



University Council for Educational Administration

Quality Leadership Matters

Headquartered at Michigan State University College of Education

Executive Director

The Opportunity

Educational leadership stands at a defining moment. Rapid shifts in the sociopolitical landscape, evolving demands on research and practice, and an intensifying need for equity-centered approaches to leading schools and systems are reshaping the terrain on which educational leaders must operate. University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) is a convening of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers who share a commitment to advancing the field and are at the center of this work.

Likewise, this is also a defining moment for UCEA. For many professional organizations serving academics and K-12 school systems it is time for a strategic reimagining for who we are and how we operate to serve our communities and sustain our membership. UCEA is seeking a visionary Executive Director to lead the organization through this pivotal chapter. The incoming leader will serve as an intellectual and operational steward of UCEA, working in close partnership with the Executive Committee and plenum, a dedicated group of professionals, and a nationally and internationally dispersed membership to articulate and advance the organization's mission. This is an opportunity for a leader who is energized by the intersection of research, practice, and community, and who brings the strategic acumen, interpersonal depth, and moral clarity the moment demands.

About UCEA

The University Council for Educational Administration is the premier professional organization devoted to the preparation and advancement of educational leaders. UCEA, founded to serve as a convening body for higher education institutions, is committed to the study and practice of educational leadership and leads the field in scholarship, professional development, and policy engagement.

UCEA's membership, drawn from 114 colleges and universities across the United States and globally, reflects the breadth of the field it serves. UCEA advances educational leadership through its annual convention, research publications, journals, centers, and leadership development programs, building the next generation of leaders while shaping the scholarly and policy conversations that define the profession.

The organization is administered by a professional staff under the strategic guidance of the Executive Committee and plenum and is sustained by the intellectual contributions and governance of its broader membership, including past presidents and associate directors across member institutions.

Candidate Profile

The Executive Director of UCEA will be a leader whose career reflects a deep and sustained engagement with educational leadership as a field of inquiry. This leader will bring together intellectual rigor, relational skills, operational capability, and an unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion. They will be adept at navigating complexity, balancing the demands of governance, staff leadership, fiscal stewardship, and public representation, while remaining grounded in the organization's mission and its commitment to the communities it serves.

Ideal Experience

Organizational Leadership

The ideal candidate will have a strong capability in managing the administrative, financial, and operational demands of a complex organization; comfortable with fiscal oversight, resource development, and building a collaborative and high-functioning organizational culture. The candidate should also be able to lead through periods of change and to develop programming, which reflects innovative thinking, institutional vision, and supports the changing needs of the field of educational leadership. The candidate should demonstrate principled, fair, and open decision-making.

Educational Leadership Research

The candidate would possess deep and demonstrated engagement with the field of educational leadership as a researcher, mentor, and understand the breadth of methodologies, theories and policy questions that define the field, and the ability to engage substantively with the intellectual work of UCEA's membership.

Bridging Research, Practice, and Policy

The candidate should have experience engaging across sectors and multiple audiences, translating research into actionable insights for practitioners and policymakers, and elevating the role of evidence in educational decision-making. The candidate should have a reach and feel comfortable working in the national and international educational and policy arenas. They should also possess strong written and oral communication skills across a range of audiences and contexts in ways that are proactive and transparent.

Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The candidate should have a demonstrated and sustained commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion, as an organizing principle of leadership and organizational practice. The candidate should have a track record of building and shepherding inclusive communities to

bridge perspectives across disciplinary, cultural, and institutional lines. They should be skilled in transparent communication with members and lead in an equitable and inclusive manner.

Key Responsibilities

- Work with the Executive Committee (EC) to build a vision, goals, and activities for UCEA consistent with its mission.
- Lead, oversee, plan, and manage the fiscal and legal operations of UCEA (e.g., budget, investments, corporate status, tax status, audit, insurance, bonding, capital expenditure, dues collection, and external funding)
- Organize and manage office resources (human and material) to maximize UCEA's achievement of its mission
- Lead, support, plan, manage and execute (with elected officers) the governance functions and recurring activities of the Consortium
- Lead, plan, facilitate and manage (with elected leaders, project and office staff) the Consortium's program efforts (e.g., UCEA's Annual Convention, Graduate Student Seminars, and other program and publication initiatives).
- Lead, manage, plan, execute, edit, monitor, and negotiate the publications initiatives and contracts of the Consortium
- Manage, plan, and execute the awards and recognition programs of the Consortium
- Provide national visibility, liaison, and outreach to other organizations, the public, and potential partners in UCEA's mission (e.g., traveling to meet with and communicate regularly with other organizational leaders)
- Other responsibilities related to UCEA's mission, assigned by UCEA Executive Committee.

Qualifications

- Hold an earned doctorate preferably in educational administration.
- Have appropriate work experience relevant to educational leadership and the tasks inherent to running an organization like UCEA.
- Demonstrate interest and competency in research, guiding research and writing.
- Show interest and competence in the preparation of educational leaders and university program improvement.
- Have the ability to engender the possibility of developing cooperation among the member institutions.
- Demonstrate ability in managing a budget.
- Demonstrate ability to raise funds for research and professional improvement projects.
- Have creative insights and talent in the field of educational leadership.
- Be prepared to devote themselves full time to UCEA, including extensive travel.

Working Conditions and Compensation

UCEA recognizes that the ideal candidate may come from a range of professional and geographic contexts. Accordingly, working conditions are flexible, including hosting possibilities, and open for discussion with qualified candidates. Compensation will be competitive and commensurate with the scope of the role and the candidate's qualifications and experience. Extensive travel is expected as part of this position.

How To Apply

UCEA welcomes both applications and nominations of individuals who embody the qualities, experience, and vision described in this posting. We encourage candidates and nominators alike to consider the full range of backgrounds and perspectives that could strengthen UCEA's leadership.

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting UCEA on this search. Submission of curriculum vitae or résumé and letter of interest addressing the candidate's qualifications and vision for UCEA as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged.

The search will be conducted with a commitment to confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initially screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration please submit materials prior to June 1, 2026.

Applications should be in PDF format and submitted through the GA&A Portal at: [UCEA ED](#).

Nominations and inquiries should be directed to:

Marion Frenche
Associate Vice President of Executive Search
marionfrenche@greenwoodsearch.com

Andriel Dees
Vice President of Executive Search
andrieldees@greenwoodsearch.com

**Greenwood
Asher &
Associates®**

UCEA is an organization deeply committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from individuals whose backgrounds, identities, and experiences reflect the diversity of the communities and institutions we serve. See our [values](#) statement.