JOB POSTING

Vice President of Agriculture

ABOUT US

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle envisions a hunger free community. We feed our neighbors, teach self-sufficiency, grow healthy food, and cultivate innovative approaches to end hunger. As a member of Feeding America, the Food Shuttle distributes over 8 million pounds of food per year, 26% of which is fresh produce. From Senior Grocery Bags, Backpack Buddies and School Pantries; to Community Health Education and Mobile Markets; Catering and Culinary Job Training; and Community Gardening and a 14-Acre Farm; we go directly to the point of need to empower people and overcome the burden of hunger.

The Vice President of Agriculture is responsible for all aspects of the Food Shuttle Agricultural Programs and operations to ensure the timely execution of all activities. This position will be expected to contribute to the Resource Development goals that includes coordinated solicitation of grant opportunities upwards of $50k. The VP of Ag will be responsible for leading and positioning the Ag Department working within the strategic plan framework to advance IFFS’s mission in thought leadership space in coordination with the Senior Leadership Team. The scope of the position includes all aspects of crop production overseeing volunteer activities to ensure program goals are met.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop strategies and contribute to all areas of the AG team including planning, prospecting, and cultivation, new business development, donor deliverables, board solicitation, and reporting.
- Cultivate collaborative partnerships with external Agricultural entities such as NCDA, USDA, NC Extension, NCFB, etc.
- Oversee the Farm and Community Garden operations, including, maintenance, infrastructure builds, maintenance, and programming.
- Develop production, operational standards, and goals, maintaining all food safety and food handling practices in accordance with USDA, GAP, and Feeding America compliance standards.
- Develop and oversee an annual operations budget for department.
- Work collaboratively with multiple departments to do forward planning for harvest, produce donations, sales activity and results and oversee the creation and maintenance of record-keeping mechanisms that track them.
- Plan, coordinate, and oversee all aspects of Food Shuttle Agricultural operations, including volunteer resources, field preparation, planting, cultivation, pest control, harvesting, produce processing, packing, sales, storing and transporting as necessary
- Manage communication of schedule of monthly/weekly tasks to the Food Shuttle Ag team (staff, interns, and volunteers) including seeding/transplanting/harvesting dates, livestock chores, soil amendments, and other duties
- Communicate safe, efficient methods of all aspects of agricultural operations and protocols with management, staff, interns, and volunteers
Coordinate with Food Shuttle Food Production & Distribution and Culinary departments to arrange post-harvest handling and methods of efficient and safe distribution of farm produce.

Attend and participate in all departmental, staff and development meetings, reporting progress and collaborating across departments for more effective programming.

Represent and promote Food Shuttle and Food Shuttle agricultural programs at local events, workshops, meetings, conferences, etc.

Assist in tasks necessary to achieve specified production, revenue, and volunteer goals for the Agricultural division of the Food Shuttle. Ability to create and maintain interdepartmental collaboration to assist in reaching goals is required.

Additional duties, projects, and activities as assigned by the CEO.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Bachelor’s Degree in agriculture, business administration or related discipline, or equivalent in work experience.
- Master’s degree preferred with 10+ years’ experience in successful agricultural leadership with a track record for building diverse programs that are multi-faceted and multi-year in nature.
- Must have progressively responsible work experience in planning, managing, and initiating relationships between private and non-profit sectors, especially within the agricultural industry.
- Experience with production planning, field preparation and cultivation, and organic weed and pest control principles are preferred.
- At least five years of management experience, especially in agricultural environments is required.
- Very strong ability to multi-task and balance projects at various stages simultaneously.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Able to solve problems or overcome issues quickly and creatively.
- Passionate about eradicating hunger.
- Proven ability to work steadily and independently with minimum supervision.
- Ability to work positively with a team.
- North Carolina Driving License and clean driving record.

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

- **Persuasive Communication:** Conveys clear and effective messages using verbal and written communication within individual, small group, and formal presentation settings. Communicates project/strategic priorities and updates to key stakeholder audiences that may include board, staff, network food bank members, donors, and other groups.
- **Building Collaborative Relationships:** The ability to develop, maintain, and strengthen partnerships with others inside or outside the organization who can provide information, assistance, and support.
- **Translates Strategy to Operational Goals:** Constructs project plans aligned with organization and department strategies and priorities. Makes data- and fact-based decisions aligned with department and organizational strategy. Translates project goals into SMART team and/or individual goals consistent with overall department strategy.

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

Work is value, goal and deadline oriented with frequent interaction with volunteers. Computer work is expected, with extended hours as needed. Frequent, potentially heavy physical work in the outdoors, in all weather conditions and temperatures can be anticipated.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Must be able to lift 40 pounds.
DIRECT REPORTS
Farm Production Manager; Community Garden Manager

COMPENSATION
$85,000- $90,000 Annually, based on skillset/experience

TO APPLY
Please send resume and cover letter to recruiter@FoodShuttle.org

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We respect and seek to build a team of individuals from diverse cultures, perspectives, skills and experiences.