



RESEARCH DIRECTOR JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

July 5, 2011

Research Director

Unique opportunity to work with a fast-moving, non-profit research organization focused on measuring entertainment's impact on social and environmental issues.

BACKGROUND

The Harmony Institute (HI) is a non-profit research center dedicated to measuring the impact and influence of entertainment. HI believes that mass media, combined with the power of strong storytelling, can be instrumental in producing lasting social change.

By combining tools from the academic, nonprofit and commercial worlds, HI's research illuminates for media creators and funders the reach and influence of social issue entertainment. HI looks beyond traditional influence indicators (such as box office and audience size) to reveal entertainment's social return on investment. This methodology is a critical component of HI's mission to increase awareness of the role media can play in addressing pressing social issues.

In order to ensure its research tools and evaluation methodology remain innovative and ahead of the curve, HI is currently developing an experimental lab (HI Lab) that will design and test methods that can deepen an understanding of entertainment's social influence, and offer first-hand analysis of the field's most up-to date tools. The proposed lab will feature an interdisciplinary approach, sourcing the most innovative research from academia and industry, to address pressing issues in media evaluation.

The goals of the HI Lab are two-fold: 1) Engage research leaders in exploring methodology and measurement approaches in relation to real world examples of entertainment that targets decisive social and environmental issues; 2) Test and track these approaches through original, empirical studies. These studies will explore methods for measuring impact and influence in both real time and longitudinal frameworks.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research Director is responsible for leading the development and execution of research that supports the Harmony Institute's vision, mission and objectives.

Working closely with HI management, the director should have the ability to design a research study and identify multiple, reliable sources and tools. They will oversee staff in gathering critical research and data, synthesizing data and analyzing results for a range of media projects that measure entertainment's influence on social and environmental issues.

The Research Director will be responsible for leading and running the new HI Lab. They will work closely with HI staff and Lab Board of Advisors to conduct research, repurpose existing tools and develop original tools that contribute to the Institute's understanding and measurement of entertainment impact.

Responsibilities will include:

- * Develop the organization's research strategy in line with HI's mission and objectives
- * Design research studies on a range of media projects and social/environmental issues
- * Use qualitative and quantitative research methods to investigate, analyze and document impact
- * Oversee production of comprehensive and compelling reports
- * Develop synergies between HI Lab work and client work for optimal efficiency
- * Work with HI science and lab advisors on project related problem solving
- * Develop original resources and tools for impact measurement that will come out of the HI Lab
- * Supervise the work of research staff including fellows
- * Write and conduct research on various aspects of HI work
- * Present research findings at meetings, conferences
- * Write articles for publication in academic journals and mainstream publications

REQUIREMENTS

Advanced degree (PhD preferred) in a relevant field (e.g. social sciences, media studies, public policy, evaluation, etc).

3-5 years post-collegiate relevant work experience.

Strong management skills.

Excellent writing, research, analysis, interpersonal skills.

Knowledge and interest in emerging web technologies.

Interest in traditional and new media.

Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously and meet deadlines

Self-starter who assumes hands-on responsibility where necessary, is able to balance competing priorities and deadlines, and who demonstrates sound judgment and good problem solving skills;

Sense of humor, maturity and grace under pressure.

A strong interest in, and commitment to, the Institute's mission of social change through entertainment.

COMPENSATION

Salary is commensurate with experience. HI offers a generous benefits plan.

TO APPLY:

Applications must include a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications, resume, writing sample, salary requirements, and any other information that might be useful in the Institute's assessment of their candidacy for this position.

This information should be sent to: info@harmony-institute.org.

Please write your name (Last, First, Research Director) in the subject line of your e-mail. All information is confidential. We regret that we are unable to answer individual queries regarding this job posting.

Position is available immediately and will be filled as soon as we have identified the best candidate for the job.