



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title

Science, Research, and Regulatory Programs Director

Summary of Position

This position assesses and manages research needs, and provides strategic leadership to AmericanHort and the affiliated Horticultural Research Institute's (HRI) multi-faceted research program relating primarily to the production, handling, marketing, installation, and successful performance of nursery and greenhouse plants and landscapes. The position also provides leadership to associated regulatory advocacy and issue management initiatives in areas such as crop production, plant health, and environmental sustainability.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Provides primary staff leadership toward fulfilling the research and development mission of HRI, including directly funding and influencing research, and results/impact communication and outreach.
- Manages the HRI research portfolio and researcher relationships for projects funded through the HRI competitive grants program.
- Primary responsibility for the HRI grants process, including developing requests for proposals (RFPs) for the competitive grants program and any special research initiatives; reviewing grant submissions; and overseeing the project review and final selection processes.
- Serves as primary research liaison for HRI in its research collaborations with land grant universities, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and other relevant agencies.
- Brings thought leadership to results and impact communication and outreach for research funded by HRI and through the Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative (FNRI). Contributes industry input as needed on relevant agency program reviews.
- In coordination with the AmericanHort industry advocacy and research team, explores and develops other relationships, funding sources and means for accomplishing directed research in collaboration with public and/or private interests.
- Supports Research Programs Administrator and volunteer leaders in designing and executing HRI endowment development and fundraising.
- Provides strategic leadership and ongoing management of regulatory initiatives that closely link with related research initiatives.
- Sources and develops content on regulatory initiatives and HRI and partner research goals and results for AmericanHort and HRI print and electronic media, outreach to the industry, and HRI's donors and partners.
- Maintains current working knowledge of the state of the research being conducted for the nursery and greenhouse industry and encourages coordinated and collaborative efforts among research providers to minimize duplication of effort and optimize research impacts for the industry.
- Represents industry research needs and status of our research initiatives and collaborations at professional scientific convenings (ASHS, APS, Floriculture Research Alliance, etc.).

Relationships

This position directly reports to the Senior Vice President, Industry Advocacy and Research.

Internal Relationships – Works directly with the Industry Advocacy and Research staff team and collaborates with other AmericanHort staff teams as needed.

External Relationships – HRI and AmericanHort leaders and members, Federal government agency scientists and regulators, university researchers, relevant professional societies, and related research and horticultural industry organizations.

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