



Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute

at the University of Nebraska

Start early. Start well.

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST - PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Job Overview

The Buffett Institute at the University of Nebraska is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Preschool Development Grant Communications Specialist. This position reports to the Associate Director of Communications and Marketing and is responsible for the coordination and implementation of communications deliverables associated with Nebraska's Birth-5 Preschool Development Grant (PDG). The Preschool Development Grant is a three-year federal award to support an early care and education system in Nebraska that gives equitable access to high-quality programs for all children and families. This position will support communications related needs for grant activities housed at the Buffett Institute and will include the identification, development, and execution of communication strategies to support program aims; project management and coordination of cross-functional teams; writing; copyediting; and events support. This position requires the ability to work in a fast-paced environment, managing multiple priorities and working well under pressure with strict deadlines and the ability to juggle tasks in a busy, deadline-oriented environment.

The Buffett Institute serves as a bridge to resources and information for parents, providers, and the public. One of the four areas of focus at the Buffett Institute is outreach in order to communicate what we know to improve the lives of vulnerable young children and their families. The communications unit plays a critical role in this function and this position will help the Buffett Institute realize its vision of making Nebraska the best place in the nation to be a baby.

Buffett Early Childhood Institute Profile

Envisioned as a new model for how public higher education is engaged in the first years of life, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (<https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/>) is a four campus, university-wide multidisciplinary research, education, outreach, and policy institute of the University of Nebraska committed to helping transform early childhood development and education in Nebraska and across the nation. The long-term goal of the Institute is to be a leading center where scholars, practitioners, community members, and policy makers collaborate to advance a unified approach that can improve the lives of young children and families and the systems that support them.

Applicants should note that the goals of the Institute are university-, state-, and nation-wide, but the location of the Institute administration office is in Omaha. The position will work primarily out of the Omaha office. Regular hours at the Institute and for this position are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., with some evening and weekend assistance when events occur outside of normal work hours. This position may also require some travel and is funded by external grant sources for three years with the anticipation that additional funding sources may be secured.

Job Responsibilities

- This job description is not to be considered an exhaustive or exclusive statement of duties, responsibilities, or requirements. Employees may be required to perform other job-related duties as requested. This list describes major responsibilities to support the Buffett Institute by aligning marketing and communication strategies to the Institute goals.

Communications Coordination (90%)

- Serve as the communications unit's Preschool Development Grant (PDG) communications specialist supporting the PDG grant activities housed at the Buffett Institute, including the statewide needs assessment, strategic plan, program performance evaluation, and transitions for young children.
- In coordination with the Associate Director of Communications and Marketing develop and execute communications strategies that support the programmatic aims of the PDG grant.
- Work with multiple principle investigators with the content development of PDG related materials, including writing and editing publications, press materials, newsletter content, and website copy in alignment with an editorial plan.
- Build and sustain positive relationships with PDG communications partners, internally and externally
- Represent the communications unit at PDG meetings and identify and produce project deliverables
- Coordinate communications project responsibilities and timelines with Institute and external organization partners and oversee projects from start to end
- Track project analytics and update data as needed
- Assist with the maintenance of PDG database contacts
- Assist with creation and coordination of PDG related events, including public meetings, focus groups, and other activities as defined

Communications Unit Support (10%)

- Assist Events Manager with public outreach events as needed.
- Assume other responsibilities as defined by the Associate Director of Communications and Marketing.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Five years of professional experience in Communications, Journalism, Marketing or related field.
- Excellent writing abilities.
- Demonstrated success in managing and executing communications strategies
- Project management experience
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively across an organization

Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Journalism, or Marketing
- Seven years of professional experience in Communications, Journalism, Marketing, or related field
- Experience working in a university, non-profit, and/or government setting
- Experience with project management software
- Fluent in oral and written Spanish

An equivalent combination of education and experience from which comparable knowledge and abilities is acquired may be considered.

How to Apply

Applications are processed through the on-line job posting at <https://careers.nebraska.edu>. Follow instructions to complete the Standard Application. Along with your application, attach a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references. Direct questions about the position to: humanresources@nebraska.edu. Direct questions about the on-line application process to: (402) 472-7990.

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. The University of Nebraska is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status.

ADDENDUM FOR PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Competencies

Nature/Complexity of Work

This position requires an individual who works with considerable independence, energy, initiative, strong work ethic, and sound judgement in a complex day-to-day environment. Strong attention to detail, accuracy, professional discretion, and sensitivity to confidential information, a record of effective teamwork with others, and time management skills are required. Knowledge of the University of Nebraska' organizational structure and interrelationships among the campuses and internal and external constituencies is helpful in this position.

Problem Solving/Decision Making

Problem solving and appropriate decision making are required in every element of this position. Key duties involve independent judgement regarding analysis of issues and actions required to support day-to-day business transactions. Actions are governed by broad objectives, professional ethics, university procedures and/or business acumen.

Strategic Input

This individual is required to be proficient and conscientious when representing the Buffett Institute and the University at all times. Administrative review is often necessary before information is released by this position, but the responsibility for error-free detail supporting analytical information rests on the employee.

Know How

This position demands the ability to take initiative, operate independently, and thrive in a fast-paced and multi-tasking environment. One should demonstrate exceptional interpersonal skills with a strong orientation toward diplomacy, tact, collaboration, and teamwork; exceptional verbal, writing, editing, and proofreading skills; must be detail-oriented and accurate; must have ability to prioritize effectively and quickly respond to shifting priorities; the ability to collect, compile, and analyze facts, draw conclusions and recommend solutions; possess a strong work ethic and willingness to work beyond regular hours, if necessary; and demonstrate a high level of professional discretion and confidentiality. Thorough knowledge of the integrated marketing communications field is necessary. Ability to interpret and prepare information for analysis activities and communicate findings to management is essential.

Must follow Board of Regents By-laws and policies and state and Federal Law and other NU or Institute rules and regulations.

Technical Skills

This position demands technology proficiency, with a willingness to learn and utilize new technologies relating to (but not limited to) digital communications tools (website/CMS, CRM, Social Media), and project and portfolio management. Proficiency using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook is also required.

Interactions

This position will be expected to manage projects and work collaboratively across units. Ability to advocate new ideas, identify and address obstacles. Construct quality project/ work plans with deliverables from minimal definitions. This position will help build and strengthen relationships with the University of Nebraska campuses and must have the ability to work as a member of a team, as well as independently, in a complex environment, and with respect for confidential and sensitive information. This position also interacts with many external constituencies.

Supervision

This position reports to the Associate Director of Communications and Marketing

General Information:

Job Family: PR

Job Code: 49343309

Salary Range: PR23

FLSA: Exempt

Position Number: 533

Org. Unit Number: 50008150 (BECl)

Date of Last Update: 6/16/2020 by Sheryl Gartner, Director HR

Physical Requirements and Work Conditions

The physical requirements and work conditions described here are representative of what an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Attendance at the workplace is critical. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is routinely required to have vision for up close and far away, talk, hear, sit and use hands to touch, feel, handle, and operate routine office equipment. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, climb stairs, bend, reach, twist, and lift, carry or move up to 15 pounds. The employee is required to occasionally travel to and participate in meetings and conferences that may require the ability to drive a motor vehicle or stay overnight.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate, and there are frequent interruptions as the Institute staff conduct business in cubicles, walled office space, and conference rooms.