



Education USA Weekly Update

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I. Scholarships and Fellowships

Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy

The University of California, Berkeley invites applications for the 2008-2009 S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy.

The S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy will be awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year to support advanced research at the University of California, Berkeley.

For the purposes of this fellowship, natural resources are defined broadly to include environmental resources. The fellowship encourages, but is not limited to, policy-oriented research. Applications are open to scholars from any social science discipline, and related professional fields such as law and planning, who will make significant contributions to research on natural resource economics broadly defined. Preference will be given to proposals whose orientation is broadly institutional and/or historical, and which are conceptually and theoretically innovative. Proposals with a primarily statistical or econometric purpose are not eligible for consideration.

For more information, please visit:

<http://research.chance.berkeley.edu/ciriacy/>

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program to Fund Education Research

Deadline: November 2, 2007

The Spencer Foundation (<http://www.spencer.org/>) Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. The \$25,000 fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world.

Although the dissertation topic must concern education, graduate study may be in any academic discipline or professional field. Candidates should be interested in pursuing further research in education once the doctorate is attained.

Applicants need not be citizens of the United States; however, they must be candidates for the doctoral degree at a graduate school within the United States. The fellowships are not intended to finance data collection or the completion of doctoral course- work, but rather to support the final analysis of the research topic and the writing of the dissertation. All applicants must document that they will have completed all pre-dissertation requirements by June 1, 2008, and must provide a clear and specific plan for completing the dissertation within a one- or two-year time frame.

The 2008 dissertation fellowship instructions will be available at the Spencer Foundation Web site.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10008295/spencer>

Research Associateship awards for doctoral level scientists and engineers

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/rap/>

The Research Associateship awards are open to doctoral level scientists and engineers (U.S and Foreign Nationals) who can apply their special knowledge and talents to research areas that are of interest to them and to the host laboratories and centers. Awards are available for Postdoctoral Associates (within 5 years of the doctorate) and Senior Associates (normally 5 years or more beyond the doctorate). Associates conduct research in residence at the host laboratory they have chosen

II. News you can use

Tools for Print Journalists

<http://www.concernedjournalists.org/tools/filter/7>

An aspiring journalist might ask: "Where can I find some resources on how to get great anecdotes out of an interview subject?" The short answer is this fine site, which was created and maintained by the Committee of Concerned Journalists within the "Tools for Print Journalists" area of their main site. Although visitors can't search the various resources, they can scan through the several hundred resources as they see fit, and there are dozens of great things to look at here. For example, Pulitzer Prize-winning report Eric Nalder shares his tips for conducting effective interviews in the "Loosening Lips" factsheet. Moving on, another resource offers a journalist's guide to the Geneva Conventions. Overall, the site is a very useful resource for journalists of all stripes, and it's one that journalism instructors can also use in the classroom

Faculty Innovation Center: Resources

<http://www.fic.engr.utexas.edu/resources/index.cfm>

The University of Texas's College of Engineering is committed to continual improvement of their undergraduate curriculum and they have created the Faculty Innovation Center in part to work on this process. Along with the work they do in the classrooms at the University of Texas, they also provide a number of tremendously useful online materials that are relevant to both those involved in engineering education and those who teach all manner of college courses. These resources are divided into several sections here, including "Teaching and Learning", "Teaching with Technology", and "Distance Learning". All told, there are over eighty resources here, including a worksheet on developing effective lectures, a "best practices" overview for videoconferencing, and a guide to using student feedback.

OECD Policy Brief: Lifelong Learning and Human Capital

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/50/38982210.pdf>

"Lifelong learning" and "human capital" are terms that are bandied about quite a bit, and some may still find them a bit puzzling. Fortunately, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has crafted this policy brief to explain some of the basics regarding the importance of human capital and its increasing importance to economic growth. Released in July 2007, this particular 8-page brief answers such questions as "What is human capital?", "Why is early childhood important?", and "How is education responding?" For persons interested in a wide range of policy issues, including economic development, this short brief will be most useful. The brief also includes a list of additional readings, some of which are available via the OECD's main site.

Assessing-to-Learn Physics: Project Website

<http://a2l.physics.umass.edu/>

Based at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the Physics Education Research Group is committed to performing "rigorous research into science education, cognition, and learning." One of their more recent projects was the "Assessing-to-Learn Physics" initiative, which was designed to look at the ongoing process of learning physics in the classroom. As such, this site provides public access to a large library of questions and problems that can be used in the classroom. First-time visitors may wish to look over the "About" section, and then proceed to the "Items Library" section. Within this area, users can select an educational level, pick several keywords, and then look at the items that are returned from the database. If any of this is confusing or unclear, they should make use of the "Library Help" area, which usually can answer any queries that might come up about using the database.

Contact an EducationUSA adviser near you for guidance on finding and applying to an accredited U.S. college or university 2
<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>