



NSF Engineering Research
Visioning Alliance

Executive Director POSITION PROSPECTUS



SPRING 2021

INTRODUCTION

The **Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA)** has partnered with Higher Talent Executive Search to identify the inaugural **Executive Director**.

This document provides an overview of ERVA, information, and details about the opportunity, and desired qualifications and characteristics of candidates.

Throughout the document, [blue text passages](#) provide hyperlinks to document pages and online resources with more detailed information.

We invite you to learn more about the first engineering research visioning alliance of its kind and how ERVA impacts national research priorities by convening diverse minds and voices from across the nation to identify emerging trends and solutions.

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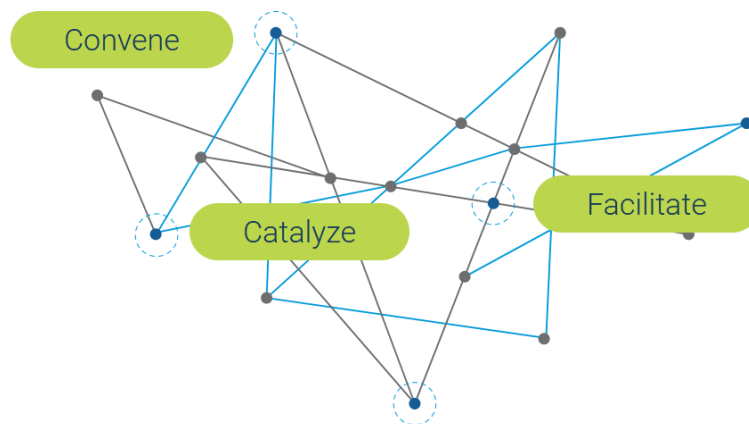


NSF Engineering Research
Visioning Alliance

ABOUT THE ENGINEERING RESEARCH VISIONING ALLIANCE (ERVA)

To identify and develop bold and transformative new engineering research directions and to catalyze the engineering community's pursuit of innovative, high-impact research that benefits society.

The Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) is a neutral convener that helps to identify and develop bold and transformative new engineering research directions, directly supporting the nation's ability to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Engineering, ERVA is a diverse, inclusive and engaged partnership that enables an array of voices to impact national research priorities. ERVA convenes, catalyzes and empowers the engineering community to identify nascent opportunities and priorities for engineering-led innovative, high-impact, cross-domain research that addresses national, global and societal needs.



ERVA is managed by a team representing three partner organizations: the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA); the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)/Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Foundation (EIF); and the University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP). The Executive Director will be an employee of UIDP, and ERVA will operate as a department within UIDP. UIDP (www.uidp.org) is an international, non-profit membership association that helps top-tier

innovation companies and world-class research universities develop new approaches to working together (see member list at uidp.org/membership-list). Since its founding in 2006, UIDP has become a globally recognized convener of thought leaders, identifying high-impact strategies so companies, government, and industry can enhance partnerships and improve return on investment from research collaboration.

The UIDP team is small, but mighty, with the spirit and energy of a mission-driven start-up. This means they are all clear on the big vision, but also comfortable with the inevitable ambiguity and sense of urgency that comes with trying to bring it all together.



Learn More: [Watch “What is ERVA” video](#)

THE OPPORTUNITY

Executive Director

We are looking for an exceptional leader as the ERVA Executive Director with the drive and experience to carry out the mission of the organization. The ERVA organizational structure includes an Executive Committee, Advisory Board, Standing Council, Topical Task Forces, Programmatic Working Groups, Operations Team, and Professional Services Contractors.

The [Executive Committee](#) serves as the leadership team for ERVA, responsible for administrative, financial, programmatic, policy, process leadership, and oversight. The Executive Director will serve as an Ex Officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee and will serve as the primary point of contact with NSF. The [Advisory Board](#) provides high-level vision and guidance to the Executive Committee and reviews organizational and programmatic assessment. The [Standing Council](#) is ERVA’s research and technology brain trust, identifying and guiding planned visioning activities and supporting rapid response feedback to NSF. Topical Task Forces are small, ad hoc teams of interdisciplinary domain experts rapidly assembled to scope and frame topics selected for further study and to work with the Operations Team to organize visioning events. The Programmatic Working Groups are designed to provide specific program support and advice in Communications, Government Engagement, Research Intelligence, or other topics as may be determined in the future by the Executive Committee.

