

(This search ended in June, 2002, with the appointment of Gordon W. Green, Jr., Chief of the Governments Division at the U.S. Census Bureau.)

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**Job Announcement**  
**Independent Sector**  
**Vice President for Research**

(Posted: March 12, 2002)

Independent Sector, based in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a dynamic leader with a strong background in research and in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector to serve as vice president for research. This position, part of the senior management team, fills a key leadership role at IS by directing a research program that develops and disseminates important new knowledge about the nonprofit sector. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled.

**The Organization**

Independent Sector (IS) is a national nonprofit organization that brings together the nonprofit and philanthropic community to promote giving, volunteering, and nonprofit initiative. IS's members include more than 700 of the nation's leading foundations, prominent and far-reaching nonprofits organizations, and corporations with strong commitments to community involvement.

IS was founded in 1980 with a mission to promote, strengthen, and advance the nonprofit and philanthropic community. IS achieves its mission by focusing efforts in four major program areas: public affairs (including public policy and communications); the meeting ground (bringing together nonprofits and grantmakers); emerging issues; and research. IS has a staff of 35, and an operating budget of \$7 million.

For more information about Independent Sector, go to <http://www.IndependentSector.org>.

**The Research Program**

The primary goals of IS's research program are to conduct research on giving, volunteering, and the nonprofit sector that will support public education about the sector; to encourage and sponsor research by convening researchers from other institutions, including the growing number of academic centers, to develop a research agenda; to translate research results into useful findings for practitioners and policymakers; and to disseminate broadly such findings.

**The Position and its Principal Responsibilities**

The vice president for research, who reports to Peter Shiras, the senior vice president for programs, will oversee a staff of six. Key responsibilities include:

1. Providing overall leadership and direction to the research program. This includes overseeing and managing the research and production of findings from IS signature projects, including the *Giving and Volunteering Survey* and the *Nonprofit Almanac*; overseeing and managing other major research projects including the Measures

- project, the teen volunteering survey, the religious congregations survey, and the web-based Nonprofit Pathfinder; and identifying new areas of research for the organization and new partnerships to encourage and sponsor new research consistent with IS's mission.
2. Developing and implementing, in partnership with IS's public affairs department, a strategic dissemination plan to reach key target audiences for IS research. This includes developing a new series of publications drawn from the IS signature products that translate research findings into practitioner-oriented, user-friendly formats; convening scholars, practitioners, and leading thinkers in the field for the biennial Spring Research Forum and other meetings to contribute new knowledge to the field; serving as the key spokesperson for the organization on issues related to research findings; and developing new collaborations with researchers, the practitioner community, and other partners.
  3. Helping to raise money to support the research program. The vice president will be expected to work closely with IS's vice president for membership and development to help raise grant support for the research program. Traditionally, the research program has been financed by a mix of project support as well as by a portion of general operating support and member dues.
  4. Leading the research program staff. The vice president will direct a talented and highly motivated staff of six researchers and two consultants engaged in a large portfolio of research projects, and a budget of \$1.6 million.
  5. Serving as a member of IS's senior management team. The vice president for research will be expected to participate in all discussions on key organization-wide strategic issues, and to insure that the research staff works collaboratively with all other departments within IS to inform their work on public education, public policy, and emerging issues.

### **Desired Skills, Experience, and Characteristics**

The ideal candidate should have:

1. A track record of success in scholarly research, including managing research with large data sets and a demonstrated understanding of survey methodology.
2. Success in publishing research results in both scholarly and general interest publications.
3. Knowledge and understanding of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector from both the research and practitioner perspectives.
4. The ability to interpret research findings and trends to media, policymakers, and practitioners as well as to scholars.
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
6. The ability to work collaboratively with many groups, to form partnerships with both academic centers and practitioners, and to be at ease in crossing the boundaries between the academic and practitioner worlds.
7. Strong management skills, including the ability to handle multiple tasks, meet deadlines, and lead and motivate professional staff.
8. Experience in fund raising from grant-making foundations.

9. Experience in a non-academic work environment that stresses collegiality.
10. A Ph.D., or equivalent in experience.

**Compensation**

Independent Sector offers a compensation package that is highly competitive with other Washington-area philanthropic organizations, including a generous benefits package. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**To Apply**

Please **e-mail or mail**: 1) cover letter, 2) resume, 3) one brief published writing sample, and 4) three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

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(attached files only in Microsoft Word or PDF)

(This job announcement can also be found at <http://www.SlesingerManagement.com>.)

Independent Sector is an equal opportunity employer.