



Vice President of Innovation Initiatives

Statement of Duties

The incumbent in the position will lead the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the Rhode Island economy through entrepreneurial support, investments in research and development, internet infrastructure, and other support systems and investments that fosters market-based innovation.

Essential Functions

Innovation Initiatives Leadership

- Serve as the chief strategist for Commerce's portfolio of initiatives, including:
 - Working with senior leadership and the Executive Office of Commerce, set measurable goals and develop targeted strategies for Commerce's Innovation Initiatives that best utilize State and federal funding and align Innovation Initiatives efforts with overarching Commerce and State goals and strategic plans.
 - Working with members of Commerce's Business Development Team, sourcing and vetting entrepreneurial ideas and business growth opportunities.
 - Smartly linking innovative businesses and entrepreneurs that are best positioned to support the State's goals and economic development initiatives with RI Commerce Innovation programs in ways that best leverage our State's finite resources and catalyze entrepreneurial growth in Rhode Island.
 - Leveraging programmatic data and economic trend analyses, providing recommendations for continuous improvement of program design and implementation to senior leadership.
 - Preparing and providing testimony on the impact of the Innovation Initiatives for the General Assembly and others as requested.
 - Ensuring cohesion between Innovation Initiatives and other core supports of RI Commerce and partner organizations, as well as a fluid through-line for businesses seeking to leverage those supports; work to ensure a seamless engagement with RI Commerce for the client.
- Provide support to senior leadership and the Executive Office of Commerce as needed regarding best practices and trends in the area of innovation and tech-based economic development.

Team Management

- Directly and indirectly manage innovation project team leads (e.g., Director of Wavemaker Fellowships) to ensure that the development, administration, and execution of all innovation initiatives are aligned across the Corporation and within each individual program.
- Lead the teams to leverage resources, develop and monitor program performance metrics, identify and develop external funding opportunities, and coordinate efforts to deepen strategic partnerships with stakeholders and key constituents.

Science and Technology Advisory Council

- Lead support for the RI Science and Technology Council (STAC), working closely with STAC co-chairs.

- Manage existing programs and the design, development, and integration of new initiatives that support the Council's strategic mission to drive economic development and job creation through research, technology and innovation.
- As STAC program lead, this position is responsible for all operations of the Council including financial and administrative management of the Council as a public body.

Key Competencies

- **Intelligence:** The ability to acquire understanding and absorb information rapidly. A quick study.
- **Resourcefulness:** Passionately finds ways over, around, or through barriers to success. Achieves results despite lack of resources. Goes beyond the call of duty. Shows bias for action. A results-oriented "doer."
- **Team Leadership.** The ability to ensure team's work is accomplished in service of overall goals. Ability to motivate and maximize team to highest level of performance while maintaining strong attention to detail, client and partner relationships, and internal controls.
- **Written Communications:** Writes clear, precise, well-organized documents using appropriate vocabulary, grammar, and word usage.
- **Goal Setting:** Sets fair stretch goals for self and others. Encourages individual initiative.

Qualifications

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree and 7 years of progressively responsible professional experience or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Experience managing a dynamic team, including setting performance metrics
- Demonstrated experience in program leadership and management as well as a proven familiarity and experience in a federal or state government environment and experience working with sensitive and confidential information.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Must be able to collect and summarize information from a broad base of sources and develop materials that are informative and concise for multiple audiences in a variety of formats.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with and lead a broad coalition of community stakeholders across government, business, academia, hospital and non-profit sectors.
- Proficiency in Microsoft, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.

To be considered for this position, candidates must submit a cover letter along with a professional resume via email to:

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
job.opportunities@commerceri.com

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is an at-will employer; no employment contracts exist.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (the 'Corporation') is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, non-disqualifying physical or mental disability, national origin, veteran status or any other basis covered by applicable law. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business need. The Corporation will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of these characteristics.