The Operations Team under the leadership of the Executive Director includes the Operations Manager, Communications Director, Events Manager, Program Coordinator, and Professional Services Contractors engaged to support Communications, Evaluation, Research Intelligence, or other topics as may be determined in the future by the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee, Advisory Board, Standing Council, Topical Task Forces, and Programmatic Working Groups are leaders in their respective fields and volunteer their time to help ERVA achieve its mission and vision.

The Ideal Candidate

A successful candidate should possess the following experience and qualifications:

- Experience in leading and managing a team to successful accomplishments in an engineering or science related field.
- A history of success working with a volunteer organization and the ability to cultivate committee member relationships, roles, and responsibilities.
- Proven ability to lead and manage all aspects of a department within a larger organization.
- Evidence of effective financial management, including financial planning, budgeting, and strategic growth of an organization.
- Evidence of a strong commitment to promoting diversity.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and to develop consensus in groups with multiple perspectives.
- Experience in developing and implementing a strategic plan and accomplishing its goals.
- Experience in developing strategic relationships with partners.
- Experience in representing an organization to a sponsor such as NSF.
- Experience in overseeing the management of an engineering or scientific meeting.
- Strong written and verbal communications skills.
- Flexibility to travel as required for the effective management of the ERVA department.

Qualifications-required:

- **Education:** A Ph.D., or equivalent experience, is required, preferably in an engineering or science field.
- **Experience:** 5+ years of relevant research, or professional business experience.
- **Knowledge/Skills Required to Perform the Job:**
 - Demonstrated ability to lead initiatives and work independently.
 - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
 - Ability to use sound, independent reasoning, and judgment to establish work priorities and be flexible to respond to constantly changing priorities and shifting deadlines in a fast-paced working environment.
 - Exceptional leadership, time management, facilitation, and organizational skills.
 - Comprehensive computer skills.
 - Ability to work independently and to handle supervisory responsibilities.
 - Demonstrated ability to work with others in a spirit of teamwork and cooperation in support of the ERVA's mission.

LEADERSHIP

The Executive Committee serves as the operational leadership team for ERVA, responsible for administrative, programmatic, and process leadership and oversight. Executive Committee leadership will rotate annually within the PI/Co-PI team to infuse new perspectives into the components of the ERVA engine.

▶ Read More: [Meet ERVA's Executive Committee](#)

BENEFITS

This full-time position includes a competitive salary, and generous benefits package including health and dental insurance, retirement, and paid time off.

THE REGION



Columbia, South Carolina, is a traditionally Southern town with a modern twist. The abundance of oak, pecan and magnolia trees help the region retain a rural flavor, while the downtown skyline is representative of the state capital's role as a growing industrial hub.

Columbia's population is small enough that traffic is relatively mild and the streets are rarely overcrowded, but large enough to support trendy shops, cafes, bars and other businesses that make urban life enjoyable.

Much of Columbia's vibrancy is fed by the students who attend the University of South Carolina. On many of the borders of USC's sprawling campus, it's not always clear where the university ends and the rest of the metro area begins, as a number of Columbia's businesses and neighborhoods are interposed with USC's buildings and student housing. As a result, residents share a close bond with the student community, including a fierce pride in the Gamecocks football team.

▶ Read More: [What's it like to live in Columbia, SC?](#)

HOW TO APPLY

The Engineering Research Visioning Alliance has retained [Higher Talent Executive Search](#) to manage the recruitment process. Candidates will complete comprehensive reference and background checks. Interested candidates should direct inquiries to:



Laurie Sloss

Executive Search Consultant

ls@highertalentinc.com

301.395.9714



Contact Laurie Sloss at ls@highertalentinc.com, or call **301.395.9714**

Equal Employment Opportunity

UIDP is an equal opportunity employer, committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for all employees