Describing a new species of fossil rodent from Montana

General Field of the Project: Biology, Evolution, Anatomy, Paleontology

Project Description: This project is part of the broader goal of the lab to better understand the evolution of gophers, kangaroo rats, spiny mice, and their relatives. To this end, we study the biology of fossil and modern rodents using quantitative methods and comparative anatomy. This project is focused on a beautiful fossil of a 29 million-year-old rodent from central Montana, which represents a new species. The student researcher will be investigating the biology of this animal including describing its similarities and differences with other species, estimating its mass and locomotion, and analyzing its relationships to other rodents.

Position Description: This project is an independent research project. The student will be investigating the biology of an extinct species of rodent that lived in Montana about 29 million years ago. The student will receive training in paleontological research methods and may be engaged in: taking measurements, scoring characteristics, and taking photos of the specimen; describing and comparing the specimen to other fossils and modern animals; using software to conduct analyses and prepare reports; writing abstracts and presenting results in the form of posters or talks at conferences/symposia; contributing to a manuscript for publication. Additionally, the student will be invited to join lab activities including outreach opportunities and lab meetings. There may be opportunities for museum and field research experiences.

Please indicate if there is a target audience of applicants that you are searching for:
Biology (or related fields) majors, Sophomores or Juniors

Skills/Qualifications: Student needs to be willing to work part of the time at The Ohio State University in Marion and part of the time at the Museum of Biological Diversity near campus in Columbus.

Time Commitment: Student is expected to spend at least four hours a week working on this project. Hours are flexible. Minimum 2 semesters, can go until graduation. Opportunities for museum and field work may be available over summer.

Start Date: Position starts March 2018.

Compensation: Student can work for academic credit or voluntary experience

To Apply: Interested applicants should contact Jonathan Calede (calede.1@osu.edu) by February 28th, 2018.
Applicant should send current CV/resume including major, current GPA, and classes completed. Applicant should explain in a short paragraph their interest in the position.