UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Position Description

TITLE: Director, URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America

DIVISION: Academic Affairs

REPORTS TO: Dean, Feinstein College of Continuing Education

GRADE: 18

SUPERVISES: Professional, support and clerical staff, graduate students, student workers, interns

BASIC FUNCTION:

The mission of the Center is to provide advocacy, applied research, academic programming, and public policy guidance that will lead to the eradication of hunger in Rhode Island and in the United States. The Center is one of several new initiatives the University is undertaking to address issues of Social Justice. Other programs include a Public Policy Institute, Urban Initiative, Family Resource Partnership and Children, Families, and Community Focus Area.

The Director will provide overall leadership, assist in the academic direction and administrative management for all Center programs and personnel. He/she will be the prime interface between the University, government, nonprofit agencies and the community in coordinating efforts to end hunger. The Director will work with a Committee of Advisors, its Academic Steering Committee and an external community advisors’ board to initiate and develop innovative programs, action research and policies essential to stopping hunger in America. In addition, the Director will oversee the Center’s involvement with existing programs of the Feinstein Foundation related to hunger in the U.S., and identify additional public and sector sources of support.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Essential duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

Establish overall direction and administrative support systems for the Center.

Work to identify the methodology and develop the capacity of communities to end hunger first in Rhode Island and then in the United States.

Prepare an annual plan for program implementation; provide quarterly benchmarks and budgets.

Represent the Center to current and prospective funders, academic, government and private sector constituencies and the media.

Oversee interface of the Center with the Urban Initiative, Public Policy Program and Family Resource Partnership and Children, Families, and Community Focus Area, and appropriate academic programs throughout the University.
Provide leadership to the research, teaching and academic agenda of the Center.

Provide leadership and advocacy and serve as a role model to the academic and external communities.

Oversee the development of a strategic information transfer strategy which may include: electronic databases on web sites; publication of articles in popular and appropriate professional media outlets; technical monographs and summaries, policy briefs; conferences and workshops.

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Perform all other related duties as required.

LICENSES, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

Personal computers, printers; word processing, database management and spreadsheet software.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:

This position is not substantially exposed to adverse environmental conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree and be eligible for faculty status in a field related to hunger studies required. (This includes fields such as education, human development, economics, nutrition, public policy or other related areas.) The following are required: demonstrated leadership is issues related to hunger and social welfare; three years of progressively responsible professional experience in the field; demonstrated supervisory and administrative experience; strong written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills; ability to conceive, plan, coordinate and implement innovative programs; a proven record of external fundraising and grant implementation; commitment to support the teaching, learning and scholarly activities of the Center. The following are preferred: a substantial record of advocacy, applied research and related academic experience; demonstrated abilities as a leader and consensus builder.

ALL REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE MODIFICATION TO REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.