Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives

Position Statement
August 2023
STUDENT U IS SEEKING A
Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives

Do you believe in the power of education to build a just and equitable community? Do you have strong people and team management skills with a proven track record of creating processes and systems for large groups to collaboratively achieve ambitious goals together? Are you ready to transform Durham, NC?

Are you Student U's Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives?

Student U seeks a Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives who believes in the power of education, advocacy, and leadership to build a just and equitable Durham.

To apply visit https://studentudurham.org/apply/
A Durham where all students succeed.

At Student U, we believe that every person is worthy of opportunities that allows for growth throughout their educational journey. Within an educational system that fails to allocate resources equitably, we see brilliant students and engaged families who know that they’re capable of incredible things—and we walk alongside them. To break the cycle of poverty and help shape a new future for our city, we support first-generation students through middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

Student U empowers and equips first-generation college students in Durham Public Schools, their families, and educators to become the leaders that will positively transform our city. It supports this transformation by combining three key elements: a whole-families approach to college access and success programming; sharing best practices in education; and a commitment to supporting student- and family-led advocacy and change efforts in our city. Together these strategies are creating a Durham where all students succeed.

We have 10 classes who have graduated from high school and are now succeeding in or have graduated from college.

Student U Student Population:

- 79% Middle and High School Students Enrolled in DPS
- 83% Qualify for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch
- 66% First-Generation College Graduates

THE WORK

What will you do as Student U’s Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives

- Reporting to and working closely with the Executive Director, the core function of the Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives position is to provide strategic and fiscal leadership to Student U’s full-time team, ensuring organizational goals, revenue, and financial systems are well-defined and regularly evaluated, and building Student U’s earned revenue strategy, including through dissemination activities.
- The Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives will serve as a member of the organization's Leadership Team and directly supervise the Associate Director of Operations and the Finance & HR Manager. This person will be a key communicator connecting the Leadership Team with the broader organization and integrating work streams that may otherwise remain siloed.
- In 2020, Student U unveiled a new mission statement and three defined core approaches listed above. In the Director of Finance and Strategic Initiative's first year, a large emphasis will be placed on continuing to develop the strategy and capacity for sharing our best practices within Durham and beyond. This focus area may change as Student U and the role evolves and new projects develop.

Why Student U?

Student U is a community-driven by our core values with a shared common goal: to use the power of education to build a just and equitable Durham. At Student U, we believe that each member of our community makes a unique contribution to collectively create the conditions that would lead to a just and equitable Durham.

The Student U community consists of nearly 550 students from 6th grade to college graduates and their families. Student U is governed by a 19-person Board of Directors and has 22 full-time and 70 part-time employees with an annual operating budget of $3,800,000. Student U’s revenue is fairly distributed from foundations, individuals, corporations, government, and earned revenue sources. To learn more about Student U visit: www.studentudurham.org.

Could you be Student U's Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives?

Key experiences, attributes, and skillsets sought in the Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives:

- Strong people and team management skills with a proven track record of creating processes and systems for large groups to collaboratively achieve ambitious goals together.
- A genuine interest in and a passionate commitment to the mission and vision of Student U and the ability to articulate this to various groups of stakeholders.
- Bachelor's degree in business, finance, or other finance-related field required.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in a comparable leadership role at a mission-driven entity.
- Experience overseeing financial and operational workings at a mission-driven entity.
- Exceptional verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to establish strong rapport with donors, Board of Directors, and Student U team members.
- Engaging public speaking and presentation skills with the ability to create and deliver clear, persuasive and compelling communications.
- High level of integrity, excellent judgment, and the ability to demonstrate optimism, resilience, and adaptability.
- High level of initiative, resourcefulness, and productivity with strong organizational and project management skills, exceptional attention to detail, and strong problem-solving skills.

To apply, click on the link to the Student U Director of Finance and Strategic Initiatives position profile at studentudurham.org/apply

Salary and Benefits: Salary being offered for this position is $75,000. Student U offers a comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, vision and dental insurance, and an employer match to a 403(b)-retirement account. In addition, Student U offers annual dedicated wellness funds and professional development funds for each employee.

Anti-Discrimination Policy: Student U is committed to fostering an inclusive culture within our organization where people from various backgrounds can participate fully and equitably, as we want to engage all those who can contribute to our mission.