THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Position Description

TITLE: Executive Director, Intellectual Property Management & Economic Development

DIVISION: Research and Economic Development

REPORTS TO: Vice President, Research and Economic Development

GRADE: 16

SUPERVISES: Professional, technical, administrative, and clerical support staff

BASIC FUNCTION:

Responsible for the development of faculty and staff entrepreneurship as it relates to commercialization and economic development of the University’s research activities and the management of the University’s intellectual property. Advance the university’s intellectual property by valuation, market analysis, commercialization of protected intellectual property, and the development of business relationships with corporate and government sectors.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Serve as a member of the senior leadership team of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

Assist the Vice President for Research and Economic Development in crafting the long-term vision and strategic plan for the Division of Research and Economic Development.

Manage and direct the University’s Intellectual Property & Economic Development Office, including the work of its patent attorney.

Advise faculty and staff on matters related to entrepreneurship, intellectual property, commercialization, and economic development.

Assist faculty and staff on matters related to the development and processes involved in invention disclosure, patenting, and licensing of technologies and other works that may have commercial potential.

Draft, negotiate, and execute license, research, and material transfer agreements.

Serve as ex-officio member of the University’s Intellectual Property Committee.
Assist the Vice President for Research and Economic Development in the formulation of strategies to promote regional economic development through intellectual property transfer.

Perform valuation, market analysis, and commercialization of protected intellectual property.

Develop business partnerships with corporate, government, and private sectors.

Form new businesses either directly or indirectly using the University’s intellectual property created by faculty, staff, and students.

Coordinate the transfer of mature intellectual properties to the URI Research Foundation (URIRF), and work closely with the Exec. Director of the URIRF to provide a seamless range of services to manage the full life-cycle of commercializable properties.

Work with the URI Research Foundation’s COO and/or business development officer(s) to market URI intellectual property to companies and corporations.

Responsible for identifying product development funds and negotiating agreements.

Engage in fundraising.

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assist the Vice President for Research and Economic Development on other matters 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:

REQUIRED: Master’s degree in a STEM science field with three years of experience in the management of intellectual property and technology transfer, OR, a Bachelor’s degree in a STEM field with five years of experience in the management of intellectual property and technology transfer; Either three (with master’s degree) or five years (with Bachelor’s degree) of experience in a managerial role that includes fiscal planning and budgeting; Demonstrated professional experience with strategic management and commercialization of intellectual property; Demonstrated understanding of intellectual property protection and licensing; Demonstrated technical knowledge
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in research and intellectual property; Demonstrated experience with entrepreneurship and new company formation; Demonstrated leadership experience; Demonstrated strong verbal and interpersonal communication skills; Demonstrated proficiency in written communication skills; Demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups/populations; Demonstrated ability to work on multiple, complex transactions; Demonstrated experience in drafting and negotiating licenses and research agreements; Demonstrated experience in evaluating markets for commercialization; Demonstrated experience in identifying potential licenses; Demonstrated experience in implementing strategies to promote economic development through intellectual property transfer; and; Demonstrated general knowledge of state, federal, and private sector procedures and policies that affect commercialization of university-generated intellectual property.

PREFERRED: An advanced degree in one of the STEM sciences; USPTO registration; Demonstrated understanding of the key needs of both corporations and of faculty researchers; and, Demonstrated experience showing successful private and public fundraising for programs and projects.

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