

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Position Announcement

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Associate Director of Research and Evaluation to lead early childhood research and evaluation within the Institute's signature programs and across the university.

The Associate Director will work closely with the Director of Research and Evaluation and other Buffett Institute staff to expand and implement the Institute's research agenda with particular focus on the Institute's signature programs. Additionally, this individual will have a key role in securing funding for research and evaluation and disseminating the work of the Institute's signature programs to national arenas, including peer-review journals and publications. The successful applicant will work closely with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., university staff and researchers, data coordinators, early childhood practitioners, policymakers).

Buffett Early Childhood Institute Profile

Envisioned as a new model for how public higher education is engaged in the first years of life, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute is a four-campus, university-wide, multidisciplinary research, education, outreach, and policy institute of the University of Nebraska committed to helping transform early childhood development and education in Nebraska and across the nation.

The long-term goal of the Institute is to be a leading center where scholars, practitioners, community members, and policymakers collaborate to advance a unified approach that can improve the lives of young children and families and the systems that support them.

Applicants should note that the goals of the Institute are university- and state-wide, but the location of the Institute administration is on the campus of the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO).

Job Responsibilities

- In collaboration with the Director of Research and Evaluation, this individual will help refine and implement the Institute's overall research agenda;
- Provide functional oversight to Buffett Institute staff responsible for evaluating the Institute's signature programs;
- Seek opportunities to expand the research and evaluation of the Institute's signature programs, looking for ways to evaluate additional aspects of the signature programs, analyzing preliminary data, and applying new methodologies to the design;
- Gather and synthesize information related to best practices and research aligned with the Institute's signature programs;
- Develop materials across multiple modes of dissemination (e.g., written reports and briefs, policy impact statements, oral presentations, etc.) for local, state, and national dissemination to strengthen the visibility of the Institute's signature programs;

- In collaboration with the Director of Research and Evaluation, guide and monitor progress of all research and evaluation projects, including study design, methods, data collection and management, and findings;
- Cultivate and maintain collaborative working relationships with key researchers in the University of Nebraska system, including Institute-supported community chairs at each campus;
- In coordination with the Director of Research and Evaluation, partner and/or take initiative with Directors of Workforce Development and Planning and Program Development to develop and implement each unit's research agenda, including developing relevant grant proposals;
- Collaborate with Institute's leadership and staff and university researchers to develop cross-institutional and cross-campus research and evaluation initiatives and projects that are of value to Nebraska and the University of Nebraska, as well as the Institute;
- Work closely with Institute staff in program development, workforce development and programming, communications, and fund development to ensure integration of ideas, expertise, and resources in the development of Institute-wide programs, research, and messaging.

Minimum and Preferred Requirements

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in early childhood education, developmental psychology, human development, biostatistics/quantitative methods, family economic development, or related field is expected; with 3-5 years' relevant work experience;
- Demonstrated and effective experience in conducting and leading large research and evaluation studies;
- Demonstrated expertise, experience, and knowledge in synthesizing evidence standards for impact evaluations;
- Demonstrated knowledge and research on issues related to early childhood, particularly issues facing families and children placed at risk, including issues raised by the opportunity or achievement gap;
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with a variety of team members while taking the lead for new initiatives, including community partners and diverse stakeholder groups;
- Experience working on issues regarding development and utilization of integrated data systems preferred;
- Proven track record with peer-review publications and external grant funding;
- Excellent organizational skills and proven ability to manage complex projects and move them forward to completion on time;
- Excellent creative thinking, written, and verbal communication skills.

Successful candidates will exhibit the following traits:

- The ideal candidate is agile, entrepreneurial, and a team player who seeks to advance the Institute and its goals;
- Knowledge, enthusiasm, and passion for the field of early childhood and able to establish credibility in the education/human service and university communities;
- Must be a fast self-starter comfortable with attention to detail and ability to work independently, along with the judgment to seek supervision and/or input from others when necessary;
- A strong sense of the requirements of a stable organization and its long-term needs with the ability to exercise significant initiative and creativity in developing new value-added relationships with the Institute's stakeholders;

- Should be an optimistic, positive, resilient, insightful, and performance-driven decision maker, problem solver, and consensus builder.

How to Apply

Application review begins immediately and continues until the position is filled. Applications are processed through the online job posting at <https://careers.nebraska.edu>. Follow instructions to complete the Applicant Profile. Along with the application, attach a cover letter, vita, and contact information for three professional references. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Direct questions about the position to: humanresources@nebraska.edu. Direct questions about the online application process to: (402) 472-7990. **The University of Nebraska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and participates in E-Verify.**