Director of Research and Evaluation

BACKGROUND

Connecting innovation and education to dramatically transform the way students learn, LEAP Innovations® leads the nation in developing and scaling personalized learning practices, technology and innovations in classrooms throughout the US. Located at 1871, Chicago's premier incubator for technology and entrepreneurship, LEAP is quickly making Chicago the national hub for education innovation. LEAP has also launched the country's first personalized learning framework and survey tools to measure practice in and beyond the classroom. Sponsored by major foundations and donors, LEAP currently works with over 70 schools across Chicago, improving the lives of thousands of students. LEAP also leads the Learning Assembly, a national network of organizations dedicated to scaling education innovation across the country. Winner of the 2016 Chicago Innovation Award for social innovation, LEAP Innovations is ready to meaningfully increase our reach and impact, and deploy our thought leadership, services and tools across the country.

POSITION

The **Director of Research and Evaluation** will lead part of the portfolio in the growing research and evaluation program for the organization. As Director, you will have the opportunity to help shape a research agenda designed to expand the evidence base relating personalized learning teacher practices, technology tools, school structures and policies to outcomes for students. In addition, you will oversee the development of a suite of personalized learning tools with external partners to provide school leaders and teachers with data to support school personalized learning innovation efforts and to inform professional development choices. You will manage analysts and corresponding research consulting organizations. The Director of Research and Evaluation will work closely with program leads at LEAP including the Pilot Network, Breakthrough Schools, and Learning Framework leads and teams. You will work directly with schools, districts, edtech companies, and other piloting and innovation-oriented organizations to foster understanding and collaboration around the research agenda. As a key team member, you will help lead the effort around rigorous and meaningful research and evaluation to improve teaching and learning strategies in Chicago and nationally. You will be responsible for the methodology, collection, analysis, and reporting of data gathered for portions of the LEAP program portfolio, that may include the Pilot Network, Breakthrough Schools, and other LEAP initiatives. You will build and manage strategic partnerships with nationally renowned research and academic centers, and serve as a spokesperson for LEAP Innovations' key research initiatives.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Refine, develop and lead research and evaluation strategy for LEAP programs, focusing on development of tools to measure innovative teacher practice, new school models, and efficacy of edtech products.
- Develop new measurement tools, expanding LEAP's expertise and capacity
- Manage a small team of research analysts tasked with supporting the day-to-day operation of Pilot Network and Breakthrough Schools implementation.
- Develop a reporting strategy to meet the needs of practitioners, other researchers, and edtech companies, and direct the creation of final evaluation deliverables to companies and schools.
- Maintain and expand the LEAP online data portal, delivering results directly to teachers and schools.
- Lead cross-functional research projects, and manage vendors in evaluation design, dissemination of results, and access to data.
- Author technical reports and documentation of user tools and methods.
- Advise on and negotiate data sharing agreements with districts, edtech companies, charter management organizations, and state departments of education.
- Engage in business development activities, including cultivating relationships with existing and potential new measurement tool users, and managing and writing proposals.
- Lead strategic partnerships with other research and academic organizations to advance LEAP's vision of personalized learning.
- Support collaboration among team members both internal and external to LEAP, providing consulting and support to LEAP partner organizations

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate should enjoy working in a dynamic, results-oriented environment in which expectations are high for quality, speed to completion and accomplishment. In addition, s/he should have the following:

- 7+ years of total work experience, including at least 3 years of education evaluation experience, survey research quantitative modeling, or other social science research experience.
- Minimum of a Master's Degree in education research, statistics, economics, or public policy, with a strong focus on quantitative evaluation; Ph.D. preferred.
- Ability to communicate research needs and outcomes to different stakeholders and make recommendations about relevance and implications.
- Passion for education, specifically: improving learning outcomes for all students through the use of technology.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills with proven ability to develop and maintain effective business relationships.
- Flexibility and ability to consistently meet deadlines.
- Communication skills including conceptualizing, analyzing, publishing, and presenting.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Proven ability to motivate and manage a team in complex day to day tasks; experience building a research team.
- Experience leading small and medium sized projects and proposals, leading and participating in cross functional teams.
- Proficiency/familiarity with using R for analytics and reporting.
- Knowledge of K-12 learning outcomes, including assessments, surveys, administrative data, and teaching practices preferred.
- Knowledge of personalized learning models and research preferred.
- Experience working in a grant or contract funded environment preferred.

Compensation: Commensurate with experience. Excellent health benefits, 403(b) plan with company match and group life insurance.

Start Date: Position currently available.

Application: Phone inquiries are not accepted. To apply, please email your cover letter and resume (including salary requirements) to Careers@leapinnovations.org. Please include the position name in the subject line of your email.