Founding Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute

The University of Nebraska seeks a visionary leader for the position of founding Executive Director of the newly established Buffett Early Childhood Institute. NU is a four campus public university with approximately 50,000 students and an annual operating budget of $2.2 billion.

The new Buffett Institute is committed to helping transform the approach to early childhood development and education in Nebraska and across the nation. A university-wide, multidisciplinary institute of the University of Nebraska, the Buffett Institute is being established with a significant gift from philanthropist Susie Buffett. Envisioned as a new model for how public higher education is engaged in early childhood, the Institute builds on the land grant philosophy and experience that combines basic and translational research, education, outreach and policy development. The Institute's primary emphasis will be on the learning and healthy development of children from birth to age eight years, with special attention to those children who are vulnerable or at risk as a result of growing up in poverty, possessing developmental delays or other learning or health challenges, or living under conditions of high stress. The Institute's research, academic programs, and outreach services will involve all of the University's campuses.

As the founding chief executive, the Executive Director will have the opportunity to develop a leading research, education, outreach and policy institute that has national impact. S/he will provide leadership, strategic direction, and oversight for the Institute. The Executive Director's primary charge is to establish the Institute as a national leader in the early childhood communities with an integrated program of early childhood research and scholarship, teaching and professional development, and outreach and policy. The Executive Director will report to the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University and be advised by a national Board of Directors, appointed by the President of the University. The Executive Director will be expected to oversee the development of a strategic plan with metrics for measuring progress; recruit and build a senior administrative team; and build the internal relationships, processes for collaborations, and external partnerships with others in the field that will be central to the work of the Institute.

The University seeks a leader with expertise in early childhood education, child development or any other child-related field with some applied background. S/he must have outstanding credentials that warrant a senior faculty appointment on one or more of the University of Nebraska campuses. The Executive Director will demonstrate national experience and connections, a strong track record of research, strong drive, a sense of mission, and the ability to secure external funding and serve as a spokesperson for the Institute. S/he must have broad multidisciplinary intellectual interests that span the domains of early childhood research and practice and an integrative approach that links research to policy and practice. S/he must demonstrate evidence of excellent leadership skills; collaborative and interpersonal skills in teaming with colleagues and partners; and a track record of commitment to diversity and to building diverse leadership teams. Capacity to work within a national context is essential together with the ability to work within a Nebraska culture that is direct, pragmatic, authentic, and inclusive. In building this new entity, the Executive Director will be expected to capitalize on the immense enthusiasm for this project and its potential in serving the University, the state of Nebraska, and the nation.

The University of Nebraska has retained the services of Diversified Search for this assignment. Screening will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. All communications will be treated confidentially. Nominations, inquiries, and applications (including a cover letter, *curriculum vitae*, and the names of five references) should be directed electronically in confidence to Nebraska.BuffettInstitute@divsearch.com**.**

For further information, please contact:

Kim M. Morrisson, Ph.D. Managing Director and Practice Leader
Manuel A. Gongon, Jr., Vice President and Senior Associate
Diversified Search
2005 Market Street, Suite 3300, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-656-3588

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