



Midwestern Higher Education Compact Director of Policy Initiatives

THE ORGANIZATION

Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) strengthens post-secondary education in its twelve midwestern states through development and support of best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-sharing opportunities. MHEC works with and for a variety of stakeholders within and across member states, including higher education system and campus leaders, state policymakers and other state leaders. Through these efforts it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.

MHEC's strategic approach highlights member states' strong desire for cooperation, effectiveness, and efficiency. MHEC believes that actions informed by research and best practices are the catalyst for improving quality, accessibility, relevance, and affordability of postsecondary educational opportunities. MHEC does this primarily through the following approaches: convenings, programs, research, and cost-savings contracts. MHEC strives to help its members support students and their success.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Higher education systems are dealing with constant shifts in how they support workforce needs in their states and regions as well as how they approach their work and those they serve. MHEC is uniquely positioned to help those systems advance innovation, develop collaborative solutions to regional problems, and to drive cost savings and business solutions.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

MHEC seeks an accomplished, driven, entrepreneurial leader to help the organization drive its strategic priorities. Reporting to the Vice President for Policy & Research, the Director will provide visionary leadership across MHEC's various platforms and means of serving its members. The new leader is an outstanding listener, quick learner, excellent communicator and relationship builder. They have a natural ability to learn the key business drivers of their stakeholders as well as internal challenges and opportunities, while always putting customers first.

Project Management

The Director will maintain and continuously improve existing initiatives as well as initiate new programs. New initiatives involve policy analysis and research alongside constant listening to stakeholder feedback. New and existing initiatives will involve management of budgets, timelines, convenings, and deliverables.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Director will assist in building MHEC's regional and national recognition through presentations and participation at higher education policy related events, interviews with journalists, publications in education related, peer-reviewed or trade journals, and liaising with national, state, and regional partners to advance MHEC's mission.

Problem Solving

The Director will conceptualize and identify funding opportunities for new policy projects based on the priorities of the Compact. They are comfortable creating their own processes and working in a flexible environment.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

Astute Thinker. MHEC's next Director of Policy Initiatives has the ability to collect, analyze, synthesize, and communicate complex information from varied sources, including policy information and report findings, and to propose effective strategies for addressing and responding to complex policy issues.

Excellent Communicator. They possess excellent communication skills, both written and oral, with the ability to speak to and write clearly for MHEC audiences such as higher education campus and system leadership, elected officials, and state agency leaders.

Mission-Focused. The MHEC team has a deep passion for what they do and a natural commitment to their stakeholders, solving their problems and ensuring their success. The Director is familiar with and passionate about higher education issues at the institutional, state, and federal level.

Project Manager. The Director will have a proven ability to work in a self-directed and highly organized manner; to pay attention to detail; to juggle competing priorities and meet tight deadlines. In addition, they have experience with planning, conducting, and facilitating effective convenings, workshops, conferences, or other forums in person and online, including collaborating with consultants and others to develop and deliver engaging and informative programming.

Creative and Innovative Perspective. As the needs of MHEC's members evolve, the Director of Policy Initiatives will nurture creativity and innovation.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Education: Master's or professional degree in public policy, higher education administration, business administration or law; project management experience.
- Number of Years' Experience: 7 years within higher education entities, nonprofits, policymaking or other similar organizations.
- Type of experience: Senior-level project and program management; senior-level higher education and/or nonprofit administration.
- Strong understanding of higher education administration, state and federal funding allocation systems and constraints, public policy knowledge, and vendor and institutional interrelations.
- Ability to negotiate, liaise, and collaborate between providers and users including vendors and administrating agencies.
- Strong strategic thinking and analytical skills.
- Exceptional attention to detail.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to manage multiple projects related to personnel, vendors, constituents, commission members, and committee members, internal and external stakeholders.
- Possess the emotional intelligence to nurture a healthy work environment that promotes hospitality, creativity, employee engagement, accountability.

COMPENSATION

The targeted salary range for this role is \$90,000 - \$115,000 depending on qualifications. In addition, MHEC offers an exceptional benefits package including generous health insurance, retirement, and vacation benefits.

MHEC has retained Orion Search Group to help conduct the search for its next Director of Policy Initiatives. For more information about the opportunity, please contact Cole Nelson with Orion Search Group at (952) 855-7913 or cnelson@orionsearchgroup.com.