

SPENCER FOUNDATION

Senior Vice President

The Spencer Foundation invites nominations and applications for a two-year Senior Vice President (SVP) position. The SVP will serve as a thought partner to the President in shaping the Foundation's strategic directions toward achieving transformational and impactful educational research, helping to guide the work of the organization and its staff, and representing the Foundation in its interactions with the larger research and philanthropic communities.

WHO WE ARE

Our Legacy & History

In 1938, [Lyle M. Spencer](#) founded Science Research Associates (SRA), the educational publishing firm that provided the basis of his wealth and ultimately made possible the creation of the [Spencer Foundation](#). An educator and researcher, Spencer formally established the Foundation in 1962. The Foundation received its major endowment upon Spencer's death in 1968 and began formal grant making in 1971. Since that time, it has made grants totaling over \$500 million and is focused exclusively on supporting education research. Motivated by the belief that education research is integral to improving education and the desire to make education systems more equitable, the goals of the Spencer Foundation are to:

- Invest in education research that is transformative, methodologically rigorous, and helps create a better society;
- Support high-quality education research training;
- Broaden the diversity of scholars and scholarship in education research;
- Strengthen the impact of education research for improving education practice; and,
- Make education research more accessible to public audiences.

Our People

As the Foundation's governing body, the [Board of Directors](#) focuses its work on issues related to mission, strategy, goals, and fiscal oversight. The Board of Directors approves an annual budget for awards and grants and maintains the [fiscal health and strength](#) of the Foundation. Led by President Na'ilah Suad Nasir, the [foundation staff](#) supports the review of over 1600 proposals annually, oversees Spencer events and outreach, and provides administrative management. Together, the Foundation and its Board have strengthened and enriched the Foundation's focus on educational inequality and the impact of educational research to practitioners and systems of education.

Our Values

The Foundation maintains a professional and friendly work environment that produces and promotes high-quality work; believes in the capability, dependability, and value of colleagues, including their commitment to the mission of the Foundation and the unique contributions brought to the collective work; and demonstrates a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to help ensure that varied perspectives and approaches contribute to success.

WHAT WE FUND

The Spencer Foundation is committed to high-quality, innovative education research that is rigorous, relevant, equitable, collaborative, and transformative. Spencer-funded scholars are expected to adhere to the highest ethical principles, which include engaging in best practices and acknowledging professional expectations advanced by the broader academy, the education research community, and by scholars' disciplinary expertise.

The Foundation provides funding for research that supports rigorous, intellectually ambitious, and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education. The Foundation values work that fosters creative and open-minded scholarship, engages in deep inquiry, and examines robust questions related to education. Research grants support scholarship that develops new foundational knowledge that may also have a lasting impact on policy-making, practice, or educational discourse.

In addition, through Dissertation and Postdoctoral Scholar programs, the Spencer Foundation plays a significant role in providing [training opportunities](#) for education scholars to develop new foundational knowledge and to conduct research that supports better policy-making, practice, and deeper engagement with the public. We also engage in a wide range of field-building activities, which create opportunities for generative research ideas to emerge in communities of scholars.

WHO WE SEEK

The Senior Vice President will share the Spencer Foundation's values and a profound commitment to investigate ways in which education, broadly conceived, can be improved around the world. The SVP will support and work closely with President Nasir and the Spencer team to strengthen its current program of work and to deepen the Foundation's work toward research impact. More specifically, the SVP will:

- Lead the program operations of the Foundation, including ensuring equitable and optimal grantmaking and engagement with the field, leading decision meetings, and supervising program staff members;
- Engage with President Nasir and the Board of Directors on future directions and opportunities;
- Work with the senior leadership team to develop and steward Foundation internal practices and policies, including the development of the annual budget;
- Represent the foundation at national meetings and in a range of communities of scholars;
- Co-develop strategic initiatives aligned with Foundation priorities; and,

Position Specification | Storbeck Search

- Translate Foundation goals into priorities and individual and organizational performance measures.

Desired Qualifications and Characteristics

The exciting professional opportunities in this role come through connections with people. The successful candidate will partner with colleagues and be a thought-leader in the field who implements innovative practices and research initiatives. In addition, the next SVP will possess the following experiences, capabilities, and personal attributes:

- An appreciation for, and capacity to thrive in, a learning-oriented environment;
- A rigorous scholarly record of publication in education research;
- Proven track record of mentorship of students and junior scholars;
- Strategic thinker that can address both short-term and long-term goals; and,
- Strong administrative leadership experience.

The next SVP will join the Spencer Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, for a period of two years, possibly on leave from a tenured faculty appointment and preferably at the rank of Full Professor. A PhD is required for this position.

For best consideration, please send all nominations and applications – electronically and in confidence – to:



**Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Global
Education Practice Lead and
Managing Director**
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For more information, please visit The Spencer Foundation's homepage:
<https://www.spencer.org/>.

Employment opportunities are available to all applicants without regard to race or ethnicity; age; socioeconomic background; gender identity and expression; sexual orientation; national origin; religion; ability or disability status; marital, civil union, or partner status; past or present military service; family history or genetic information; family or parental status (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions); as well as other dimensions of diversity.