The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS) at Washington State University (WSU) is seeking to fill a 9- or 12-month (negotiable), teaching/research, tenure-track position in Soil Microbiology at the assistant professor rank. The successful candidate will develop an internationally recognized, interdisciplinary and collaborative, extramurally funded research program in soil microbial ecology with an emphasis on the rhizosphere in managed ecosystems. This position is one of several new and planned strategic CSS hires that build on existing faculty expertise, within and beyond the department, to develop research capacity and excellence in soil-plant interactions.

Title: Assistant Professor, Soil Microbiology
Location: Washington State University (WSU), Pullman, WA
Salary: Competitive and commensurate with training and experience
Effective: July 1, 2013 or negotiable

Responsibilities: Through collaborative efforts with WSU and U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) scientists, the successful candidate will conduct soil microbiology research in areas such as (but not limited to): metagenomics; nutrient cycling; the production, absorption and emission of greenhouse gases; or the fate and effects of beneficial organisms, pathogens, transgenic materials, contaminants, pesticides or herbicides in the soil environment. The successful candidate is expected to aggressively pursue extramural, competitive funding, to actively advise and train graduate students, and to publish research findings in scientific journals. The incumbent will annually teach three credits of graduate or undergraduate courses in soil science, including an alternate-year graduate course in soil microbiology. The incumbent will also be expected to contribute to student recruitment and retention, and participate in departmental, university, and professional service and outreach activities. The successful candidate will develop and conduct a program of research consistent with the mission of the WSU Agricultural Research Center (http://arc.wsu.edu/).

Qualifications
Required
1. Ph.D. in soil science, microbiology, ecology, geology or closely related field at the time of hire.
2. Strong record of publishing in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with career level.
3. Demonstrated ability to collaborate with other scientists.

Preferred
1. Outstanding communication skills, both written and verbal.
2. Demonstrated working knowledge of soil microbiology.
3. Demonstrated working knowledge of molecular biology, metagenomics, and/or biogeochemistry.
4. Demonstrated interest in agricultural systems.
5. Demonstrated interest, ability and/or success in classroom teaching.
6. Demonstrated record of competitive grant success commensurate with career level.
7. Demonstrated knowledge and ability to work effectively with individuals and groups of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ideologies.
DESCRIPTION OF JOB SITE: Washington State University (WSU) is a comprehensive land-grant research institution located in Pullman, with additional campuses in Spokane, the Tri-Cities (Richland, Pasco and Kennewick), and Vancouver, Washington. There are ten colleges and a graduate school. More than 18,600 undergraduate and graduate students are served by the Pullman campus. WSU offers some 245 fields of study including more than 150 majors plus many minors, options and certificate programs. Bachelor’s degrees are available in all major areas, with master’s and doctoral degrees available in most. WSU is one of the largest residential universities in the West. Pullman offers a friendly, small-town living environment. To learn more about the Pullman community, visit: www.pullmanchamber.com. The university’s web page (www.wsu.edu) offers information about WSU and the surrounding area.

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (www.css.wsu.edu) has 25 faculty members, including three endowed chairs (wheat breeding and genetics; cropping systems pathology; small grains extension and research [weed science]) and one distinguished professor (barley breeding and genetics), located at the Pullman campus and three research and extension centers throughout the state. In addition, five USDA-ARS research units (Wheat Genetics, Quality, Physiology and Disease; Land Management and Water Conservation; Root Disease and Biological Control; Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology; Western Region Plant Introduction Station) are located at WSU with scientists integrated with university departments. Facilities include the Western Wheat Quality Laboratory (www.wsu.edu/~wwql/php/index.php), state-of-the-art plant growth facilities (www.pgf.wsu.edu/index.html), the new Orville A. Vogel Plant Bioscience Building (www.virtualtour.wsu.edu/tour-campus/biosciences/index.html), and a network of university-owned research farms. The Department offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Crop Science and Soil Science and contributes to college-level interdisciplinary B.S. degrees in Integrated Plant Sciences (www.ips.wsu.edu) and Agricultural and Food Systems (www.afs.wsu.edu). CSS faculty members also advise graduate students in the Molecular Plant Sciences program (www.mps.wsu.edu) as well as four other departments or academic units. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, WSU’s plant science programs were ranked 2nd in the nation and agronomy was ranked 7th (2nd in the West) in 2007 (chronicle.com/stats/productivity).

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS: Please apply online via https://www.wsujobs.com. The online application must include a cover letter, a current curriculum vitae, copies of official graduate transcripts, and the names and contact information for three people willing to serve as references. The cover letter should address, in distinct sections, all of the required and preferred qualifications for the position (including your areas of expertise), research interests, and teaching philosophy. Application screening will begin on January 2, 2013 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. For questions about the position, contact Dr. David Brown, dave.brown@wsu.edu, 509-335-1859.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER. Members of ethnic minorities, women, special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam-era, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply. WSU is committed to excellence through diversity, has faculty friendly policies including a partner accommodation program, and a NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant (see http://www.excelinse.wsu.edu/).

WSU employs only US citizens and lawfully authorized non-US citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Washington State University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact Human Resource Services: 509-335-4521(v), Washington State TDD Relay Service: Voice Callers: 1-800-833-6384; TDD Callers: 1-800-833-6388, 509.-335-1259(f), or hrs@wsu.edu.