

Saide Executive Director

Are you committed to transforming education policy and practices to open equitable and meaningful access to knowledge, skills and learning for all?

Do you thrive on finding innovative solutions using appropriate strategies and technologies?

Do you choose to lead well, are you highly professional, enjoy new challenges and are committed to social justice?

Who we are

Registered in 1992 as a public benefit organization, we (www.saide.org.za) are a well-established organization, with a small dynamic and professional team, complemented by a network of consultants. We are based in Johannesburg but conduct initiatives across sub-Saharan Africa.

We contribute to the development of new models of opening learning across different modes of provision, using appropriate tools and technologies, that accord with and take forward the values, principles and goals of social justice.

We act as an advocate, catalyst, and facilitator to innovate, transform and extend educational provision from an open learning perspective, across all education sectors and levels.

Since inception, we have developed and sustained an excellent reputation for the quality and effectiveness of our work, and for our ability to manage a remarkable diversity of large scale, ongoing and shorter term, collaborative educational projects.

What we do

We are in a unique position to convene networks, to provide advice on the planning and implementation of programmes using different modes of provision, to develop and evaluate courses and learning materials; and coordinate efforts to attain access and success.

We offer a wide-range of services (www.saide.org.za/#services) to educational policy-makers and providers in the region, across all education sectors, from ECD through to tertiary education. These services include learning design mediated by technology for large scale provision, development and sharing of educational resources, mobilization of partners in educational transformation, instituting quality assurance processes, and contributing to educational policy from an open learning perspective.

Our current flagship initiatives include

- our ground-breaking African Storybook initiative (www.AfricanStorybook.org) boasts a platform of over 4 000 openly licensed picture storybooks. It is used in over 15 countries, with over 230 languages of Africa represented using our translation tool. In addition to reading storybooks in local languages reflecting local contexts, we have apps to download storybooks for use offline and to create storybooks while offline;
- acting as the backbone organization for the Siyaphumelela (www.siyaphumelela.org.za) network of 17 South African universities. Working collaboratively with the universities, we develop capacity, create and offer services, tools and systems to promote student success on the basis of evidence;

- OER Africa (www.OERAfrica.org), launched in 2008, to encourage the creation and use of open educational resources in higher education in sub-Saharan Africa. Over the years, we have also coordinated the development of a number of openly licensed courses for higher education, available on the OER Africa website. We are now engaged in developing a repository of professional development OERs for academics, librarians and senior managers.

Our prospective Executive Director will be responsible for:

- leading the positioning and strategic direction of *Saide*, its profiling and promotion, and advancing its high reputation across educational sectors, levels and regions;
- ensuring *Saide's* organizational health and financial sustainability through the tireless winning of commissions, contracts and grants;
- sustaining *Saide's* distinctive environment of productivity, project-based team-work, collegiality, professionalism, and support;
- actively providing strategic support and managerial and operational guidance to the project leaders;
- proactively supporting the Board of Trustees' functioning and effectiveness; and
- ensuring that all legal, human resources, health and safety, and financial requirements are met.

We are looking for someone who:

- is able to lead with the vision, drive, emotional intelligence, and tenacity required to continue and widen the organisation's successful undertakings, while building on what it has achieved;
- is able to identify and take up educational project opportunities and respond with insight of the dynamics and linkages within the system;
- values and actively encourages participation and collaboration, both within the organisation and as a part of our initiatives;
- has the ability to delegate, and to inspire team leaders to get the best from their project teams;
- will ensure that systems for sustainability and effectiveness are maintained and strengthened;
- brings fairness and empathy to steering the complexities of the organisation's distinctive non-departmental matrix structure.

Requirements

- Relevant tertiary qualification of at least degree level
- Extensive experience (ideally 10-15 years) in educational NGO leadership, especially of leading teams and initiatives
- Written and spoken fluency in English. Being able to communicate in other South Africa languages is an advantage
- Preparedness to work in Johannesburg and travel within Sub Saharan Africa.

If you believe that you 'fit the bill', please prepare a one-to-two page written motivation giving evidence of why you believe this, and send it, together with a CV and the names and contact details of three work-related referees, *via email to:* vacancies@saide.org.za, by **23 October 2023**.

Remuneration will be commensurate with skills and experience.