The University of Nebraska Online Worldwide

The University of Nebraska is the state’s only public university and is home to a diverse student body of almost 50,000 and a talented workforce of more than 13,000. It is comprised of four campuses and a statewide network of research, outreach and service facilities. In order to fulfill its mission to serve the people of Nebraska and to realize its potential across the nation and the globe, the university has created Online Worldwide, gathering under one overarching administrative structure and marketing umbrella the distance education offerings of its four campuses, which include 80 degree, certificate and endorsement programs. To continue the development of this successful initiative, the university seeks an executive director.

Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Provost and serving as a member of the academic affairs leadership team and the President’s cabinet, the executive director is responsible for overall leadership in achieving the goals of University of Nebraska Online Worldwide: to serve the people of the state and beyond through expanded online education opportunities; to grow enrollment nationally and internationally by developing a leadership position in online education; to enhance revenue to the university through its online programs; and to leverage collaboration among the university’s campuses in the development, administration, and marketing of distance education degree and certificate programs and courses. The executive director will identify the policies, personnel, systems, and resources needed to increase access and enrollment. To accomplish these ends, the executive director is responsible for the development and implementation of plans and the assessment of outcomes.

Succeeding in this ambitious and highly visible task will require a leader of considerable skill with outstanding relationship-building qualities. Demonstrated success within a shared governance environment is essential, as is experience working in collaboration across a politically complex organization. Candidates with direct experience with successful, productive online or distance education at the graduate and undergraduate level will be significantly advantaged. The ideal candidate will possess a sophisticated understanding of the tenets of marketing and demonstrated success creating and executing business, strategic, and operating plans, including an understanding of the global nature of the distance education marketplace and strategies for being competitive in this market. An entrepreneurial spirit is wanted – a person dedicated to building an enterprise and willing to assess and to accept reasonable risks in order to do so. An earned terminal degree in the candidate’s academic or professional discipline is highly desirable but not required.

While much progress has been made, Online Worldwide is still in its genesis. The new executive director, therefore, will be in a position to have a profound, personal impact on a growing program with the potential to extend the impact and reputation of the University of Nebraska locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

A full position specification is available upon request. Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications (including cover letter and resume) should be submitted via email to NUDirOW@wittkieffer.com. Confidential inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to Dennis M. Barden at (630) 575-6167 or to Elizabeth K. Bohan at (630) 575-6161.

The University of Nebraska is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.