

KOYA

LEADERSHIP
PARTNERS

NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION
SUPPORT FUND

Executive Director

Executive Director
Washington, DC

THE OPPORTUNITY

Our country is changing rapidly and the demand for people to be able to learn continuously, think deeply and act thoughtfully and collaboratively is becoming universal. Half of all children are poor, and half of all children are of color or both. Knowledge is growing exponentially, as is our knowledge about how we learn. Our public education system must prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion while advancing education attainment.

All large high performing education systems around the world are based on public education. America's future is dependent on keeping the promise of a great public education for every child in every community. Philanthropy has a critical and catalytic role to play in advancing public education in the United States and keeping the promise.

Founded as a supporting organization, the National Public Education Support Fund (NPESF) has organically grown into a leader in organizing education funders. NPESF is at an inflection point and seeks an Executive Director who is energized by the challenge of working with the NPESF Board and community to advance the shared mission of transforming US public education to a dynamic continuous learning system of lifelong learners.

NPESF is home to a growing number of funder learning communities and collaboratives that includes the Education Funder Strategy Group, Grantmakers for Thriving Youth and the Partnership for the Future of Learning. A growing group of approximately 45 leading funders participate in the different groups and there is a warm, trusting, supportive culture.

The next Executive Director of NPESF will provide strategic and innovative leadership to define and build NPESF's strategy moving forward. The goal is to take the organization to the next level – ensuring that NPESF and the learning communities and funder collaboratives that comprise it, deepen their impact. Given the changing landscape of the education and philanthropic sectors, the Executive Director will show flexibility to advance the mission while meeting the communities' needs and creating an environment conducive to learning and collaboration.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will represent NPESF to its community and in the broader education and philanthropic arenas. S/he will have operational responsibility for NPESF's programs, events, advocacy efforts, finances and staff. Based in Washington, DC, the Executive Director will manage NPESF's staff of 5 and ensure they are working effectively to support and advance the mission.

The Executive Director will be instrumental in helping NPESF strengthen its position as a leader and convenor in the sector and deepen relationships with its diverse community. Key metrics for success in this role include:

- Partnering effectively with the Board of Directors and staff to define NPESF's strategy;
- Working with NPESF's community of funders and partners to align around the vision and cement NPESF's place as a critical asset to the learning and development of its community;

Executive Director
Washington, DC

- Continuing to build NPESF as a highly effective team and wonderful place to work;
- Skillfully networking with, and being supportive of, the other collaboratives in the ecosystem;
- Ensuring NPESF's values of education attainment for all and DEI remain a focus of the organization internally and in the community to advance education outcomes nationally; and
- Successfully managing NPESF's operations including staff, budget and finances.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

While no single candidate will have all of these professional and personal qualities, skills and characteristics, the ideal candidate will have the following:

Strategic Leadership & Relationship Builder

The Executive Director will be a strategic and results-oriented leader who will lead NPESF's strategic refresh to redefine its work as a convener, catalyst and thought partner. S/he will be skilled at building effective relationships at multiple levels within a complex environment. S/he will have a high level of emotional intelligence and be able to develop productive, trusting relationships with the Board, staff, community members and other key stakeholders to advance strategic priorities. This will be a strong leader and collaborator who is skilled at listening to, and learning from, constituents. S/he will be skilled at building learning communities and networks, facilitating without direct authority and developing a powerful sense of shared purpose in others. The Executive Director will possess a strong sense of confidence and will have a consultative and facilitative style.

Passion for the Mission

The Executive Director will be a champion of public education and will have a true passion for improving outcomes and expanding opportunities for all learners. S/he will exhibit a wide-ranging curiosity and interest in the needs of NPESF's diverse community. The Executive Director will have the skill and enthusiasm to remain at the forefront of the sector and to develop new and unique opportunities to serve the mission. Although direct experience in public education or as a grantmaker or policymaker is not required, s/he will have a nuanced understanding of how philanthropy and policy are used as tools to strengthen educational outcomes. The Executive Director will have a track record of advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, and a commitment to these values within NPESF's internal organization, its programs and in its work with the broader community to advance education outcomes nationally.

Executive Director
Washington, DC

A Fundraiser & Ambassador for NPESF

The Executive Director will be a confident leader who will serve as an ‘Ambassador’ for NPESF. S/he will be comfortable representing the organization publicly and will know when to step aside and when to step in to help push forward a strategic initiative. The Executive Director will be credible representing the organization in the national education and philanthropic arenas and will be effective at conveying NPESF’s mission and vision. The Executive Director will be able to generate support (financial and participatory), from the community and additional stakeholders. S/he will be a strong verbal and written communicator who serves as an effective face of the organization.

Organizational Management

The Executive Director will have a track record of success in organizational management. S/he will have strong financial and operational experience to continually improve and expand NPESF’s programs and outcomes. S/he will be a strong manager who engenders trust in the staff, helps them achieve their potential and holds them accountable. S/he will have a proven record in staff development and Board relations. The Executive Director will be an inspirational and team-focused leader of unquestioned integrity, ethics and values; someone who can be trusted without reservation.

Previous work experience in public education is strongly preferred. Backgrounds in philanthropy and policy are highly desired.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION SUPPORT FUND

The National Public Education Support Fund (NPESF) convenes and supports a vibrant and diverse learning community of foundations, policymakers and thought leaders who share a common commitment to lifting the learning and life outcomes of all children in America. The goal is to facilitate greater connectivity, communication and alignment among multi-stakeholder networks to realize the power of public education as the bedrock for an inclusive democracy and broadly shared prosperity.

NPESF was initially created as part of the Leeds family of philanthropies in 2008 to support the Alliance for Excellent Education and other projects working to build the leadership, policy innovations and public engagement necessary to elevate the learning opportunities and outcomes for all students in America. NPESF has expanded its scope of operations significantly during the last decade. Led by the Board President, Dan Leeds, and Executive Director, Terri Shuck, NPESF launched the Education Funder Strategy Group (EFSG) to provide foundation leaders with a learning community to exchange ideas on the intersections of philanthropy, policy, research and practice and to provide opportunities for dialogue with federal, state and local policymakers and other leaders in the public education field.

Today, NPESF is a national hub for convening and connecting influential leaders in education philanthropy, advocacy, research, policy and practice. In addition to EFSG, NPESF actively organizes the Partnership for

Executive Director
Washington, DC

the Future of Learning (the Partnership) and sponsors Grantmakers for Thriving Youth. These collaborative networks of funders and thought partners are advancing an equity-centered vision for strengthening public schools that is informed by the science of learning and energized by the moral imperative of preparing each and every child with a world-class education.

After more than 10 years, Terri Shuck, NPESF's founding Executive Director, is stepping down. The NPESF community thanks Terri for her visionary leadership. Terri's warmth, energy and integrity will be missed.

NPESF is headquartered in Washington, DC. It is led by a staff of 5 and a 4-member (at present) Board of Directors comprised of leading education experts and grantmakers. NPESF operates with an annual budget of \$4M and a healthy cash reserve.

For more information about NPESF, please visit its website at www.npesf.org.

CONTACT

Alexandra Corvin of Koya Leadership Partners has been retained for this search. Koya Leadership Partners is a national retained executive search firm that works exclusively with mission-driven clients.

To make recommendations or to express your interest in this role, please email Alex directly at NPESF@koyapartners.com. All inquiries and discussions will be considered strictly confidential.