

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Director of Research and Technical Activities

(Norwalk, CT) The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is seeking candidates to serve as its Director of Research and Technical Activities. This position reports to the GASB Chair, is the leader of the GASB staff and is the principal advisor to the GASB Chair and other GASB members. Candidates must have a passion for the GASB mission, a dedication to servant leadership and deep technical knowledge of state and local government financial accounting and reporting.

The GASB members are appointed by the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) an independent, private-sector organization with responsibility for the oversight, administration, and finances of its standard-setting Boards, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and their Advisory Councils.

The GASB mission is to establish and improve standards of state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting that will result in useful information for users of financial reports, and guide and educate the public, including issuers, auditors, and users of those financial reports.

GASB fulfills its mission through the standard setting process by establishing and improving financial accounting and reporting standards—known as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP—for state and local governments in the United States. The Director of Research and Technical Activities has a critical leadership role in the overall management of projects on the GASB’s technical and research agendas, GASB project related communications and interaction and engagement with stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities for the Director of Research and Technical Activities Position

1. Lead, direct and monitor 25 staff members’ work on all technical accounting projects on the GASB board technical agenda and considering topics (in conjunction with the GASB members) for the future agenda. Ensure that detailed project plans, priorities, and timetables are consistent with the goals and priorities identified by the Board and recommend changes when appropriate. Leadership and management skills must promote a positive workplace culture and a collaborative, team-oriented approach.
2. Ensure quality control review of all draft documents (including board memos, due process pre-ballot/ballot drafts and documents, pre-agenda research activity proposals, project prospectuses, and others) for completeness and technical accuracy.
3. Oversee the technical inquiry process including quality control of GASB staff responses, issue resolution and review and documentation of issues with a mindset of fostering continuous improvement.
4. Hire, train, assign, and evaluate performance of GASB staff; ensure appropriate development of staff for purposes of professional growth, promotion, and succession planning. Seek opportunities to coach staff members to realize their potential.
5. Represent the GASB as a spokesperson on technical issues at a variety of speaking engagements, authorship of articles and other publications, and responses to press

- inquiries. Serve as a primary GASB liaison with key stakeholder groups (such as AICPA, IPSASB, NASACT, GFOA, and others).
6. Oversee development of GASB/GASAC budget for the review and approval by the GASB Chair before submission to the FAF Board of Trustees.

Required Skills and Experience

1. Extensive experience with state and local governmental financial accounting and reporting, and its practical application in the state and local government environment.
2. Detailed technical knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments and the conceptual framework.
3. Broad general knowledge of private sector accounting standards, including conceptual framework, and international standards, including governmental standards.
4. Thorough understanding of the management functions of planning, budgeting, organizing, and directing activities to accomplish results and increase efficiencies.
5. Demonstrated leader with a servant leadership approach in managing, developing, motivating, and mentoring high-performing staff.
6. A critical thinker with the ability to analyze problems, identify key issues, and offer constructive alternatives where appropriate.
7. Excellent written and oral communication skills, with the ability to communicate complex messages across a variety of audiences.
8. A strong listener who is open-minded to alternative views and able to reconcile divergent views. Have a record of open, engaged and inclusive interpersonal skills. Demonstrated ability to build strong working relationships with stakeholder groups both external and internal.

In addition, candidates should possess a minimum of 15-20 years of experience (senior management level) in a public accounting firm, university, government agency or comparable organization. A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or business administration is required. A CPA is strongly desired. Extensive involvement with the accounting standard setting process (for example, task forces, advisory committees, or GASAC membership) is highly valued.

The GASB Director of Research and Technical Activities is a key leadership position in the GASB organization. The FAF offices are located in Norwalk, Connecticut and the successful candidate will be expected to relocate to the Norwalk region within a reasonable amount of time. Qualified candidates are encouraged to indicate interest as soon as possible by contacting the recruiter, Heidi Voorhees, President of GovHR USA at HVoorhees@govhrusa.com or via telephone at 847-902-4110. Application materials, including resume, cover letter and contact information for five professional references should be submitted online no later than October 30, 2020 to www.GovHRjobs.com.

The FAF is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable federal, state, and local fair employment practices laws. The FAF strictly prohibits and does not tolerate discrimination against employees, applicants or any other covered persons because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity or expression, marital or civil union status, sexual orientation, genetic information, citizenship, military service, mental or learning disability or physical disability, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state, or local law. All Employees are prohibited from engaging in unlawful discrimination. This Policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, training, promotion, discipline, compensation, benefits, and termination of employment.

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