

## Now Seeking: Professional & Researcher Committed to Catalyzing Education Innovation For focus on research, assessment, and collaborations

### Position: Education Innovation Research Practitioner

#### **Job Description Overview**

*Acera's mission is to transform education; enable learning at schools to be purpose-filled and engaging to students' innate drive and curiosity. As Education Innovation Research Practitioner, you will lead point with scientific partners and academic institutes to galvanize and bring alive research and revised assessment practices within both Acera School in Winchester (a lab school setting where we pilot test and prove evidence-based pedagogy and learning approaches) and AceraEI (Acera's outreach arm which partners with public school districts to support implementation of pilot-tested tools and educational approaches in ways that align with districts' goals). Past and current Acera collaboration and research collaborators and partners have included Boston University Social Learning Lab, Tufts Center for Engineering Education Outreach, MIT Media Lab, Brigham & Women's Hospital and One Brave Idea medical innovations institute, and Harvard Graduate School of Education.*

*Job is based in Winchester, MA. Please send resume and cover letter to [hiring@aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@aceraschool.org).  
[www.aceraschool.org](http://www.aceraschool.org)*

#### **Who We Are:**

##### History & AceraEI Priority Projects

Acera is a bootstrap start-up school which has gone from an idea (in 2009) to a progressive elementary and middle school program with 132 students in our school day program, and 550 students who attend our summer enrichment programs. AceraEI is our nonprofit outreach arm focused on leveraging the lab school setting of Acera to catalyze change in public education. AceraEI has lead projects including:

- Catalyze Whole School Change: We have a 3 year whole school partnership with a K-8 urban school in Lowell, MA
- Engage Students Curiosity and Sense of Purpose, Nationally: Launch of AceraEI Tools to Transform Schools via partnering with public school districts
- Re-invent Life Science Education: Define a new set of units and path for HS Biology which links learning to real-world innovations, with free professional development workshops for biology teachers
- Re-define the Purpose of School: Shift the national conversation about schooling through implementation of new measures which prioritize students' authentic growth, schooling experience, and support a shift to evidence-based educational practices

##### Our Mission

We envision a world in which schools engage students in meaningful learning, in which teachers are freed as entrepreneurs in their classrooms, and in which students can become the best version of themselves, given each students' unique capacities, needs, and passions. The Acera school day program provides students with unbounded access to learning, offering gifted students opportunity according to their ability not age. We keep alive students' innate curiosity and love of learning. We also partner with organizations beyond our walls, creating programs rich in science, technology, engineering, creativity and the arts. We operate both as a lab school and a microcosm of what is possible for other schools. We seek to grow students' emotional intelligence and enable them to become the best version of themselves. Our mission, across our core school day program, enrichment programs and within our partnerships, is to develop the next generation of innovators, leaders and creative thinkers who can make a positive impact in the world.

#### **Job Description:**

Acera is looking for a skilled thought leader with passion, high energy, and a commitment to progressive education. If the thought of working at a non-profit where you can have a big impact gets you excited, then Acera needs you! This key role requires someone whose passion for our mission and community will help us build and improve our novel pilot programs within our school which can be shared with public education, and new ways to make progressive learning goals visible and valued by the world beyond our walls. We seek to find and define effective and scalable assessment tools which can be offered to school districts nationally, which catalyze a new conversation around the purpose of education.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

##### **RESEARCH PRACTITIONER & COLLABORATION MANAGER**

**1. Initiate and manage research partnerships** and collaborations with Institutes and Labs, working with our AceraEI Education Innovation team. **2. Support launch of research programs and assessment** which will enable on-going interconnection between our practices each day and our vision to be a lab school program which pilot tests curricula and ways to measure growth in capacities (instead of knowledge and basic skills acquisition) such that these norms for operation of school programs can be expanded beyond our walls. **3. Publish and build brand and thought leadership influence for Acera** through presence on a larger stage of research and education innovation, through white papers, conference participation and presentations, social media, blogs, and beyond. Working with our administrative team focused on network expansion and growth of partnerships and our education innovation center to achieve a common message and reputation.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL SUCCESS DASHBOARD

**1. Work with team to define and test ways to measure students' growth in core capacities**, enabling us to make learning visible both to Acera parents and to the community beyond our walls, as a way to show our programs' effectiveness and impact and to influence adoption of new pedagogy beyond our walls. Partnering with our Director of Public School Programs, define and measure the impact of AceraEI's work at Pyne Arts School in Lowell, MA. These assessments will be key as we seek to partner with public school districts, engage in professional development with public school teachers, and partner with other organizations;

**2. Lead point and identify ways to assess efficacy of our programs**, generally, and particularly our novel educational approaches, curricula, and pedagogy which we hope to share out with public education, working collaboratively with teachers and the education innovation team;

**3. Understand and build organizational habits and strategies to show how the evidence within neuroscience and psychology maps to educational approaches.** Have ability to implement assessment practices, partnering with our Director of Faculty and teachers, to show how Acera's learning approach aligns with evidence based practice from psychology and neuroscience (not on educational habits of the past ) and how it enables student learning and growth.

#### Skills & Background:

- Ph.D. in science or developmental psychology is ideal
- Skill in critical thinking, data analysis, assessment, and ideally also educational pedagogy
- 3+ years of work experience
- Superior organization, professionalism, and follow through skills
- Ability to facilitate and support new ways of thinking within groups
- Superior written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent Power-point skills, meeting presentation and facilitation skills
- Mac proficiency
- A bring-it-on, can-do, let's make it happen, whatever it takes attitude and a kind heart, thoughtful mind and generous spirit
- An authentic love of children and excellent skills to communicate with them in a patient, kind, and respectful manner even in the face of exuberance or upset
- Belief in progressive educational approaches and ideals
- See challenges as opportunities for invention. Positive, the "glass is half full" orientation; Able to manage conflict to create satisfying resolutions
- Flexibility to step in, help out, roll up sleeves, and do what it takes as part of a collaborative team; Thrive in a busy, ever- changing environment

#### Salary & Benefits

- Salary commensurate with experience. Full time, year-round position.
- 4 weeks of paid school breaks. Full time year-round employees are also eligible to accrue up to 80 hours of paid vacation time per year.
- Health and dental benefits, SIMPLE IRA, available.

#### Application:

- Please submit cover letter, resume, education philosophy, and description of your previous experiences in high intensity environments to: [hiring@Aceraschool.org](mailto:hiring@Aceraschool.org)

**Anticipated start date:** Once hired.

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

*Acera is committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, pregnancy, gender, sexual orientation, marital/civil union status, ancestry, place of*

*birth, age, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or disability as defined and required by state and federal laws.*