

President & CEO





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

PRESIDENT & CEO

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

Thrive is the economic development partnership for the eight-county Madison Region with a vision to create a dynamic environment where people and businesses prosper. Thrive was formed in 2007 at a time when our region was experiencing unprecedented population growth and the region's businesses were faced with competition from every other region in the country and around the world.

People and businesses thrive in the Madison Region because business growth and quality of life go hand-in-hand. Our diverse economic base is driven by an entrepreneurial, creative, and educated workforce which draws upon the region's greatest assets: highly ranked schools, world-class healthcare, enriching cultural attractions, and an abundance of natural resources.

Thrive works in the spirit of collaboration to ensure resources are available to the people and organizations that do business here, helping the region continue our tradition of delivering first-rate products and services to the world.

We are committed to:

- Providing businesses and communities with efficient access to capital.
- Growing the industries and sectors that comprise our region's greatest assets.
- Informing smart decision-making by delivering valuable research and data.
- Collaborating across communities to share best practices and promote our region.

We create value with initiatives that focus on long-term, sustained results aimed at building the region's competitive advantage while preserving and enhancing quality of life.

The Madison Region is comprised of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk Counties.

ABOUT ADVANCE NOW:

The Advance Now Strategy was designed and developed as a unifying tool to bring the Madison Region's constituents together to create a new kind of economic development strategy for growth and competitiveness. The Strategy represents the input and vision of thousands of stakeholders from across the eight counties. This Implementation Plan represents a call to action for the key organizational and individual stakeholders in the Madison Region, based on the five goal areas of Advance Now.

This strategy is organized into five interconnected goal areas meant to take the Madison Region to higher level of capacity, cooperation and competitiveness over the next five years:



While this process was initiated by Thrive, it was done on behalf of all of the Madison Region, its numerous communities within the eight counties, and Thrive's many partners. Hence, the Advance Now Strategy is a strategy for the entire region and not a single organization. It will require the commitment of many partners throughout the community in order to be successfully implemented.

ABOUT THE POSITION:

The President and CEO of Thrive will be a proven, highly-skilled leader in the field, with extensive experience implementing comprehensive community and economic development strategies and bringing diverse local leaders and constituencies together in a public-private partnership for sustainable success. The President and CEO will demonstrate the highest levels of integrity, honesty, and openness to create strong and enduring relationships with key leaders in the local, county, state and federal arenas.

RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Effective implementation of the Thrive Advance Now strategy, including carrying out the first-year work program and confirming subsequent annual work programs.
- Understanding the competitive dynamics of best practice community and economic development programs, including an equal focus on competitiveness dynamics, existing business retention/expansion, nurturing small businesses and entrepreneurs, and effective external marketing and recruitment.

- Working closely with representatives of the eight counties in the region, cities and economic development departments, local chambers of commerce, elected officials and other relevant organizations and groups, to advance the Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- Serving as a key advocate and partner for regional-focused efforts in the arenas of quality of life, education and workforce, land use, transportation and infrastructure capacity development, and community sustainability practices.
- Creating and effectively leading a focused and dedicated team that is committed to the development and execution of highly effective programs and partnerships.
- Serving as the organization's principal spokesperson to ensure that a strong communications effort is in place that meets internal and external needs.
- Monitoring and evaluating on a regular basis the organization's financial status and taking appropriate actions to ensure its fiscal sustainability.
- Serving as a tireless promoter of the eight-county Thrive region, its population, assets, and businesses to local, regional, statewide, national, and international audiences.
- Advocating to local, county, statewide, and federal governments for projects and investments that further the Thrive region's competitive capacity.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

DESIRED EXPERIENCE:

- The preferred candidate will have a minimum of seven to ten years of experience in a top leadership position preferably at a local or regional community and economic development organization.
- Professional certification (CCE, IOM, CECD) preferred.
- Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred.

COMPETENCIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Exceptional leadership and management experience with a proven, measurable track record of success in a highly regarded economic development non-profit or governmental organization. This individual must be able to clearly demonstrate how those organizations prospered as a result of his or her leadership and direction.
- Enlightened vision and approach for economic development activities coupled with experience in a similar organization with a scope and complexity that is commensurate with Thrive's new program of work through Advance Now.
- Demonstrated success cultivating and maintaining effective working relationships with elected officials, the business community, partners, staff members, and the general public.
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills (e.g., listen to others' opinions, approachable, able to communicate effectively to a variety of constituencies and audiences; effective communicator in public forums).
- Demonstrated success in developing, managing, and leading employees.
- Exceptional fundraising ability.
- Experience working with complex economic, political, and financial issues and a thorough understanding of public policy dynamics.
- Strong understanding of issues and needs facing rural and urban areas and knowledge of regional opportunities, assets, issues and challenges.
- Goal oriented visionary with an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Superior strategic planning, analytical and administrative capabilities.
- Ability to influence people without direct authority (strong public relations skills; ability to work with diverse groups and perspectives).

JOB LOCATION:

Located in South Central Wisconsin, Madison is the capitol city of Wisconsin. Madison is a Midwestern research and technology university city. The Madison Region's strong quality-of-life factors include one of the healthiest regional economies in the United States; urban, suburban and rural living options; low commute times; a wide range of restaurant, nightlife, entertainment and shopping venues; nationally acclaimed public university and public secondary school systems; Big Ten athletic events; rich cultural, recreational and outdoors offerings; and favorable cost of living.

Madison, Wisconsin consistently earns top results in nationwide quality-of-life rankings, articles and surveys. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.thrivehere.org/>

THRIVE IN THE NEWS:

To view recent coverage of Thrive's Advance Now initiative, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/bukf6mu>

<http://tinyurl.com/czar9bf>

For consideration, please send cover letter with salary expectations and a resume to:

**QTI Professional Staffing
Attention: Paige Goldner
Thrive-here@gstaff.com
608.232.2650
608.663.4830 fax**

