

**Israel, Ropo Orimoloye, PhD**

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Publications: [Google Scholar](#); [ResearchGate](#)

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Search Committee,  
Deep Springs College,  
Big Pine, California.

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I, Israel Ropo Orimoloye, am writing to express my deep interest in the Herbert Reich Chair of Natural Science position at Deep Springs College. With a PhD in Geography and Environmental Science, over a decade of teaching and research in environmental science, ecology, and geospatial technologies, and a career grounded in field-based, community-focused inquiry, I am drawn to your mission of uniting rigorous academics, meaningful labor, and self-governance in a close-knit learning community.

My teaching spans undergraduate and graduate levels in environmental science, sustainability, and geospatial technologies, delivered in in-person, hybrid, and online formats. I have worked with diverse and often underrepresented student populations, designing inclusive, interdisciplinary curricula that connect classroom concepts to real-world challenges. My courses integrate fieldwork, laboratory research, and digital tools such as Python, R, ArcGIS, QGIS, remote sensing, and drone-based surveying to give students practical, hands-on experience.

Much of my scholarship focuses on environmental monitoring, climate change adaptation, water resource management, and sustainable land-use planning. I have led projects in ecology, coastal ecosystems, agricultural landscapes, and urban environments, often in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams and local communities. These efforts reflect my belief that science education is most transformative when students are engaged in place-based research that fosters both intellectual curiosity and a sense of stewardship for their environment.

What excites me most about Deep Springs is the opportunity to teach in a setting where the boundaries between the classroom, the field, and the community are fluid. The college's integration of labor, academics, and self-governance resonates deeply with my own educational philosophy: that learning is most powerful when it is active, collaborative, and grounded in lived experience. I envision guiding students through ecological monitoring of the valley, integrating agricultural practices into science coursework, and developing independent research

projects that merge scientific rigor with the realities of managing and sustaining a working ranch.

I am equally committed to the community aspect of the faculty role, sharing meals, participating in campus projects, and mentoring students as whole individuals. Having served as a department chair and faculty mentor, I value the relational side of academia and the transformative growth that comes from living and working alongside one's students and colleagues in a shared mission.

It would be an honor to contribute my skills, experience, and enthusiasm to Deep Springs College, helping students develop as scientists, critical thinkers, and engaged members of the community. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing how my expertise and values align with the unique educational model and enduring mission of Deep Springs.

Please feel free to contact me at 269-550-0515 and [orimoloyeisrael@gmail.com](mailto:orimoloyeisrael@gmail.com) if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orimoloye', with a stylized, cursive script.

Israel Ropo Orimoloye