Senior Economist in Energy Policy and Regulation

The Public Utility Research Center (PURC) at the University of Florida is seeking a Senior Economist in Energy Policy and Regulation to provide leadership in PURC’s numerous research initiatives. In collaboration with the center’s other faculty and members of the Florida Energy Systems Consortium, the successful candidate will be a key initiator and team member of research directed at critical energy policy issues facing Florida, the United States, and the world. In addition, the successful candidate will serve as an expert resource for regulatory professionals and policymakers, develop a research agenda that informs the academic community and practitioners on emerging issues and best practices in energy policy, and contribute to interdisciplinary research initiatives. He or she will have strong skills in economic modeling and systems analysis, an advanced degree in economics or a related quantitative field, experience in the field of energy regulation and policy, and an in-depth knowledge of electricity issues. A Ph.D. is preferred, but other degrees will be considered.

The Senior Economist will be a key member of the PURC team that is contributing to the advancement of evidence-based public policy. The successful candidate will work with leaders in academia, government, and industry, and will maintain relationships with research institutes, international organizations, regulators and policymakers, and service providers, especially in Florida. PURC faculty typically work with universities in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and North America; multilateral institutions such as the World Bank; regulatory associations such as the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators, the African Forum for Utility Regulators, and other regulatory associations; UF faculty; and utility managers. Recent projects include:

- Examining how Florida’s electric infrastructure can better survive and recover from hurricanes;
- Studying various aspects of risk for nuclear power investments;
- Analyzing impacts of carbon cap and trade systems for Florida;
- Developing courses for regulatory professionals in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia;
- Investigating optimal tariff designs for various issues, such as distributed generation, energy conservation, and affordability for the poor; and
- Developing an international, online body of knowledge on infrastructure regulation.

Opportunities exist for the Senior Economist to be involved in teaching, participating in departmental seminars and other campus events, advising students, and consulting.

Although not a primary responsibility, the Senior Economist will collaborate with the PURC Director of Energy Studies and other PURC faculty in the PURC/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy, and assist in the development of advanced courses in regulation and customized courses on electricity systems.

PURC offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience, an excellent benefits package, an informal and collegial work environment in an academic setting, and the flexibility to develop and work on a variety of projects, both individually and with a team. The position is non-tenure and externally funded. Interested persons should send a curriculum vita and cover letter to:

Search Committee, Public Utility Research Center  
Warrington College of Business Administration, University of Florida  
P.O. Box 117142  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7142

Those interested are instructed to apply through GatorJobs. The requisition number is 0802543. Application deadline: September 14, 2009. Questions can be directed to Dr. Mark Jamison, Director, Public Utility Research Center at +1.352.392.6148 or mark.jamison@cba.ufl.edu.

About PURC

PURC provides timely, rigorous, and policy-relevant research and is known for its integrity and fairness. Our events serve as forums for researchers and practitioners to share information and gain insights into pertinent research, as well as current problems faced by regulators, industry, and other stakeholders. In 2008, PURC researchers published 18 papers in academic and applied publications and have another six that are forthcoming. Our training programs teach the principles and practices that support effective utility policy and regulation. The PURC/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy is a two-week training program that has educated more than 2,100 professionals from 140 nations since 1997. In the past several years, PURC has presented training programs in the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Jamaica, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos and Zambia. PURC is in the Department of Economics in the Warrington College of Business Administration. Visit PURC’s Web site for additional information: www.purc.ufl.edu.