Seeking: Director, The Global Knowledge Initiative

Description:

GKI is a new type of non-profit organization focused on maximizing what's available to solve pressing global development problems like food insecurity, environmental degradation, and energy insufficiency. As a global community, we are poised to take on these complex issues. But to do so we need to confront what's prevented so many previous well-intentioned efforts from succeeding at scale.

GKI believes it is not a failure of intellect, nor a lack of resources, that keeps us from solving complex, global development challenges. Rather, the failure lies in how we connect committed individuals and their resources—technologies, expertise, financing—to fill these gaps. GKI believes we need better methods for connecting the resources we have – experts, technology, knowledge – to the people and places that need them most. Collaborative Innovation approaches bridge those gaps and help people connect so that they can do more with less: more problem solving, more knowledge sharing, more life changing.

We are looking for a Director to provide operational planning and leadership support across GKI's *5 core programs* (under which there are dozens of individual *initiatives/projects* each year). Internally, the Director will lead strategy and program design / management on multiple core programs, working in close collaboration with and reporting directly to the CEO/COO. Additionally, the Director will manage a set of high-profile initiatives. Externally, he/she will cultivate new and existing partners, funders, thought leaders, and community leaders, encouraging them to engage with GKI.

This position suits a high-energy, recognized, creative problem solver with a

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DETAILS

Application deadline: April 1, 2017

Education requirements: Master's degree or PhD, fields related to international relations, innovation / innovation systems, design, engineering, or another innovation-related discipline (agronomy, etc.)

Employment type: Full-time

Professional level: Senior-level (8-10 years of work experience)

Salary range: $70k min - $80k max commensurate with experience

Job functions: Those related to the design, analysis, management, and optimization of GKI's 5 core program

GKI's area of focus: International development; Collaborative Innovation; science, technology, and innovation; systems thinking, network design; capacity building; facilitation

Location: Washington, DC, USA

Requested documents: Resume, cover letter, 3 professional references

demonstrated commitment to building organizations and managing fast-paced teams and projects. Ideal candidates will blend a background in management and international development, expertise in forging international partnerships, and experience in business development and client engagement. GKI seeks someone who can easily transition between big-picture planning, outward-facing partnership development, group facilitation, and on-the-ground implementation. The Director must exhibit creativity, empathy, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence in program design and execution.

This Director will join a committed, talented team of dynamic professionals who are passionate about challenging the status quo in international development. The GKI team excels in creating and testing new tools, models, and approaches for using innovation, networks, and human-centered design to solve development challenges. As such, leadership, collaboration, a desire to travel internationally, and a deep appreciation for the mindset and methods underpinning innovation are must-haves for the position.

Major Responsibilities

Program and Initiative Management
- Lead and maintain responsibility for growing the size, impact, and reach of GKI's 5 Core Programs, directly managing 1-2 of them.
- Serve as the Lead Manager on a number of high visibility projects/initiatives within specific Core Programs, planning the execution, taskings, and team roles for each.
- Build problem-solving partnerships and networks internationally as required to deliver impact through various initiatives.
- Learn, then lead and design, GKI's network facilitation processes aimed at moving groups/networks toward developing and implementing solutions.

Staff Development:
- Jointly with the CEO/COO, build individual staff development/leadership plans to advance GKI staff on specified competencies.
- Provide coaching, mentoring, and training support to staff required to fulfil their development/leadership plans.

Operations and Organizational Development:
- Work with the CEO/COO to develop goals and strategic plans for the organization, including resource mobilization strategies.
- Improve institutional sustainability by developing, running, and optimizing various internal processes and systems across the organization.
- Scout for and develop new initiatives to expand GKI's reach and global impact.
- Cultivate and manage specific relationships with relevant donors, strategic

partners, and other stakeholders.

Required Qualifications:

- You have bold and creative yet implementable ideas for developing and executing high-impact innovation and development programs.
- You possess exceptional analytic, writing, presentation, and editing skills, and great instincts about how to synthesize and tell a captivating story, build a deep rapport with diverse stakeholders, and provide pointed critique on a wide array of written/visual materials.
- You have proven experience applying your design, management, and problem-solving skills to real-world challenges. You are grounded in insights about the challenges that communities face and have worked/studied internationally to acquire these insights.
- You boast proven business development expertise demonstrated by successful proposal development to solicit government, corporate, foundation, and/or donor support.
- You are energized by a fast paced, hyper-collaborative work environment and not afraid of GKI's average 48 hr. work week.
- You hold a **Master's degree or PhD** in international development studies; public policy; innovation studies; sustainability studies; design; or a specific scientific or technical field such as humanitarian engineering, agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, systems engineering; or other related area.
- You have **8 - 10 years** of experience in international development; international science, technology, and innovation; human-centered design, or a related field.; at least 4 years of leadership experience in an organization.
- You are excited by the chance to travel to developing countries, with about 20% of your time spent overseas.
- You have a demonstrated ability to work across disciplines/sectors, and to facilitate multi-disciplinary teams.

Additional Qualifications:

- Experience in a nonprofit, university, or social enterprise a plus.
- You have developed a proven skill set for group facilitation and/or training.
- You have lived or spent extensive time in the developing world.

How to apply

To submit your resume, cover letter and three professional references for consideration, please contact Manmeet Mehta, Senior Program Officer, GKI at jobs@gkinitiative.org, no later than April 1, 2016. Please include the title of the position in the subject line.