

This search ended in June, 2006, with the appointment of Sam Worthington, National Executive Director and CEO of Plan USA.

Job Announcement

**InterAction
President and CEO**

(Posted: May 17, 2006)

InterAction in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a strong, visionary, and experienced leader to serve as president and CEO. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual who is deeply knowledgeable about international development and humanitarian assistance, and has well-honed advocacy, fundraising, and management skills.

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

The Organization

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations. Formed in 1984, InterAction is made up of 160 members headquartered throughout the United States that foster economic and social development, provide relief to those affected by disaster and war, assist refugees and internally displaced persons, advance human rights, support gender equality, protect the environment, address population concerns, and press for more equitable, just, and effective public policies.

The mission of InterAction itself is to enhance the effectiveness and professional capacities of its members, and to influence public policy and the allocation of government resources. To realize this mission, InterAction:

- Provides a broad-based, participatory forum for consultation, coordination, and concerted action on key humanitarian and development issues;
- Mobilizes member organizations to carry out advocacy activities to reach the media, opinion makers, and Congressional and administration leaders to promote policies and adequate budgets for foreign assistance;
- Fosters the effectiveness and recognition of the PVO community; and
- Sets a standard of the highest ethics in carrying out its mission.

InterAction has a staff of 40 and an operating budget of \$5 million. Revenue comes primarily from member dues, foundation grants, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The staff is currently led by interim CEO Julia Taft, who was president and CEO of InterAction for several years in the 1990s and returned to the organization in April when the previous CEO left the organization. Ms. Taft will step down from this interim role as soon as a new CEO is appointed.

InterAction is governed by a 30-person board of directors, almost all of whom are CEOs of member organizations. The board chair is Charles MacCormack, president and CEO of Save the Children.

This recruitment comes at a significant time in the development of strategies to improve international engagement on issues of relief and development. The Administration's aid reform initiatives, efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and the call for accountability and improved impact of foreign assistance all place the nongovernmental community in an important position to influence and assist the quality of international engagement.

To learn more about InterAction, please see www.InterAction.org. The website includes the 2005 annual report and lists of its members and board of directors.

Principal Responsibilities of the President and CEO

Working closely with a strong and active board of directors, the president and CEO's most important responsibilities include:

1. Provide vision and support for the board's strategic planning process to identify key priorities that will guide InterAction's work over the next two to three years.
2. Oversee advocacy and public campaigns that maintain InterAction as a leading and effective voice for the NGO community on foreign aid policies, practices, funding levels, and accountability.
3. Establish strong working relationships with key government officials (especially in Congress, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the State Department), World Bank leaders, UN humanitarian and development officials, senior staff at private foundations that are active in international development and humanitarian assistance, and the 160+ CEOs from member organizations.
4. Raise money to fund InterAction's operations and new initiatives.
5. Enhance membership services through retention and recruitment strategies to ensure a responsive, service-oriented approach to meeting members' needs.
6. Advance InterAction's initiatives around standards, evaluation, and effectiveness within the international humanitarian assistance and sustainable development fields.
7. Manage the day-to-day operations of an InterAction staff of 40 in Washington, DC.
8. Serve as a media spokesperson and champion for InterAction and its members' work.
9. Support the Board of Directors as it carries out its governance responsibilities.

Desired Skills, Experience, and Personal Characteristics

To be successful, the president and CEO should be:

1. Deeply knowledgeable about international development and humanitarian assistance, including having an understanding of many of the key issues currently affecting InterAction members.
2. Knowledgeable about diverse membership organizations and how to seek common ground for collective action.

3. A successful fundraiser, with a track record that includes having raised significant grants from foundations and other donors.
4. Comfortable working with leaders at the highest levels of the U.S. Government (regardless of which political party occupies the White House or has the majority in Congress), and being able to win their respect and trust.
5. An excellent communicator, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade government leaders, funders, the media, and the membership.
6. Capable of leading the staff, which includes people with significant expertise and experience in international development and humanitarian assistance.
7. Able to develop a strong working relationship with a board of directors.
8. Able to travel, especially to member organizations, donors, and key conferences throughout the country and overseas.

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 "InterAction" in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only.

All applications will be acknowledged promptly.

(This job announcement can also be found at www.SlesingerManagement.com.)

InterAction is an Equal Opportunity Employer.