

# Position Announcement Executive Director



## Compensation

Salary range of \$90,000-93,420, may be negotiable  
Comprehensive benefit package (including 95% paid healthcare premium coverage, generous retirement package and reduced tuition rates)

## Reports To

Assistant Dean for Inclusive Innovation  
College of Engineering & Computer Science

## Position Type

Hybrid work schedule

## Location

Portland, Oregon

*We will begin screening applications on Friday, June 9, 2022, at 5:00 pm, and will start scheduling interviews soon after that. (The position will remain open until filled.)*



## This Executive Director Opportunity

Oregon MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) seeks our next Executive Director to lead and expand the organization's mission of empowering underrepresented youth, specifically underrepresented minorities, low-income, first-generation-college, and female students in middle and high school through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and invention education. The Executive Director will lead a dedicated team of staff and advisory board members to create a shared vision for the future of Oregon MESA and will champion efforts to dismantle inequitable systems and promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

A strong mentor, the ideal candidate is committed to staff engagement and development and fosters a positive atmosphere that enables staff to successfully execute initiatives. Importantly, the Executive Director has a strong sense of humor with the ability to laugh and have fun.

The ideal candidate appreciates STEM and invention education and values the importance of a safe, supportive, fun environment where students can try, fail, and try again. The Executive Director creates a collaborative culture that acknowledges, encourages, and celebrates differences and supports the development of invention skills and entrepreneurship.



## About Oregon MESA

Oregon MESA was founded in 1985 at Portland State University (PSU) on the belief that access to a STEM education and exposure to successful role models can irrevocably change the course of a student's life. Born out of the civil rights movement and founded by leaders of color in Portland, MESA is committed to advancing equity. Students who have been historically underrepresented in STEM, deserve access to high quality learning to achieve their highest potential. With our programs, more students from marginalized identities not only graduate from high school, but also enroll in post-secondary studies and enter the workforce with STEM, 21st century and invention skills — fueling the innovation economy with diverse, talented leaders.

Oregon MESA serves over 35 schools in more than 15 school districts state wide from the Portland Metropolitan area to Southern Oregon. Oregon MESA is a leader in invention education and in advancing equity in STEM. As the education landscape continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, the STEM skills and soft skills students develop through MESA's project-based learning and team-based approach are even more important in preparing students for the future.

## About PSU

Oregon MESA is based at PSU in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. PSU is Oregon's most diverse public university and makes the largest contribution to economic mobility of its students. The Maseeh College plays a key role in creating economic mobility by offering academic programs that provide transformative opportunities within the classroom and beyond. Students are connected to Portland's growing, innovative industries and prepared to gain competitive jobs in engineering and computer science.



## Experiences and Capacities

After surveying Oregon MESA's advisory board, staff, and community partners about what they want to see in the next Executive Director, we have determined that a successful candidate will possess the following: *(We are less interested in the titles you've held and more interested in what you've done and who you are.)*

- Is a lifelong learner with a passion for and personal alignment with the Oregon MESA mission.
- Has the demonstrated ability and commitment to applying a strong lens of equity and anti-racism to their work.
- Has a proven track record in fund development through grants, events and individual donor solicitation that builds on and enhances community relationships.
- Has the ability to connect with funders, individual donors, corporations, and foundations to present a compelling vision of Oregon MESA to the public.
- Has the ability to build relationships with students, parents, schools, foundations, and others across the state to expand awareness and support of Oregon MESA.
- Has strong cultural competence with demonstrated experience engaging diverse audiences.
- Has the ability to clearly express themselves and give and receive constructive feedback, facilitate an open, professional, and collegial atmosphere with staff, advisory board, and community partners.

## Ideally, the successful candidate will also:

- Have experience with equity and justice-oriented organizations.
- Have experience advocating for funding of programs like MESA with policy and decision-makers.
- Have the experience and patience to work within complex partnerships within a bureaucratic structure.
- Have proven strengths in financial oversight of complex budgets.
- Bring a fresh perspective and innovative approach to diversity and inclusion efforts.
- Have experience and/or knowledge of invention and entrepreneurship processes.
- Have management experience in positions involving partnerships with school districts, higher education, industry, foundations, community organizations, students, and families.
- Have familiarity with K-12 education policies both locally and nationally and can translate policy into instruction.

We know that the best candidates for this job might come from less "traditional" backgrounds, and if this position speaks to you, we encourage you to apply, even if you don't believe you meet every one of our described qualifications. If you're unsure whether you meet the qualifications of this position or how this would be determined, please feel free to contact us at the email listed to discuss your application.

## How to Apply

Please submit an application packet that includes:

- A cover letter explaining how you have the qualifications, experience, and passion to be the next Executive Director of Oregon MESA. Include:
  - A description of your experience with STEM education (in terms of direct service, policy/advocacy, lived experience, etc.)
  - A description of how you have promoted equity and lessened disparities through your work.
- A detailed chronological resume that speaks to the listed qualifications.
- The names, contact information, and professional affiliations of four professional references. (We won't contact your references until we've cleared it with you.)

Please send your materials to [ORMESA@pagetwopartners.com](mailto:ORMESA@pagetwopartners.com)

Please also email us at this address to request any accommodations you would like made during this hiring process. We will keep your application confidential, and you will receive an acknowledgment email.



## Timeline

The position will remain open until filled. However, we prefer to receive applications **by 5:00 p.m. on June 9th** when we will begin reviewing them. Interviews are scheduled to begin the week of June 19, with successive rounds of interviews held the weeks of June 26 and July 10. We project a start date in mid-August 2023.

For more information about this position, please contact Jani Iverson of Page Two Partners at [ORMESA@pagetwopartners.com](mailto:ORMESA@pagetwopartners.com)

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