

HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES

Organization, Position & Person Profile

University of Nebraska

Executive Director of the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information
Science, Technology and Engineering

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Heidrick & Struggles advises the organization on the basis of an exclusive consulting assignment.

The Organization

The Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering of the University of Nebraska (“Institute” or “PKI”) is a unique collaboration created to bring together business, research, and education. The Institute consists of the College of Information Science and Technology of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Omaha-based programs of the College of Engineering of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Located in Omaha, the Institute is able to take advantage of a community which is home to five Fortune 500 corporations, has an unparalleled base of personal financial wealth, and maintains a strong tradition of civic commitment.

More than 1,800 students are enrolled in graduate and undergraduate education in computer science, management information systems, bioinformatics, information assurance, computer/electronics engineering, and other engineering disciplines. The Institute has a state-of-the-art academic facility, its own residence halls, and an affiliated conference center and 200,000 sq. ft. technology transfer/incubator facility. In its first ten years, the Institute has forged dynamic collaborations with private sector partners through the leadership of a board composed of prominent CEOs. PKI is highly regarded in Omaha and throughout Nebraska, and the business community, in particular, feels great passion about the importance of the Institute to the economic future of the region. The new executive director will be a high profile and visible member of the state’s academic and business communities.

Pursuant to its charter as revised in 2008, the Institute provides an administrative structure that allows creation of synergy among the two campuses, two colleges, and other units and disciplines to expand educational opportunities in information science, technology, engineering at the undergraduate and graduate level, increase the level of competitive research in these disciplines, provide continuing education programs for

professionals in these fields, serve as a magnet for attracting private sector research-based companies, and facilitate outreach to business and government.

History of the Peter Kiewit Institute and its Cooperating Units

In order to meet perceived business and educational needs in Nebraska, an innovative program in engineering, information technology, and telecommunications was launched in Omaha. The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and a number of Omaha-area businesses joined together to develop the Peter Kiewit Institute, which was approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in 1996.

The new venture was created through establishing a new college at UNO (the College of Information Science and Technology) and collaborating with the UNL College of Engineering, which had existing programs offered on the UNO campus. A Board of Policy Advisors (“BOPA”) composed of 11 CEOs was created to work with university leaders to develop curriculum and business plans. Classes were first offered in fall 1997, and the unique, exposed-infrastructure building was completed in 1999. The Institute shares a campus with the Scott Residence Hall, the Scott Conference Center, and the Scott Technology Transfer and Incubator Center. Ground was broken recently on a new \$35 million College of Business Administration which will be located next to PKI on UNO’s south campus.

Since its inception in 2002, the Peter Kiewit Institute Technology Development Corporation (“PKITDC”) has generated unique learning opportunities and experiences for students and faculty. PKITDC is a 501(c)3 corporation which exists to support and facilitate Institute and faculty outreach with the private sector and government, including the support of basic and applied research supported by the private sector. With more than 70 contracts and flow-through dollars of more than \$3.5 million, the PKITDC serves to keep professors and students abreast of industry trends.

Peter Kiewit Institute Accomplishments

In the 10 years since classes began, enrollment has steadily increased reaching a total of over 1,800 graduate and undergraduate students from the combined UNO and UNL colleges. PKI programs attract both exceptionally talented students who are academically accomplished and well-rounded leaders. Ninety-nine percent of Institute undergraduates have jobs in hand or have been accepted to graduate school by the time they earn their bachelor's degrees. Students serve internships in industry where they can work on real-world problems and applications as part of their Institute curriculum. Both colleges have undertaken aggressive hiring plans and have developed new faculty and program strengths designed to be responsive to current industry needs and to anticipate future industry needs. Faculty have successfully competed for federal funding, and research expenditures are now in excess of \$20 million.

A number of high-profile projects have brought attention to the Peter Kiewit Institute. These include a partnership with the National Security Agency Center of Excellence in Information Assurance; the establishment of the Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction; an alliance with U.S. Strategic Command Global Innovation and Strategy Center, which is located on UNO's south campus near PKI, the new International Academy for Advanced Decision Support; and a center for research in bioinformatics.

The Peter Kiewit Institute is a successful new model for educational services in Nebraska - a true partnership between industry and a state university. Memoranda of agreement exist with more than 200 companies, and another 800 are part of PKI's career services programs. The importance of the financial, moral and advisory support from business leaders cannot be undervalued. This support gives the Institute high visibility and credibility, and encourages all participants to be respond quickly and proactively anticipate market and research demands. Plans are currently underway for significant new fundraising for PKI. The University of Nebraska Foundation is highly successful with an endowment ranking in the top 20 among public universities.

The Peter Kiewit Institute Students

The students recruited for PKI are exceptionally talented students who are being heavily recruited by top colleges and universities in America. Thus, the Peter Kiewit Institute has created an extremely competitive recruitment package, with a number of valuable scholarships and other opportunities to attract top students. Students find professionally-focused activities, residential opportunities, and extracurricular offerings to be among the many benefits offered at the Institute. Students also benefit from PKI's business partnerships, which involve nearly 800 companies that recruit for interns and permanent employees on campus each year. Finally, the Peter Kiewit Institute offers high quality, personalized career assistance, as well as mentoring, tutoring, and other academic advantages.

