

**COLLEGE OF DESIGN** UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Department of Design, Housing and Apparel  
**RETAIL MERCHANDISING TENURE-TRACK ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

### **ABOUT THE POSITION**

Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in Retail Merchandising. Nine-month, 100 percent time, academic-year appointment. Anticipated start date is August 26, 2019. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Over the past decade, new technologies and environmental challenges have dramatically changed how retailers bring products, experiences, and services to the consumer. A macro perspective of the global supply chain, e-commerce, strong analytical acumen, and understanding the role of corporate social responsibility are critical to reaching business and social goals in the current retail environment. We seek a highly qualified individual who can foster a “design thinking” perspective in both retailing theory and practice, and contribute to field-shaping research, teaching, and community engagement in one or more of the following areas: environmentally resilient retailing and consumption, global sourcing, merchandise planning and allocation, e-commerce, retail analytics, social responsibility, and/or an emerging interdisciplinary domain advancing retail experience design and related technology innovations.

The Retail Merchandising program is one of a few in the United States located in a design college. This unique connection allows faculty and students to explore the role of design in retailing, including the design of consumer experiences, product services systems (PSS), and retail spaces. Located in the Twin Cities, a major metropolitan retail center with system campuses across the state including rural areas, faculty members pursue the mission of the land-grant university through research, teaching, and community engagement. We have a strong culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement to address local- and global-scale grand challenges by partnering with faculty, students, and colleagues in the College of Design, the University, and across communities.

Candidates must have an approach for developing connections with the retail industry, related professions, and communities beyond the University, as well as a clear vision for a successful research agenda. We are committed to attracting candidates from historically underrepresented groups, knowing that diversity enriches the academic experience and provides a knowledge base for innovation.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Contribute to and support the mission of the University of Minnesota, a land-grant institution.
- Create and grow an internationally competitive research program in retail merchandising.
- Develop and teach current courses; for example, “Fashion, Ethics, and Consumption,” “Retail Buying,” and “Sourcing,” in online, hybrid, and traditional formats.
- Collaborate with faculty across the College and University and establish ties to local, national, and international businesses to leverage research and teaching activities.
- Disseminate research findings and teaching activities in peer-reviewed venues.
- Pursue external funding to support scholarship.
- Advise students in the Design Graduate Program, including Apparel Studies; mentor undergraduate students in Retail Merchandising.
- Commit to supporting interdisciplinary initiatives in teaching and research with related fields in the College of Design and across the University.
- Participate in faculty governance at the program, department, college, and university levels.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Required**

- Earned doctorate in retail merchandising, business, apparel studies, or a closely related field by start date
- Expertise in one or more of the following areas: environmentally resilient retailing and consumption, global sourcing, merchandise planning and allocation, e-commerce, retail analytics, social responsibility, and/or an emerging interdisciplinary domain advancing retail experience design and related technology innovations
- Experience teaching at the collegiate level
- A clear vision for an active research or creative scholarship program and a strategy to obtain external funding
- Ability to support the College's and University's commitments to equity and diversity
- Evidence of collaboration and strong interpersonal skills
- A strategy for developing connections with the retail industry, related professions, and communities beyond the University

### **Preferred**

- Record of publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Record of successful grant writing
- Demonstrated effective teaching in online and/or hybrid environments
- Record of innovative teaching practices
- Attention to diversity and inclusion in teaching and/or research
- Evidence of collaboration with faculty in multiple academic disciplines
- Experience in curricular development
- Industry experience

## **INSTITUTIONAL SETTING**

The College of Design includes programs in retail merchandising, apparel design, graphic design, housing studies, human factors and ergonomics, interior design, product design, architecture, and landscape architecture. We offer rich opportunities for interdisciplinary research and public engagement through highly regarded research and engagement centers, including the Center for Retail Design and Innovation (CRDI), Wearable Product Design, Design in Health, Digital Design, the Goldstein Museum of Design, Minnesota Design, and Sustainable Building Research.

Retail Merchandising and the College of Design are situated within a major research university that hosts an unusually broad range of disciplines, faculty, and students. Partnerships and productive connections have developed with other highly-ranked colleges, departments, and programs, such as computer science in the College of Science and Engineering, the School of Nursing, and the Carlson School of Management.

Minnesota is recognized as a progressive state and the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, as one of the major design centers in the United States. Well known for its high quality of life, the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area offers world-caliber museums and theaters, an exceptional parks system, outstanding historical landmarks, excellent educational opportunities, and access to a well-regarded health care system. The Twin Cities are also home to 19 Fortune 500 companies, including 3M, Target Corporation, and Best Buy Company, in addition to thriving local businesses and a strong non-profit sector. <http://www.forbes.com/pictures/eigl45hfh/1-minneapolis-minn/#7684564556b2>

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications must be submitted online at <https://z.umn.edu/AsstProf-RetailMerch>. To be considered for this position, please click the Apply button and follow the instructions to complete an online application for the position, including uploading your 1) cover letter and 2) curriculum vitae.

***The following additional documents MUST be attached AFTER application by accessing your "My Activities" page and uploading documents there:***

3) Transcripts of your graduate work (may be unofficial transcripts at the time of application); 4) a statement of vision for research in retail merchandising; 5) a statement of vision for teaching in retail merchandising; 6) contact information for three references; and 7) recent student ratings of teaching, if available (no more than 10 pages).

Questions regarding the search process should be directed to Jessica McCann, HR Generalist. Telephone: 612/624-1721; e-mail: [mccann@umn.edu](mailto:mccann@umn.edu). Questions regarding the position description and expectations should be directed to Hye-Young Kim at 612/624-4904; [hykim@umn.edu](mailto:hykim@umn.edu).

**Review of applications will begin December 10, 2018.** For more information, please visit our website at <http://retail.design.umn.edu/>.

## **DIVERSITY**

The University of Minnesota recognizes and values the importance of diversity and inclusion in enriching the employment experience of its employees and in supporting our academic mission. The University is committed to attracting and retaining employees with varying identities and backgrounds.

The University provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. To learn more about diversity at the U: <http://diversity.umn.edu>. To request an accommodation during the application process, please e-mail [employ@umn.edu](mailto:employ@umn.edu) or call (612) 624-UOHR (8647).

## **BACKGROUND CHECK**

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.