HETC GRADUATE CAREER SEMINAR

“TO POSTDOC OR NOT TO POSTDOC……”

Gina Henderson
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My info:

Gina Henderson

ghenders@rci.rutgers

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?
Securing of position:

- Word of mouth!
- 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:

Gina Henderson

ghenders@rci.rutgers.edu

http://klima.rutgers.edu/~gina