, promote the well-being of individuals, families and communities, enhance sustainability of agricultural and economic systems, and promote stewardship of natural resources and the environment. CAHNRS is an academically diverse college and the largest college at WSU with 2,100 undergraduate and 530 graduate students, providing opportunities to engage, share, and support one another across 12 departments, 3 Extension programs, and 4 research and extension centers throughout the state.

For more information, visit http://cahnrs.wsu.edu.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY:

Founded in 1890, Washington State University is a comprehensive land-grant university with teaching, research, and extension missions, and one of two research universities in Washington State. WSU is organized into ten academic colleges, the Honors College, and the Graduate School. It has an enrollment of more than 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students on four campuses (Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver) with approximately 20,000 students located on the main campus in Pullman, WA. WSU offers some 245 fields of study including more than 96 undergraduate majors, 144 graduate degree programs plus many minors, options, and certificate programs. WSU ranks among the top 60 public research universities and is a Carnegie I, Doctoral/Research Extensive University. WSU strongly values diversity among its faculty, staff, and students and seeks to ensure a welcoming community for all.

To learn more about WSU visit http://wsu.edu.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please apply online via https://www.wsujobs.com/postings/50507. The online application must include a cover letter, current curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information for four professional references. The cover letter should address, in distinct sections, all of the required and preferred qualifications for the position (including your areas of expertise), and research interests. Application screening will begin on March 9, 2020 and remain open until filled. For questions about the position, contact Gary Chastagner, Search Committee Chair, chastag@wsu.edu, (253) 445-4528.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFRIMATIVE ACTION EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER. Members of ethnic minorities, women, disabled veterans of the Vietnam-era, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply.

WSU is committed to excellence through diversity and faculty-friendly policy action, including a partner accommodation and NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation programs (see http://www.excelinse.wsu.edu/).

WSU employs only US citizens and lawfully authorized non-US citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the US Citizenship and immigration Services.

WSU is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact Human Resource Services: 509-335-4521(v), Washington State TDD Relay Service: Voice Callers: 1-800-833-6384; TDD Callers: 1-800-833-6388, 509-335-1259(f), or hrs@wsu.edu.