



Position Description:

Managing Partner of Innovative Schools

BACKGROUND

[NewSchools Venture Fund](#) is a national nonprofit that supports and invests in promising and innovative entrepreneurs and teams of educators. We help them accomplish their missions to achieve outstanding results for the students, educators, and schools they serve. We are committed to helping students finish high school prepared and inspired to achieve their most ambitious dreams and plans. Through our investments, management assistance, network building, and thought leadership, NewSchools helps to reimagine K-12 education.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Managing Partner of Innovative Schools will be a member of the NewSchools leadership team, and co-lead the Innovative Schools team with Managing Partner Scott Benson. As the largest investment area at NewSchools, this group supports teams of educators who are planning, launching and redesigning schools with a focus on an expanded definition of student success and personalized learning. The work of the team has grown rapidly, and the leader in this new role will bring expertise and capacity to ensure the schools we invest in have the support they need to reach their ambitious goals for serving students.

In the co-leadership model, the two Managing Partners will be responsible for the overall success of the strategy, while prioritizing distinct activities within the team. Scott will continue to focus primarily on pipeline building, diligence, and the investment process, and the new Managing Partner will focus primarily on providing these ventures with a robust, thoughtfully-curated suite of best-in-class learning experiences and management assistance, thereby optimally positioning the entire Innovative Schools team to make informed investment decisions and ensure that NewSchools' ventures get the support and connections they need for success.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The new Managing Partner will lead the expansion and execution of NewSchools' approach to supporting its large portfolio of schools ventures as they go through the planning and launch of schools, from two years before school launch, through the first few of years of operation. Specifically, s/he will be responsible for:

- spearheading the design and delivery of a suite of services for Innovative Schools ventures – comprising both cohort-based and customized experiences – that balances high-touch support with financial practicality;
- effectively identifying, selecting, leveraging, and expanding relationships with external experts to enhance the quality of support services delivery;
- supporting ventures in the development of relevant, inspirational, and action-oriented diversity, equity and inclusion plans;
- leading the overall development of NewSchools' annual Community of Practice day;
- serving as a resource for Managing Partners of other investment areas on how to nurture effective communities of practice and adult learning experiences;
- supporting external communications and information-sharing with donors and funders in line with NewSchools' communications and development strategies;
- generally stewarding budget and resources as a member of the Leadership Team, and
- hiring and managing team members for high performance.

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimally, the successful candidate must demonstrate: commitment to serving diverse communities and closing the achievement gap, a passion for innovation and excellence in public education, and broad knowledge of education reform history and trends. Beyond these essential characteristics, the new Managing Partner must have the vision, entrepreneurial spirit, perseverance, and imagination required to determine how the Innovative Schools team can optimize and customize its support to 40-60 ventures of varying size and maturity. S/he must ensure that the learning and support provided by NewSchools to this growing and complex portfolio is derived from a senior-level strategic approach to designing professional learning experiences. Therefore, ideal candidates for this position should possess the following **experience**:

- professional experience demonstrating appreciation commitment to the mission of strengthening PK-12 education;
- practical experience building and leading high-level leadership or school development cohort experiences/communities of practice;
- senior leadership experience as part of an executive team in an entrepreneurial, innovative environment, ideally within a high-performing CMO;
- experience building or supporting early-stage PK-12 ventures;
- organizational results reflecting strong strategic thinking and analysis, ideally in a PK-12 setting;
- a track record demonstrating ability to motivate and lead a team of distinguished professionals in their fields of expertise;
- ability to build collaborative relationships internally and externally with a wide variety of stakeholders, built on trust, respect, clear communication and shared goals, and
- proven strategic planning and tactical execution experience.

The successful candidate will also possess the following **skills**:

- broad knowledge of the history and trends of education reform, including deep knowledge of charters and autonomous district schools;
- ability to demonstrate, articulate, and generate a sense of urgency;
- proficiency in financial modeling and financial statement analysis;
- familiarity with research and evaluation in education;
- capability to inspire confidence and earn the respect of others;
- impressive and persuasive public speaking and communications skills;
- the capacity to manage multiple priorities amid ambiguity;
- creative thinking and resourcefulness, and
- predictive instincts / a knack for seeing the big picture, and the ability to “see around corners.”

Finally, candidates will possess these **personal characteristics**:

- commitment to NewSchools' [core values](#);
- comfort with the complexity and ambiguity associated with greenfield environments, and a real appreciation for entrepreneurs in the school start-up space;
- the charisma, work ethic, and personal integrity to inspire others to perform at a high level, and
- a high degree of self-awareness and “EQ,” resulting in adept management of relationships.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Managing Partner of Innovative Schools will report to CEO, Stacey Childress, and work side-by-side with fellow Managing Partner Scott Benson. S/he will manage a team of two professionals.

LOCATION: Oakland, CA

COMPENSATION: Competitive and commensurate with experience; relocation reimbursement is available.

TO APPLY: The review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. For optimal consideration, applications should be submitted electronically **prior to May 1, 2017**, and include a letter of interest as well as a resume. Nominations, applications, or inquiries about the position and/or the search process should be directed to the **Bellwether Education Partners executive search team managing the search: Monisha Lozier, Founder/Partner and Leslie Nair, Principal** via leslie@bellwethereducation.org.

NewSchools Venture Fund is an equal opportunity employer. People of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.