

Leadership Opportunity at Thaden School

Director of Institutional Advancement

Bentonville, Arkansas

In July 2015, the Walton Family Foundation announced the founding of a new independent school in Bentonville, Arkansas. Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator born and raised in Bentonville, the school opened in the fall of 2017 and has grown steadily on the strength of its nationally recruited faculty and exceptionally strong tuition assistance program. The school now serves approximately 250 students in grades 6-12; enrollment is expected to reach 525 students in grades 6-12 over the next 10-12 years. The school now seeks an experienced director of institutional advancement to work with the head of school and the board of directors in expanding the school's base of support and in developing and implementing strategies for achieving financial independence.

About the School and the Region

A co-educational non-sectarian independent school, Thaden offers a challenging and innovative educational program that ignites in its students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship. The school will graduate its first class of 28 students this spring.

At the core of the school's mission is a commitment to balance that takes many forms: a curriculum that integrates the sciences and the humanities; indoor and outdoor teaching spaces where sustainability is a tangible part of the lesson; hands-on programs for civic engagement; athletics and physical education programs that build confidence and character through competition and meaningful participation; and a diverse faculty and staff that empower students to think deeply and expansively about their potential and place in the world. The school's remarkably well-resourced tuition assistance program (and need blind admissions policy) further supports the creation of a balanced learning community where many perspectives, talents, and interests come together.

Located on a 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the school is walking distance from the town square, Brightwater Culinary Institute, the Momentary (a new contemporary arts museum and performance space), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and a variety of other educational resources. With the support of the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program, the school engaged a nationally renowned team of architects to design an enduring and innovative campus that will spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and invite reflection. The construction of the campus will be complete before the school commences its fifth academic year in 2021. The school serves students from all parts of the growing and diverse region of [Northwest Arkansas](#), which includes Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville, where the flagship campus of the University of Arkansas is located.

Please visit the Thaden [website](#) for further information regarding its mission, leadership, faculty and staff, educational programs, and campus plan as well as recent news releases.

Responsibilities

Reporting to the Founding Head of School, the Director of Institutional Advancement will provide vision, leadership, and coordination in creating an inclusive and innovative culture of giving that broadens the school's base of philanthropic support and good will across multiple constituencies. In particular, the Director's responsibilities will include the following:

- Working with the Founding Head and the Board's Advancement Committee to build a strong and innovative culture of giving across multiple constituencies, inside and outside of the school community.
- Identifying, researching, and cultivating current and prospective donors at all levels, including corporations and foundations as well as individuals.
- Establishing data systems for current and prospective donors and, pending the engagement of additional support staff, maintaining giving records in accordance with best practices.
- Overseeing the stewardship of all gifts, including the preparation of grant reports.
- Providing reports and analysis of the results of advancement efforts.
- Working with parent volunteers on fundraising initiatives and events.
- Attending school events, including parent and donor functions on weekends and evenings.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Founding Head of School.

Qualifications

- At least five years of experience in a comprehensive advancement office, including annual giving, solicitation of major and planned gifts, corporate and foundation grants.
- Ability to articulate and generate excitement for the mission of Thaden School.
- Ability work with a highly diverse school community.
- Knowledge of principles, methods, and practices of the fundraising profession.
- Knowledge of research techniques and resources in philanthropy and nonprofit organizations.
- Experience in fast-paced work environments that require versatility and resourcefulness.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent writing, speaking, and presentation skills (experience in communications a plus).
- Experience with Raiser's Edge preferred.
- Discretion and skill in the handling highly confidential information.
- Bachelor's degree.

Applications

Applications should include a resume and cover letter that addresses salary requirements, if any. Applications must be submitted to our online portal for [Thaden School Job Opportunities](#) by April 30 for full consideration. The start date is negotiable but must be no later than July 1, 2021.

Thaden is an equal-opportunity employer and complies with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, citizenship, age (18 or older), religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, and sexual orientation. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups, including women and people of color, are encouraged.