



Job Posting | 08.09.21 President & Chief Executive Officer

About the Organization

Mission

Over the past three years, Iowa has adopted a more strategic, formalized approach to bioscience sector development, with BioConnect Iowa serving as the coordinating hub that connects the many involved stakeholders across the state. This bioscience development initiative is focused on four targeted platforms - biobased products / chemicals, precision and digital agriculture, vaccines and immunotherapeutics and medical devices.

BioConnect Iowa also administers the state's SBIR/STTR Outreach program, which includes (i) providing qualified applicants for these federal grant programs with assistance preparing and filing applications and (ii) providing award recipients with matching grants.

Vision

BioConnect Iowa serves as a catalyst for Iowa bioscience sector development. By partnering with Iowa's research institutions, bioscience companies, entrepreneurs, investors, and government, BioConnect Iowa provides guidance, makes connections, and works to accelerate the growth and success of Iowa's bioscience sector.

Locations of activity

BioConnect Iowa's offices are in Des Moines. The CEO will spend significant time with key partners at Iowa State University (Ames) and the University of Iowa (Iowa City).

About the Position

Overview

BioConnect Iowa's President & CEO is expected to devote full-time attention to ensuring the overall success, financial stability and effectiveness of the organization and the state's bioscience development initiative. The President & CEO will also address other priorities and carry out additional activities, as identified by the BioConnect Iowa Board of Directors, to further the mission of the organization and growth of the critically important bioscience sector of Iowa's economy.

Principal Responsibilities

1. The CEO is accountable for development and execution across partners of cohesive bioscience development strategies. This includes:
 - a. responsibility for ensuring the focus of activities and resources remains on the identified four bioscience platforms, representing robust opportunities for bioscience R & D and business growth in Iowa,
 - b. leading development of coordinated strategies and goals for all BioConnect Iowa staff and partners working on the bioscience development initiative, and
 - c. serving as the focal point and "go-to" person for overall bioscience development initiative efforts.
2. The CEO is responsible for leading the BioConnect Iowa team and ensuring their effective engagement with public and private sector partners and stakeholders.

3. The CEO will maintain close working relationships with all key stakeholders, including industry, university, government, and ecosystem support organizations, to help ensure continued growth of Iowa's bioscience sector. This includes:
 - a. working closely with dedicated BioConnect Iowa (Commercial Officers) and university (including ISU Chief Technical Officers) staff, as well as with university leadership to identify and advance new technologies with significant commercial potential.
 - b. when requested by the universities, participating from time to time on (advisory or review) boards focused on research, innovation, and ensuring effective technology transfer and commercialization.
4. The CEO is responsible for collaborating with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Innovation Council to envision, identify, prioritize, and advance new opportunities for growth for the organization and the bioscience sector and will keep both organizations updated on BioConnect Iowa activities and progress. This effort will include working with IEDA to develop a mechanism through which BioConnect Iowa can make investments in Iowa bioscience companies.
5. The CEO is responsible for managing state funding for operations and for raising and managing funding that supports pilot/special projects. This includes coordinating with partners management of the Iowa G2M project, currently enabled by funding from the US Economic Development Administration, and for securing sustaining funding.
6. The CEO is expected to maintain effective, productive, and sustained relationships with pertinent stakeholders, federal and state officials and legislators and is a voice and public advocate for Iowa's bioscience community.

Reporting Relationship

The BioConnect Iowa President & CEO serves on the BioConnect Iowa Board of Directors and reports directly to the Board Chair.

Required Qualifications

1. A four-year and possibly graduate degree (including a MS, MBA, PhD or JD), with at least 10 years of relevant leadership experience in bioscience-related roles.
2. Experience functioning effectively in a matrix organization, including leading through influence successful strategic and operational efforts.
3. A proven track record leading and managing multiple projects to desired outcomes in situations involving complex decision-making with a range of corporate, philanthropic, university and public stakeholders and partners.
4. Strong, general business acumen and the proven ability to develop and execute a plan and deliver results, including experience developing a commercialization strategy.
5. Capacity to work in a highly visible position; demonstrated ability facilitating and leading staff and board efforts that achieve a mission.
6. Experience working with the academic research community, with clear intellectual curiosity and openness to new ideas and approaches to innovation and entrepreneurship.
7. Understanding of and experience with different sources of capital, including venture investment, grants, and corporate; demonstrated ability to raise capital consistent with sustaining the Iowa G2M project.

Desired Qualifications

1. Relevant industry / business experience in one or more of the four identified platforms: biobased products / chemicals, precision and digital agriculture, vaccines and immunotherapeutics, or medical devices.
2. Ability to inspire trust and facilitate or make strategic decisions with inputs from diverse stakeholders.
3. Demonstrated ability to lead and to contribute collegially through personal work efforts in a non-hierarchical work environment.
4. Experience building and leading effective high-performing teams.
5. Pertinent experience raising funds from public, corporate and/or philanthropic sources.
6. Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to foster and sustain productive relationships with a diverse range of individuals and groups.
7. Superior communications skills in delivering public presentations, private conversations, and the written word.

8. Demonstrated capabilities in financial planning, project and time management, and reporting to stakeholders and investors.

More Information

The report that provided the foundation for the Iowa bioscience initiative can be accessed at www.iowaeda.com/our-agency/reports/.

Recent BioConnect Iowa annual reports can be found at <https://bioconnectiowa.org/about/>.

Additional information about the Iowa G2M Accelerator can be found at www.iowag2m.org.

To Apply

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter by September 17, 2021, to Katie Roth katie.roth@rcsearchgroup.com.

