The University of Southern California seeks to hire an exceptional Executive Director (ED) to head the USC Stevens Center for Innovation. Supporting the university’s strategic goal of “scholarship with consequence,” USC Stevens leads university initiatives that empower USC faculty and students to maximize the impact of their research and scholarship by creating successful relationships with investors, corporations, and other private entities, as well as initiating start-up companies.

The ED will be responsible for increasing the breadth and scope of private sector engagements that lead to the adoption and use of university generated inventions, software, and other innovations. The ED will also help in the recruitment of transformational faculty to the university by ensuring that USC supports their translational research efforts through a full array of services, including development for corporate sponsored research, intellectual property management, patenting, licensing, mentoring and translational funding as well as assistance with spinning out university technologies (building management teams, securing facilities, writing business plans and fundraising). To do this, the ED will lead an office with approximately 30 technology translation professionals, leveraging entrepreneurs-in-residence, student interns and external mentors, ensuring a strong focus on customer service. The ED will reach out to private sector partners and inspire and motivate faculty to pursue translational research. Reporting to the Vice President for Research, the ED will ensure that USC Stevens provides a staff with strong technical training coupled with the ability to translate research concepts into marketable products.

The ED should have outstanding managerial and interpersonal skills along with a proven track-record in business development, including building an IP pipeline and rapidly negotiating and executing successful deals for licensing, start-up creation, and corporate sponsored research. The ideal candidate will have experience working both in the private sector (such as venture capital, technology firm, pharmaceutical industry or corporate research lab) and within a university or large research institute that promotes involvement of faculty members in commercialization. Technical training in the sciences, medicine or engineering is desired, along with advanced training (or equivalent experience) in management or law. Though supported by others in this capacity, the ED should have experience negotiating the terms and conditions for university generated licenses and sponsored research. The ED should also have a wide network of business contacts to facilitate forming new relationships at the university.

The University of Southern California is a member of the Association of American Universities and, with more than $600 million in annual research expenditures, is one of the leading research universities in the country. USC’s strengths in the information sciences and biomedicine are reflected in the Information Science Institute, the Institute for Creative Technologies, the Integrated Media Systems Center, the Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems Center, Annenberg Innovation Laboratory, Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute and the Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Alfred Mann Institute at USC. USC is also a world leader in the cinematic arts, earthquake science,
marine biology, entrepreneurship and many other fields. USC Stevens is an endowed center, supported by a generous donation from Mark and Mary Stevens.

Interested applicants should send a C.V. and cover letter explaining their interest in the position to Randolph Hall, USC Vice President of Research, at uscvpres@usc.edu with the subject line: “USC Stevens Executive Director”. Nominations are also accepted at this same address.

The University of Southern California is an Equal Opportunity Employer that Value Diversity