

## PhD Positions Available with Dr. Erika Hersch-Green

Two PhD positions are available with Dr. Erika Hersch-Green at Michigan Technological University to join a 5-year NSF-funded project. The overall premise of this research is to examine whether and how nutrient availabilities and plant genome size together contribute to the structuring of biodiversity patterns from the molecular and functional attributes of organisms to multispecies assemblages. One PhD student will combine field data collection from across the United States with phylogenetic approaches to examine how changes in nutrient conditions affects functional traits and multispecies biodiversity patterns across sites that vary in multiple environmental factors. Another PhD student's research will primarily focus on whether resource allocations influence genome, transcriptome, and metabolic properties of plants. Both students will be expected to well in a dynamic research group that includes collaborators, graduate and undergraduate students and to develop related independent research projects (with guidance from Dr. Hersch-Green). Students will also be trained in scientific teaching and communication skills and will have an opportunity to work with G6-12 and undergraduate students.

Four years of RA funding (including tuition) are available to support each student, and teaching opportunities are also available in the Department of Biological Sciences at Michigan Tech. Candidates must have prior experience working in field and/or molecular genetics settings, work well with a team as well as independently, and have skills and interest in plant ecology and evolutionary biology. Desired qualifications also include an excellent academic record, a good quantitative background (including statistics), and strong writing and computing skills. Candidates with an M.S. in a related discipline are preferred; only substantial research and prior publication experience will be considered in lieu of a Master's degree.

Qualified and interested candidates should contact Dr. Erika Hersch-Green immediately for full consideration by email ([eherschg@mtu.edu](mailto:eherschg@mtu.edu)), and include a statement of interest that specifies which position of the described research they are interested in, and an updated CV; reference letters/contact information will be solicited at a later date. Suitable candidates will then be encouraged to submit a formal application to the graduate school at Michigan Technological University; Details on Michigan Tech, the Department of Biological Sciences, and the application procedure can be found at <http://www.mtu.edu/biological/>.