

(This search ended in September, 2008, with the appointment of Robert Pearson, a former career Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State whose career included serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in France, United States Ambassador to Turkey, and Director General (head of human resources) of the U.S. Foreign Service.)

Job Announcement

IREX
President
(Washington, DC)

(Posted: June, 2008)

IREX in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a dynamic, visionary, and innovative leader to serve as president. This is an exceptional opportunity for a person with experience in international development at a senior level, expertise in one or more regions, and demonstrated fundraising and management skills.

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

The Organization

IREX is a rapidly-growing international nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. With a current budget of \$50 million and a staff of 500 (of whom 65 are based in the Washington, DC, headquarters), IREX carries out programs in more than 50 countries, mostly in Eurasia, the Middle East, and North Africa, and increasingly in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. The majority of funding comes from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development; additional funding comes from private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and bilateral and multilateral donors.

IREX was founded in 1968 as the International Research & Exchanges Board to administer education exchanges between the United States and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Over the past forty years, and especially during the past decade, IREX has grown significantly, both programmatically and geographically. For a detailed and up-to-date description of its programs, please see its website at www.irex.org.

IREX is governed by a 16-person board of directors, made up of individuals with distinguished careers in diplomacy, education, media, and other areas. The board chair is Avis Bohlen, a retired Foreign Service Officer who served as U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria and Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control.

IREX's president since 2000 has been Mark Pomar. He will leave the organization this summer to become president of the new U.S.-Russia Foundation, based in Moscow.

Principal Responsibilities of the President

The next president's most important responsibilities include:

1. Providing leadership, vision, and strategic direction to ensure that IREX remains a leader in the fields of education, civil society, and media development, while also ensuring continued institutional growth programmatically, geographically, and financially.
2. Maintaining strong and positive working relationships with key senior officials at current and potential funding organizations, including US Government agencies, private foundations, corporations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions.
3. Building strong, collegial relationships with other organizations (universities, NGOs, consultancies, etc.) that are current or potential partners in program implementation.
4. Motivating DC and overseas staff to continue to perform at the highest levels with creativity and dedication to the mission of IREX.
5. Maintaining strong relationships with key points of contact in Congress.
6. Ensuring that IREX is fully represented and participating in formal and informal advocacy networks for education, civil society, and media.
7. Supporting the board of directors as it carries out its governance responsibilities.

Desired Skills, Experience, and Personal Characteristics

To be successful, the president should be:

1. Committed to the importance and value of education, civil society, and independent media in the international development agenda.
2. A demonstrated leader with senior level experience in international development, ideally with expertise in one of IREX's core program areas – education, media, and civil society development – and field-based experience in at least one region where IREX is active.
3. Knowledgeable about United States Government foreign assistance priorities, programs, and funding mechanisms, including the appropriations process within the U. S. Congress.
4. A successful fundraiser, with a track record that includes having raised significant support from the United States Government and private sources.
5. A creative thinker, able to develop and implement strategic plans, harnessing the skills and creativity of a diverse multi-cultural and multilingual headquarters and field-based staff working in offices around the world.
6. An excellent communicator, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade funders, partners, staff, and other stakeholders to take action that helps IREX carry out its mission.
7. Able to develop a strong working relationship with the board of directors.
8. Able to travel domestically and internationally at least 15 to 20 percent of the time to visit projects, meet with staff, donors, and partners, and to attend key conferences and meetings that advance IREX's mission and strategy.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Compensation also includes a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply

Please e-mail:

1. cover letter that explains why you're interested and qualified,
2. resume, and
3. three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence)

to search consultant Larry Slesinger, Founder and CEO of Slesinger Management Services, at Larry@SlesingerManagement.com. Please include "IREX" in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only. All applications will be acknowledged promptly.

IREX is an Equal Opportunity Employer.