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## HETC GRADUATE CAREER SEMINAR

*"TO POSTDOC OR NOT TO POSTDOC....."*

Gina Henderson

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# My info:



Gina Henderson

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Current Position:

Postdoctoral associate, Dept of Geography, Rutgers University.

PhD: Climatology, University of Delaware (Aug 2010)

MSc: Geography, University of Delaware

# Securing of position:



- Word of mouth!
- What is your postdoc advisor looking for?
- What are you looking for?

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- What is your postdoc advisor looking for?
- What are you looking for?
- Negotiate:
  - ▣ Start date
  - ▣ Work week/telecommute
  - ▣ Salary
  - ▣ Benefits
  - ▣ Possibility for extension

# In the trenches..... what am I gaining?

## Academically:

- Management of large federal grant
- New skills dealing with data processing
- Attending national and specialty group meetings
  - ▣ Networking!
- Balancing multiple projects at once
- ORGANIZATION!!!!

# In the trenches..... what am I gaining?

## Personally:

- Problem solving without a safety net
- Seeing myself as a peer, not an advisee

# Some down sides.....



- I miss teaching!
- Peaks and lulls in work load, schedule very much beyond my control.
- Small lab group doesn't provide much technical support

# Towards the future



Goal: a tenure track position, undecided on amount of research I would like.

- Attending online webinars to keep skills “fresh”. Ex. APECS offers online discussions and workshops.
- Highlight skills gained during postdoc in both application materials and interview.
- Finish up publication of dissertation papers this year.



Please feel free to contact me with additional questions:

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