PKI graduates are highly sought after and have been placed in the five Fortune 500 companies in Omaha, as well as firms like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, SAIC, Booz Allen Hamilton and John Deere. Others have joined federal agencies, such as the National Security Agency.

The Unique Peter Kiewit Institute Faculty

The Peter Kiewit Institute breaks through the traditional boundaries that separate institutions and disciplines. At the Institute, faculty from UNO and UNL work together in a well-equipped facility, sharing students, course development and research projects. Disciplines represented include: computer science, bioinformatics, management information systems, computer electronics and engineering, construction science, architectural engineering, and civil engineering.

PKI's high-caliber facilities are attractive to highly talented and productive faculty. The 192,000 square foot building features a number of state-of-the-art laboratories. The majority of the Institute's graduate students and a large number of undergraduate students are actively engaged in long-term research projects with faculty mentors. The Institute's close ties to industry provide opportunities for faculty and students to learn about the challenges and needs of high-tech industry and to develop

productive partnerships, which, in turn, inform a cutting-edge curriculum.

The Future Direction of the Institute

In its first ten years, the Institute has been successful in attracting excellent students as well as partnering with private businesses. Seeking to build on this foundation and make the Institute even more successful, the University determined to formulate a future strategy for the Institute. Utilizing an outside expert panel and other constituency feedback, it was determined that one of the significant priorities for the Institute should be to implement a greater focus on research.

The University of Nebraska then revised the original charter of the Institute and decided to create a leadership role at the Institute for a chief executive officer and chief science officer who would lead the new research strategy for PKI as well as address other related goals. Stated areas of priority for the Institute include the following:

- To create an international center of excellence in information science, technology, and engineering.
- To provide Omaha, the State of Nebraska and the nation with a unique resource for the education of current and future employees, support of existing and developing technologies, and create partnerships to develop new business opportunities.
- To build a research center of excellence at the University.

For more information on PKI and the search, please see www.nebraska.edu/pki.

Position

The new Executive Director of the Institute will serve as its chief executive and chief science and technology officer. He/she will be responsible for its leadership and administration and report to the President of the University system through the Executive Vice President and Provost. In addition to building on the Institute's successful record of teaching and outreach, the new director will develop research priorities and a plan for achieving national prominence in those selected areas.

Specific Responsibilities

- Lead the development and oversee implementation of the Institute's strategic plan which shall provide for teaching, research and outreach that achieves national recognition and serves the interests of Nebraska. Areas addressed by the strategic plan will include student enrollment, academic programs, research agendas, outreach programs, and general funding of the Institute with respect to public and private funding.
- Have primary responsibility for PKI programs and initiatives which include student recruitment, student placement, intern programs, and business relationships.
- In coordination with the University of Nebraska Foundation and consistent with University priorities, have the primary responsibility of fundraising for the Institute.
- Establish policies and procedures for the Institute as intended by the revised Charter for PKI (dated June 1, 2008).
- Prepare a consolidated budget for the operation of all aspects of the Institute.

- Have the authority for expenditure of all Foundation funds held for the benefit of the Institution as well as any other funds designated specifically for the Institute.
- Be an ex officio member of the BOPA and other related entities such as PKITDC and the Holland Computing Center, one of the largest supercomputing facilities in the nation which is housed at PKI.

The Person

Qualifications & Experience

The University seeks a leader with outstanding credentials in science and/or technology and an impressive record of collaboration inside and outside of the academy to serve as the Executive Director of the Institute.

The successful candidate should possess:

- Demonstrated leadership in building collaborative enterprises.
- A strong background in a research-intensive discipline related to the Institute and the demonstrated ability to build a competitive research program.
- Successful experience with grants, contracts and other external funding sources, particularly federal funding, is highly desirable.
- Experience in successfully fostering faculty participation in research activities that bring resources and/or prestige to an organization.
- A record sufficient to hold the rank of professor in a field related to the Institute.

Leadership & Management Behavioral Competencies

- A leader with strategic planning expertise and the ability to establish a compelling vision for an organization and successfully implement it.
- An enthusiastic leader who is inspired by challenging opportunities.

Personal Characteristics

- A leader who has the ability to get things done and achieve results through motivating and influencing others, even when lacking direct authority over those being influenced.
- Ability to develop resources for an organization.
- An individual who can foster high achievement in a competitive and rapidly changing environment.
- An individual who has the willingness and ability to collaborate and build partnerships.
- An effective and persuasive communicator who understands how to work with faculty, staff, students, industry, government agencies, and other external constituencies.
- An individual who has a vision for possibilities and an entrepreneurial spirit.
- A visible and accessible leader to the faculty, the students, and the community.
- A trustworthy individual who exhibits a high level of integrity.

Application/Nomination Information

The screening of candidates will begin on or about November 1, 2008, and will continue until the position is filled. Nominations, applications or other inquiries may be directed to our retained consultant at:

Heidrick & Struggles, Inc.
Attn: Randy Jayne
1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
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Additional information may be found at
www.nebraska.edu/pki.

The University of Nebraska is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer which actively seeks and encourages nominations and expressions of interest from minorities and women, and provides reasonable accommodations to the known disabilities of applicants and employees.

Other H&S Contacts

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