Job Description - Research Director

REPORTS TO: President of The Peanut Institute

LOCATION: Albany, GA. Position may be able to work remotely; however, the first 6 months will need to be located in Albany, GA. Afterwards, the President of TPI can authorize remote workstation.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS: 20-25% Travel

OUR MISSION:
Doing our part in creating a healthier world... we grow awareness of the health and wellness benefits of peanuts and peanut products through targeted research and communication.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:
- We facilitate and monitor research that advances the scientific understanding of the link between peanuts and good health.
- We actively develop and promote the health and wellness messages of peanuts to targeted audiences.
- We balance our research and communication efforts based on a thoughtful review of need, resources, and potential impact.
- We are a strong voice for the health and wellness messages of peanuts, and we serve as a valued resource to our industry partners worldwide.
- We create and facilitate forums to ensure dialogue with manufacturers and other industry partners on health and wellness issues and consumer trends.

POSITION SUMMARY / RESPONSIBILITIES:
The Research Director will implement the research pillar of The Peanut Institute’s 3 year strategic plan. This includes the following job responsibilities:
- Managing the current research that is being funded by The Peanut Institute Foundation and any industry partners
- Develop and maintain relationships with leading scientist in the area of nutrition
• Monitoring nutrition research peanuts, tree nuts, and other protein foods to determine best fit for peanuts in new research
• Develop the agenda and materials for the annual Health and Wellness meeting
• Work with the research committee to develop a call for proposals based on industry and consumer needs for funding research on an annual basis or as approved by the board
• Update and manage the operational nutrition research library for peanuts such that is accessible through the website
• Work with The Peanut Institute Marketing Communications Director to develop key messages based on sound science for our communication platforms and our industry partners
• Attend all conferences as set forth by the board and be a nutrition resource for these meetings
• Maintain a seed variety data base on nutritional components to establish and/or maintain key nutrition claims
• Manage the Heart Check program with the American Heart Association
• Work with key industry partners to maximize research dollars and knowledge of peanut nutrition
• Monitor legislation and nutrition policy to allow The Peanut Institute to weigh in on proposed changes as well as evaluate nutrition coalition memberships that benefit the peanut industry
• Provide quarterly update on the research strategic plan
• Collaborate with other organizations

The position reports to the President of TPI and will be responsible for project work as assigned by manager.

A strong background in nutrition and research is preferred in order that this individual can fulfill the TPI research pillar of the strategic plan. This position will work closely with the Marketing and Communications Director of TPI to determine appropriate health and wellness messaging.

QUALIFICATIONS:

• Master’s degree or higher (Preferably in nutrition/food science preferably with peanut/tree nuts experience 3-5 years). The ability to understand and disseminate key research findings.
• A proven ability to cultivate and maintain positive working relationships with people at all levels inside and outside of the organization.
• Maturity, professional demeanor and personal discretion to interact with business leaders.
• Independent decision-making and problem solving skills with the ability to develop solutions in a logical and systematic way.
• Excellent communication skills emphasizing listening, writing, and speaking succinctly, clearly and effectively.
• Excellent organizational skills with attention to detail and follow-up.
• Demonstrated ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines.

BENEFITS:

This position offers a complete benefit package, including 401K, pension, health, life, vision, and dental insurance.

Relocation assistance is available with this position.