Principal for Strategic Partnerships

Job Description

With a mission to drive policymaking and practice that leads to better outcomes for all students—especially those students who have been pushed to the margins in a society shaped by systemic racism and oppression—the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy serves as an “action tank,” pairing research with on-the-ground practice that promotes effective change within schools and classrooms and then leveraging these experiences to inform statewide policy conversations. Our approach is grounded in a deep commitment to empowering students, families, and educators to develop and drive ongoing, sustainable improvement that is adapted to the unique strengths and conditions of their local context. For more information, visit www.renniecenter.org.

The Rennie Center’s work is undergirded by six core values that we aspire to live out individually, in collaboration with one another, and within the broader field: 1) Equity and Justice; 2) Integrity; 3) Community; 4) Balance; 5) Empathy; and 6) Learning. We are seeking a Principal for Strategic Partnerships who brings passion for our mission and is committed to advancing it by living into our core values.

Position Overview: We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to join our team as the Principal for Strategic Partnerships and assume lead responsibility for expanding the Campus Without Walls initiative. Campus Without Walls is a collaborative initiative led by the Rennie Center, BUILD, and Boston Public Schools. The mission of Campus Without Walls (CWW) is to leverage the power of communities and technology to remove barriers and connect classrooms, educators, and students to each other and a broader education ecosystem. Campus Without Walls increases access to opportunity and offers a bold new vision for more equitable, rigorous, culturally responsive, and engaging teaching and learning.

The Principal for Strategic Partnerships will play a crucial role in developing and managing partnerships with district and school leaders, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and community leaders. As a spokesperson for CWW, you will help expand the number of schools participating in the initiative and work to dramatically increase the number of teachers and students reached across the state. This is a contract position for one year, with an option for renewal. This position will report directly to the Director of Program Implementation and Strategy at the Rennie Center and will collaborate closely with the Campus Without Walls Program Director and entire CWW team.

Essential Functions:

1. New District Partnerships: Identify, cultivate, and build strategic partnerships with districts and schools across Massachusetts and beyond. Maintain strong relations with local administrators and teachers’ unions. Collaborate with key stakeholders in each district to grow mutually beneficial initiatives and expand our programming (e.g., career readiness, early college, equitable literacy, and middle school math).

2. School Partnerships: Forge deep relationships with new and existing school partners, including public, charter, faith-based, and private schools, as well as colleges and universities. Serve as the main point of contact for new partner schools in the CWW consortium. Build strong and collaborative relationships, ensuring effective communication and alignment of goals.

3. Teacher Recruitment and Outreach: Work with district leaders, school leaders, and administrators to identify Lead Teachers at their schools. Identify school-based champions to advocate for the expansion of Campus Without Walls. Support teacher recruitment by coordinating and attending recruitment events, activities, and campaigns with recruitment partners, including Boston Public
Schools and The Teachers’ Lounge. Partner with the CWW marketing and communications team to ensure effective communication and execution of recruitment campaigns. Help secure additional partners for teacher recruitment statewide.

**Qualifications:**

- Deep commitment to equity and promoting access to opportunity for historically marginalized communities.
- Progressive senior-level leadership experience with a proven track record of successfully leading recruitment and outreach campaigns, preferably within the educational and nonprofit sectors, with an awareness of the educational landscape in Massachusetts.
- Self-motivated and inspirational problem solver with maturity and tact to collaborate effectively with external partners and colleagues.
- Ability to build sustainable and productive partnerships with districts, school leaders, nonprofits, businesses, community-based organizations, and academic institutions.
- Comfortable with and capable of speaking to constituents and other stakeholders about the power and potential of Campus Without Walls.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, along with meeting facilitation skills.
- Self-starter able to work in a fast-paced environment and complete projects independently.
- Superb project management skills and demonstrated ability to lead multiple projects, proactively identify challenges, respond to feedback, and collaborate with others to move work forward.
- Excellent computer skills, including the Microsoft Office suite (Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Excel) as well as Google equivalents (Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets).
- 10+ years of experience in a relevant field (note: the total of 10+ years of experience may include time spent on relevant schooling, professional training, and/or credentials).

**To Apply:**

Send a resume and cover letter to Laura Cinelli, Deputy Director, at lcinelli@renniecenter.org.

This is a grant-funded position with a budgeted salary of $90,000 annually. With the funding that has been secured to date, we can currently commit to funding this position through August 2024. **Given the nature of the position, we also welcome candidates who meet the position qualifications and are interested in fulfilling the essential responsibilities through part-time contract work rather than a full-time role.** All candidates will be expected to help seek and secure additional funding that would enable us to extend the position beyond this time.

The Rennie Center is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ applicants. This job description is subject to change at any time.