

Job Announcement

Executive Director



The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) is seeking a full-time Executive Director. The KHC Executive Director (ED) is responsible for carrying out the organization's mission of elevating and advancing horticulture in Kentucky. This is an exciting time to work at KHC and be part of a dynamic, growing industry, managing existing relationships and identifying new ones across horticulture industry segments. The ED leads a team of 3 staff members who support the state horticulture industry and are a resource for information and education for growers, business owners, and the public to promote a thriving industry. Board and staff members are bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to our work, with the team working to instill and promote a clearer commitment to and awareness of the horticulture industry in Kentucky. KHC welcomes applicants who think creatively to help the organization be the best industry partner possible.

The Position

- Lead an agricultural nonprofit organization entering its 23rd year of providing state-wide support to the horticulture industry of Kentucky;
- Develop KHC's relationships with growers, businesses, member organizations, and stakeholders across Kentucky to identify opportunities for increasing production and market literacy and reducing production and market barriers;
- Report to a 13-member board of directors who provides oversight on mission, financial health, fundraising and development, and performance;
- Communicate with growers, business owners, stakeholders, funders, and the general public to help them understand KHC and the industry segment's role in the agricultural economy of Kentucky;
- Manage all administrative functions of KHC, including staffing, financial and project reporting, organizational and project budgets, insurance, among other duties;
- Represent KHC at meetings, conferences, and other professional activities to advance KHC's programs and priorities and to promote Kentucky's horticulture industry;
- Cultivate strong partnerships with other organizations, agencies, educational institutions, funding entities, and prospective and current growers and business owners;
- Oversee programs and projects of KHC, including the overall communications strategy, administrative support to member organizations, and collaborative event planning for member organizations and industry partners.

Qualifications

- Commitment to the mission and values of KHC and to the horticulture industry of Kentucky, with a willingness to learn proactively about the different existing and emerging industry segments;
- 10+ years of experience in the horticulture industry, including specialty crop (ornamental and food sectors) production and marketing;
- Master's degree in horticulture, plant science, or relevant field or significant industry experience;
- Experience building relationships and fostering alliances to accomplish goals;
- Experience managing people, projects, and budgets, including familiarity with grant writing and reporting;
- Strong work ethic with ability to work independently, flexibly, and with good humor;
- Ability to handle multiple assignments and meet deadlines while paying attention to accuracy and detail;
- Excellent written and oral communications skills;
- Ability to work from a home office leading a remote team;
- Ability to travel, valid driver's license, and access to private vehicle (significant in-state and occasional out-of-state travel is expected).

Additional Information

The KHC Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors. Compensation will be based on education and experience. KHC is an equal opportunity employer committed to maintaining a diverse staff and we look forward to receiving applications from a diverse pool of candidates. To be considered for this position, send a resume and cover letter to info@kyhortcouncil.org no later than June 30, 2024. Questions regarding the positions can be submitted to this email address as well.

The Kentucky Horticulture Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



The Kentucky Horticulture Council is a 501(c)-5 non-profit organization established to support horticulture member organizations within the Commonwealth. KHC organizes educational programs, coordinates research initiatives, promotes development of markets, and influences policy to benefit new and existing specialty crop growers and green industry business owners in Kentucky. We are supported primarily through grant programs, including funds provided by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.