

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The Science Source for Food,
Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

The [Council for Agricultural Science and Technology \(CAST\)](#) is a nonprofit organization established in 1972 and headquartered in Ames, Iowa. CAST is seeking an Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer (EVP/CEO) to advance CAST's mission as a leader in science communication, maintaining its strong publishing reputation, increasing public visibility and impact, and leading strong fundraising efforts to insure and sustainably manage the organization's financial resources.

The EVP/CEO reports to the Board of Directors (BOD) and serves as the chief brand ambassador, a nonvoting member of the BOD and the Board of Representatives, the legal representative of CAST, the editor-in-chief for CAST publications, and supervisor of the CAST staff.

The EVP/CEO provides visionary leadership to the organization and will work with staff and the board of directors to manage operations and projects necessary to implement and operationalize CAST's strategic goals:

1. Produce quality and relevant information in a timely manner for our stakeholders.
2. Strengthen our communications with stakeholders through social media and other means.
3. Maximize the value of our products to our stakeholders.
4. Build a strong financial base for the long-term stability of CAST.

Preferred start date is May 2023.

About CAST

The mission of CAST is to convene and coordinate networks of experts to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible, unbiased, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. Its membership is composed of scientific and professional societies, universities, companies, nonprofits, libraries, and individuals. Organizational members whose contributions qualify for full membership are invited to select and sponsor a member on the Board of Representatives to participate in CAST Work Groups.

CAST fulfills its mission through publications, projects, and sponsored activities designed to communicate the latest scientific research on food, agriculture, and environmental issues to the nonscientist. The primary work of CAST is the publication of papers highly regarded as a source of science-based information written and reviewed by volunteer experts—economists, legal experts and scientists from many disciplines. Webinars and briefings by authors of the publications, a weekly e-newsletter, social media, and educational resources for students are additional communication activities intended to educate and increase understanding of nonscientists and the general public on the use of science and technology in the production, processing, and utilization of food and fiber. CAST will continue to investigate and implement new formats for communication as appropriate to keep pace with the stakeholders we seek to inform.

EVP/CEO Responsibilities

- Provides visionary and strategic leadership to expand CAST's impact and explore the creation of programs and products to carry out the CAST mission.

- Responsible for fiscal management, oversight, and fundraising to ensure resources are available to support operational needs
- Public face of the organization to cultivate relationships with members and key stakeholders. This requires interactions with congressional offices, federal and state agencies, board members, scientific organizations, and industry and consumer groups.
- Coordinates CAST staff to accomplish initiatives and activities including publication of scientific papers, communication through social media, and membership stewardship
- He or she will be expected to travel (20% of time), work closely with the CAST Officers, represent CAST as needed, and perform other duties as assigned by the CAST President or Board of Directors.

Qualifications, Desired Skills, Characteristics, and Competencies

Candidates will ideally have the following characteristics:

Nonprofit Organizational Management and Visionary Leadership:

- Ability to develop and implement a broad vision in collaboration with others
- 5+ years' experience leading within a nonprofit organization. Experience with agricultural industries or organizations is also preferred.
- Proven understanding of financial and membership management.
- Experience with generating new sources of revenue to support the mission. This includes new and long-term revenue streams and sustainable grants, planned giving, and endowments.

Networking and Relationship Building:

- Established wide networks of contacts in government, federal and state agencies, relevant commercial companies, universities, and/or scientific societies. Experience with lobbying or working with congress would be a plus.
- Ability to develop staff and board members to cultivate relationships and build/incorporate networks to benefit CAST
- Ability to lead efforts to maintain and strengthen current memberships; gain new members; and create new alliances, partnerships, and collaboration with other organizations in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors that will help CAST advance its mission.
- A keen interest and ability to interact, work harmoniously and effectively with a diverse range of individuals and organizations.
- Ability to attract, develop, and motivate professional staff; members of the Boards of Directors, Representative, and Trustees; and authors and reviewers of publications.

Communication

- A passion for science communication. Ability to understand/speak the language of ag science; staying connected with current trends and new research
- Excellent written, spoken, social media, and presentation skills in English
- Ability to effectively address elected officials, agency personnel, media, and diverse stakeholders.

Education/Background

- A college degree in a relevant field, with knowledge of agricultural, environmental, and food sciences being a plus.

Compensation

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the Midwest region of the United States. A benefits package is included.

To Apply

For full consideration, send via E-mail a letter of application addressing pertinent qualifications and detailed work experiences; résumé; and names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of four professional references.

Review of applications will begin November 1 and continue until the position is filled. The search will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification document form upon hire.

Please send applications to:

Melissa Sly, msly@cast-science.org

Please direct inquiries about the position to:

Anna Dilger, President, adilger2@illinois.edu

Additional information about CAST is available on its website: www.cast-science.org

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CAST is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer