ASTRONOMY EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN & DEMONSTRATOR  
PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY DEPT., SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Full-Time; Probationary; Starting salary $4053 - $4800/Mo based on qualifications and experience; M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until filled

The Physics and Astronomy Dept. of San Francisco State University (http://www.physics.sfsu.edu/) seeks a full-time Astronomy Equipment Technician and Demonstrator. The technician/demonstrator will play a central role in the observatory, planetarium, and laboratory facilities which support introductory courses, degree programs, and outreach activities in astronomy.

The staff member will maintain and upgrade equipment in the observatory, planetarium, and astronomy labs, and will train students and lecturers in the operation of this equipment. These activities support the astronomy instructional program at all levels, from introductory courses to research students working in such areas as extrasolar planets and galaxy formation. She/he will also be instrumental in bringing on line and continuing operations of a new remote telescope facility. The technician will design and construct demonstrations for astronomy labs and lectures in consultation with faculty members, and will assist in incorporating computer-based exercises into the curriculum. The technician/demonstrator will prepare and present planetarium shows and will train and supervise students who create and give shows. The new staff member will maintain the observatory and planetarium web pages.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: BS or BA degree in physics, astronomy, engineering, or closely related field.

Work Experience: Equivalent of three years of experience in the maintenance, repair and operation of astronomical, optical, and/or audio/visual equipment including one year involving design modifications and fabrication of technical equipment. Advanced laboratory work in astronomy and physics can count toward this required experience.

General Skills: Excellent verbal, written, and interpersonal communications skills.

Specialized Skills: Knowledge of telescopes and associated instrumentation such as CCD detectors and spectrometers. Knowledge of and ability to maintain planetarium equipment. Proficiency with Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office applications, ability to create and maintain web pages.

Abilities: Apply experience and knowledge to the design of new laboratory demonstrations and the production of planetarium shows; plan, organize, and coordinate work on technical projects; review and prepare specifications for technical equipment; design, fabricate, and assemble devices; coordinate equipment repair performed by other specialists; analyze equipment problems and determine what repairs are needed; install, replace, repair, and maintain a wide variety of astronomical equipment; establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; train and oversee the work of student assistants. Coordinate development of remote telescope facility and manage operations.
Physical Requirements: Ability to lift 50 pounds without experiencing significant medical consequences. Ability to work on ladders and in confined spaces.

DESIRED: Master’s degree in astronomy or physics; Experience with Adobe CS3, particularly Adobe Dreamweaver (HTML, CSS). Experience using and maintaining Spitz 512 projector, digital HD projectors and specialized projectors, including an ECCS f/x controller. Significant experience observing with CCDs and analyzing CCD images.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS: Set up astronomy labs; maintain and upgrade lab equipment; design and construct new demonstrations for astronomy courses; coordinate lab schedule. Manage on site and remote observatory operations; repair, maintain, document, and calibrate telescopes and associated instrumentation; plan and implement upgrades of observatory equipment; train students in operation of equipment. Manage planetarium operations; repair, document, and maintain specialized visual, audio, and control equipment; plan and implement equipment upgrades; train students and lecturers in planetarium operation. Produce and present planetarium shows; assist students in creating and presenting shows. Maintain planetarium and observatory web pages.

HOW TO APPLY:
Please go to the SFSU Human Resources website, www.sfsu.edu/~hrwww/employment/eob.html for instructions on how to apply, referring to Job Number 1796. SFSU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. The Job Vacancy Number 1796 must be indicated on all applications, resumes, cover letter and supplemental materials.

Applications/Resumes received by e-mail or fax are not accepted at this time. Mail to:

San Francisco State University
Human Resources, Safety & Risk Management Department
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 252
San Francisco, CA 94132-4252
(415) 338-1872 (415) 338-1873
TDD (415) 338-3040

For inquiries, please contact Dr. Susan Lea (lea@stars.sfsu.edu) or Dr. Adrienne Cool (cool@stars.sfsu.edu).