



Staff Vacancy

Executive Director – The Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning
Vice President for Research
EEO No # RD 26-13

Institutional Overview:

About the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning

The Center, a major research facility of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, resides in a state-of-the-art building. Named in honor of the former state superintendent and education leader Cecil J. Picard, the Center provides high quality research, rigorous program evaluations and data driven professional learning that address development from birth to adulthood and investigates ways to bring research to bear on public policy. The Center's expertise expands the areas of early childhood education and literacy, health and wellness, juvenile justice, and professional development cutting across all of those areas.

The Center specializes in applied research and evaluation, as well as action research and professional development. The Center provides program evaluation, qualitative and quantitative research, data acquisition, analysis, management, longitudinal data analysis, focus groups, GIS mapping, research design, professional learning, and technical assistance. The Center collaborates with organizations throughout the state, which include: Louisiana Department of Education; Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services; Louisiana Children's Cabinet; Louisiana District Attorneys Association; United Way agencies; local school districts; and Franklin Covey. The Center also partners with faculty and staff within the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, particularly in the areas of Education, Health and Criminal Justice.

The Center is located in Research Park and is home to state-of-the-art "data analysis" technology. Researchers collaborate in the building's data analysis room, which is equipped to analyze data from multiple sources. Also, located in the building are some of the faculty and staff of the Colleges of Education and Criminal Justice. Center staff works closely with these educators to conduct quality research.

Role Summary:

Reporting directly to the Vice President for Research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the Executive Director will provide leadership, strategic direction, and oversight of the Center and will establish the Center as a national leader in Early Childhood Development. The Executive Director manages a staff of 15 that includes Project Directors of three major areas (Early Childhood, Health, Juvenile Justice and Data) and Administrative staff. In addition, the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Data

Security report to the Executive Director, who will have the opportunity to hire someone for the Director of Research position which is currently vacant.

The most compelling candidates will have a Ph.D. or an Ed.D. with a demonstrated research track record and program evaluation. Candidates need to possess strong management experience partnering with state and federal agencies. In addition, candidates should have a strong understanding of Early Childhood Development and data as it relates to research. Strong organizational, personal interaction, policy development and leadership skills are essential, and an ability to secure external funding is a key component of this position. The candidate must have the capability to engage with internal and external stakeholders.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Lead the development of and oversee the implementation of the Center's strategic plan, which will outline the research and policy initiatives.
- Pursue programs and initiatives that will contribute to the success of the Center and put the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on the leading edge.
- Establish bridges and linkages internally with faculty across the University.
- Build partnerships with Louisiana state agencies, school districts, and other non-profit organizations and the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies.
- Prepare an annual budget and oversee the financial operations of the Center.
- Provide management and direction to staff and researchers.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- Strong academic credentials with a Ph.D. or an Ed.D. in a relevant discipline and a demonstrated track record as a successful leader within a complex organization.
- Evidence of strong leadership skills with a record of setting a vision and realizing the implements of a vision in a collaborative manner.
- A proven record of research that includes obtaining grants and contracts from governmental agencies and other sources of external support.
- Broad multidisciplinary intellectual interests that span the domains of early childhood research with an integrative approach that links research to policy and practice.
- Excellent communication and relationship building skills; someone who can effectively work with individuals from diverse groups and disciplines and engage internal and external stakeholders. An ability to build and sustain partnerships

among these diverse groups is critical. High degree of comfort and flexibility in working across local, regional and national boundaries.

- Entrepreneurial and innovative skills and acumen in identifying targets of opportunity and positioning the Center to take advantage of them, creating and implementing new initiatives, and fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of others.
- A proactive leader who is not afraid to challenge the status quo or to take measured risks in the quest of excellence.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, abundant imagination, a high level of energy, a can-do attitude, a willingness to learn, and a good sense of humor are essential qualities to be successful.
- Strong management experience with a broad working knowledge of state and federal operations.
- Strong understanding of Early Childhood Development and data as it relates to research with a commitment to program evaluation.

Search Team:

Nominations, inquiries, and expressions of interest should be directed electronically in confidence to ULPicardCenter@divsearch.com. For best consideration, please apply by July 31, 2014. There is an expectation the appointment will be made in Fall 2014 with a start date to be determined.

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