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ASU WEST LAUNCHES FACULTY RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

Arizona State University West

~~ASU West~~ is in the midst of one of the largest and most aggressive recruitment campaigns in ~~ASU~~ *Arizona State University* history in its effort to hire 20 full-time resident faculty members to begin teaching this fall.

more than 1,200
"So far ~~we~~ *we* received ~~about 1,000~~ *more than 1,200* applications," ~~about 50~~ *for the 20 positions* for each position, said Dell Felder, dean of the ASU West faculty. ~~The deadline was March 1, and applications still were coming in last week.~~ Among the ASU West positions will be an assistant dean of the faculty and an academic director for the business program.

Felder said the west-side campus is taking extra steps to ensure a "top-quality applicant pool" that she regards as "the element most critical to our success."

Those extra steps included hiring two faculty interns to act as employment coordinators during the spring semester and handle the bulk of the recruiting and administrative duties involved. The interns both are from the main campus: Miguel Arciniega, associate professor of counselor education, and Mark Sunkett, associate professor of music.

"We've gone beyond the regular postings and listings in the search for candidates," Sunkett said.

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They also have directly contacted leading educators across the nation for recommendations of outstanding candidates for the ASU West positions, which run the academic gamut from assistant to full professor in arts and sciences, education, engineering and social work.

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Arciniega said the size and organization of the ASU West faculty will result in more interdisciplinary contact than on the main campus, and noted, "There may be some innovative research ideas that come out of this."

The faculty will be divided into four academic units: Education-Human Services (composed of faculty from education, nursing and social work); Arts and Sciences (fine arts and liberal arts); Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology; and Business-Public Programs.

ASU West was founded in 1984 as a branch campus with upper-division undergraduate and graduate academic programs only. The Arizona Board of Regents has approved academic programs leading to 29 different degrees in the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Nursing, Public Programs and the School of Social Work. →

ASU West is moving rapidly to offer courses in support of all the approved programs.

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If the main campus has a non-traditional student composition -- juniors, seniors and graduate students predominate -- ASU West's student profile is even more non-traditional. Arciniega said ASU West's selection committees are making sure that the new faculty members are compatible with the unusual student profile.

"They're going to be working with upper-level returnees, graduate students and others pursuing professional development," said Arciniega, who has taught three ASU West courses himself. "I think they'll find the students' questions to be quite challenging.

Sunkett added that because many ASU West students are already in the workforce, "their needs are for practical, current solutions to problems they're meeting on the job today."

ASU West's spring enrollment was about 2,700 students. Felder said population projections for west Phoenix indicate that the full-time equivalent could eventually reach 10,000, and 50 to 60 percent of the students probably will be professionals.