

NEST International Programs Director

Job Description

Job Title: NEST International Programs Director

Position Summary:

The Rice 360° Institute for Global Health, at Rice University, through its innovative research and education programs develops highly effective, low-cost technology solutions that address critical healthcare challenges in low-resource communities, as well as a cadre of future leaders to continue to innovate and implement solutions. The Neonatal Essential Solutions and Technologies (NEST360) initiative led by Rice 360° has developed a program model to sustainably deploy a bundle of technologies to enable quality, comprehensive newborn care in hospitals in sub-Saharan Africa. In partnership with an international group of engineers, physicians, health experts and entrepreneurs from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Sub-Sahara Africa, Rice 360° has launched the NEST program in Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Rice 360° is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the position of NEST international programs director. The NEST international programs director, under the supervision of the Rice 360° executive director and the faculty directors Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum and Dr. Maria Oden, will serve as a team leader for the NEST360 international research project and in-country implementation program efforts being implemented in Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria. The NEST international programs director, based in Blantyre, Malawi, will: serve as the primary representative of Rice 360° for NEST360 in sub-Saharan Africa; work in tandem with NEST360 initiative leadership and in-country partners to ensure successful execution of the NEST360 research project; provide high-level oversight and tracking of the implementation of the NEST programs in Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria against timelines and milestones; provide Rice 360° country directors, who serve as NEST360 country liaisons, guidance to ensure accomplishment of all NEST360 activities in line with critical timelines and deadlines; contribute to periodic technical and financial reporting to granting agencies and sponsors; and ensure that all activities are in line with the Rice University and Rice 360° mission, policies, principles and operating practices. She/he will have extensive interaction with external stakeholders, including NEST partner organization representatives in each country of work, non-governmental organizations, private industry partners, the U.S. government and African government agencies.

The ideal candidate has extensive experience managing large-scale integrated programs for healthcare in the developing world and/or health technology design for low resource settings—preferably focused on maternal, neonatal and child healthcare within Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and/or Nigeria—, with a record of demonstrated leadership and accomplishment on a grant funded, multi-sector project with academic, government and private sector partners, experience working in a multi-cultural environment and is willing and able to live in Blantyre, Malawi and travel internationally, particularly across sub-Saharan Africa.

Education Required: Master's Degree

Specify Concentration / Degree Type: Public Health, Social Sciences or related discipline

Substitution for Education Requirement: Experience may not be substituted for the education requirement.

Education Preferred: Doctoral degree in medicine, public health, social sciences, or related discipline

Experience Required: 6 years

Specify Type of Experience:

- Experience in a field related to healthcare research in the developing world, LMIC health systems program implementation and/or health technology design and development for low resource settings.
- Related experience in a leadership role in the implementation, management, and scale-up of complex projects/programs in a low-resource setting, including project planning, scheduling, tracking, team building, and supervision of a diverse and multi-cultural staff, with demonstrated achievement of programmatic results.

Substitution for Experience Requirement: Education may not be substituted for the experience requirement.

Experience Preferred: Ten (10) years of:

- Progressively challenging experience in managing grant-funded multi-country programs/projects, including developing standard operating procedures and guidelines, budgeting, financial compliance, and progress reporting
- Experience with multi-sector international development programs/projects
- Experience in managing large-scale integrated programs/projects in the areas of maternal and neonatal health and/or medical technologies for low resource settings
- Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa, preferably in Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and/or Nigeria

License/Certification Required: None

License/Certification Preferred:

Skills Required:

- Superior verbal and written communication skills.
- Excellent collaborative, judgement, leadership, negotiation, problem solving, and critical thinking skills with attention to details and willingness to take initiative

- Excellent project management skills
- Proven ability to create, monitor and adhere to budgets
- Knowledge of information management, knowledge management and publication management
- High proficiency and comprehensive knowledge of project management including the proven ability to predict and evaluate potential risks and to create solutions before they arise
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent organizational skills to plan and schedule timeline
- High comfort level making independent decisions

Skills Preferred:

- Fluency in English
- Demonstrates Rice 360° Core Values: Innovation, Equity, Community, Integrity, Accountability, Empowerment and Transformation

International Public Health Program Management

- Extensive working knowledge of health systems and public health in the developing world
- Proven ability to create, monitor and adhere to work plans and budgets

Multi-Institution/Country/Function Program Competency

- Ability to productively engage and influence cross-functional teams
- Demonstrated resilience, diplomacy, influence, relationship building, and problem solving skills in a variety of situations
- Ability to work in a complex and high-paced environment

Clinical Research Management

- Working knowledge of clinical trials and experience conducting fieldwork in public health research projects
- Knowledge of information management, knowledge management and publication management

Measurement & Evaluation

- Demonstrated ability to design and implement monitoring and evaluation systems
- Data analysis skills, including knowledge of biostatistics, epidemiology, and econometrics

Fiscal Responsibilities: Provides financial oversight to ensure that that NEST360 in-country expenditures are in line with approved project budgets

Supervisory Responsibilities: Provides oversight, leadership and support to the team of Rice 360° country directors, who serve as the NEST360 country liaisons, for Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya, as well as the cross-country NEST360 training directors, central QI coordinator and distribution specialist.

Internal / External Contacts:

- Internal: Contact with Rice 360° students, staff, and faculty.
- External: Contact with academic collaborators, healthcare providers, private industry partners, funding agencies and foundations, nongovernmental and governmental officials.

Physical Demands: Requires working at a computer for extended periods of time (up to 8 hours per day).

Working Conditions:

- Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, with occasional weekend/evening work
- Based in Malawi, with frequent travel across the country to various program sites
- Frequent international travel to Tanzania, Nigeria, and Kenya, as well as to Rice 360° headquarters in Houston

Essential Personnel: Position is not considered essential during a campus emergency

Essential Functions:

- Leads the daily activities, including staff, project development, data collection and data analysis defined by timeline and within budget
- Hires and provides oversight, mentorship, and professional development to staff / student workers
- Responsible for budget management and financial forecasting and oversight of both
- Creates, oversees, and supervises others in maintaining and communicating with research respondents across multiple projects
- Oversees and contributes to the day-to-day activities of the project and research office functions
- Performs all other duties as assigned

Additional Functions

- Communicates regularly with and serves as a link between NEST360 initiative leadership and NEST program team leads in Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya
- Follows and facilitates overall NEST360 implementation progress against milestones, making contingency plan recommendations, helping to prioritize decisions that need to be made and work that needs to be done, and trouble-shooting issues that arise
- Contributes to periodic technical and financial reporting to granting agencies and sponsors, including ensuring submissions are prepared well in advance and executed by required deadlines
- Builds and maintains Rice 360° and NEST360 relationships with academic and clinical, collaborators, private industry partners, funding agency representatives and non-governmental and governmental officials in sub-Saharan Africa
- Establishes and fosters excellent working collaborations with key stakeholders and partners, such as the Ministries of Health, UNICEF, and USAID
- Supports the establishment and management of a Rice 360° subsidiary network of local non-governmental organizations in sub-Saharan Africa
- Maintain regular communication with the Rice 360° headquarters and country offices