

Director, Virtual and Self-Directed Professional Learning

Start Date: July 1, 2019
Team: AF Accelerate
Location: Brooklyn, New Haven or flexible

About Achievement First and AF Accelerate:

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 charter school management organization, operates 36 public charter schools in Brooklyn, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. We know that every child—regardless of race, zip code, or economic status—deserves access to great schools. Achievement First currently educates more than 13,300 students in historically underserved neighborhoods, with over 90% of our students identifying as Black or Latinx. For more information about the Achievement First mission, model, our schools and team, please visit our website at www.achievementfirst.org.

AF Accelerate, a division of Achievement First, shares what Achievement First has learned about how to build high-achieving schools that help low-income students succeed. We partner with educators across the country, bringing the same focus and tools that have propelled our own success, to help improve outcomes for ALL of America's children. *AF Accelerate* works with entrepreneurs who are starting their own charter networks and with traditional district schools, putting 60,000 students on the path to college and plans to scale to impact the outcomes of 150,000 students in the next 5 years. All of our work is based on Achievement First's open source materials, available on the AF website, creating nearly limitless reach. For more information on AF Accelerate and our open source website, please visit www.achievementfirst.org/AFAccelerate and www.achievementfirst.org/resources.

Summary

In order to scale in a cost-efficient way while maintaining strong outcomes for our partners, *AF Accelerate* is looking to harness the insights about self-directed and personalized learning from K-12 education and in many other fields and apply these to support program participants' learning. Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director of Virtual and Self-Directed Professional Learning will be responsible for designing and implementing this core piece of *AF Accelerate's* scaling strategy. The Director will translate the high-level vision into a strategy and timeline including managing the build out of a library of SDL modules to be used in our core programs and creating a plan for live virtual coaching of our partners. This is a unique opportunity with lots of growth potential to take the lead on a key element of strategy for an organization that is transforming the way that we think about how to translate success from one organization to many others.

Responsibilities of the Director of Virtual and Self-Directed Professional Learning will include but are not limited to:

Design and build the self-directed learning strategy to support the professional development of AF Accelerate partners

- Outline the strategy, timeline and project plan for building our library of SDL modules, starting with our Navigator program, which will scale from 30 to 150+ schools in the next 3 years.
- Research and select the platform to house the SDL library.
- Work with internal and external instructional experts to develop module content.
- Select and manage consultants in areas such as learning design and videography.

- Build partnerships with like-minded organizations, such as Relay, to build SDL modules in areas of common interest.
- Work with Achievement First core staff to identify how the investment in the SDL strategy could support AF's internal training needs.

Research, select and implement a solution for high-quality, seamless virtual visits to program partners

- Research existing services, such as Swivl, to determine the best fit for program needs or whether we will need to design our own solution.
- Manage implementation of technology across partners.
- Develop training for the AF Accelerate team on implementation.
- Work with Achievement First core staff to identify how the investment in the virtual visit strategy could support AF's internal coaching needs.

Serve as the owner of the open source website

- Maintain and expand content on AF Accelerate's open source website, which is completing year 1 of a 2 year redesign.
- Collect and analyze data from registered users about usage and needs to help prioritize future content development.
- Coordinate with Achievement First's Chief of Staff, who owns internal knowledge management, to ensure we are fully leveraging the most up-to-date information from AF for our open source site.
- Respond to user support requests, manage users and accounts, and optimize search and the functionality of the site.

Skills and Characteristics

- Ability to develop and manage toward long-term strategy, while executing on short-term needs
- Belief in and passion for the potential online learning can have for scaling what works
- Excellent personal organization, project management, and time management skills, including ability to manage time across multiple projects and priorities
- Ability to thrive in a complex, entrepreneurial environment and to build a program from the ground up
- Flexibility; ability to work autonomously as well as take direction when needed
- Belief in the Achievement First mission and educational model
- Maturity, humility, strong work ethic, sense of humor, and "roll-up-my-sleeves" attitude

Educational Background and Work Experience

- Bachelor's degree. Master's or other advanced degree preferred, though not required
- A minimum of 5-7 years relevant work experience
- Experience designing and leading practice-based professional development and cohort-based learning
- Experience building online learning experiences in the education setting

Position will require some travel, depending on candidate's home location.

Compensation

Salary for this position is competitive and commensurate with experience. Additionally, Achievement First offers a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply

Send resume and cover letter to:

Laina Vlasnik Yip
Director of Partnerships and Recruitment
lainavlasnikyip@achievementfirst.org

Achievement First is an equal opportunity employer and an organization that values diversity. People from all diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Spanish language proficiency is a plus. You can learn more about diversity at Achievement First here: <http://www.achievementfirst.org/about-us/diversity/>.