**Research Assistant Professor and Project Manager** – based in San Diego, CA area

**Institute for Applied Research**

**Tufts University, Medford, MA**

**Department Overview**

The Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development is a laboratory within the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts University. The Institute has the mandate and goal to be a center of excellence for the conduct and dissemination of top-tier scholarship and for the education and professional development of graduate and undergraduate students interested in and passionate about enhancing the lives of diverse children, families, and communities through the application of developmental science.

**Position Description**

The Research Assistant Professor will work with Dr. Richard M. Lerner, the Bergstrom Chair in Applied Developmental Science, and the research team to provide leadership in the planning, implementation, and analysis of person-specific and multivariate longitudinal data for various research projects undertaken by the Institute. In particular, the employee will be responsible for designing and implementing a plan to instantiate all aspects of the Cajon Valley Union School District (CVUSD) project. This role will be based in the San Diego area and will require frequent in-person meetings with staff in the Cajon Valley Union School District, located in El Cajon, CA. Members of the research team will be primarily based on the East Coast. The candidate must be comfortable managing and working with a team remotely.

This multi-year pioneering, groundbreaking project is a collaboration between the CVUSD and the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development (Richard M. Lerner, Ph.D.) and Turnaround for Children (Pamela Cantor, M.D.). The work includes foundational concepts associated with a dynamic, whole-child approach to learning and thriving for every young person across the school years and across the life span. This project will illuminate how this conceptual foundation provides the frame for equitable whole-child design of education settings; it will explain the implications of equitable whole-child design for personalized (student-specific) practice; and it will provide for a transformation in the approach to measurement of each student’s academic achievements, 21st Century Skills, well-being, and the contexts of learning and thriving.

This person will play a central role in the development and communication of high-quality research, assessment, and data analytics related to whole-child design and person-specific measurement. A person with experience working in/with schools is of great interest as is the ability to translate complex research to inform program, school, classroom, and student instruction. The candidate will be the primary liaison with the team at CVUSD and Turnaround for Children and will oversee a needs assessment of
whole-child development programming and assessment within the district, translate and interpret data to inform instruction and district goals, conduct in-service training and workshops, and present findings to multiple audiences. Other duties include preparing reports to funders, writing grant proposals to expand the research, and other duties as assigned.

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated individual able to work efficiently and productively in a fast-paced, multifaceted research environment. The candidate should be able to work successfully as a team member on some project goals and independently on others. They should be able to assume a mentoring role for students. The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of extension for an additional 2-4 years, made on a year-by-year basis, dependent on funding. Travel for project meetings and conferences is required. An ability to work independently, while also remotely managing a research team based on the East Coast, is important. Some evening work will be required.

**Years of related experience:** 2-5 years of experience

**Required education:** Ph.D. or Ed.D.

**Required computer skills:** Working knowledge of SPSS, Excel, Mplus, R

**Other:** Initiative, problem-solving skills, multi-tasking skills, time management skills, and excellent collegiality and collaborative skills are needed. The person must be able to serve the multiple constituencies of the Institute—funders, youth, parents, schools, and programs with which we work, and the scientific community in ways that are efficient, productive, ethical, and of the highest quality. The person must be able to take a leadership role and responsibility for their area of work and, at the same time, contribute as part of a scientific leadership team, to the work of other staff and students. The person must be able to travel for project meetings and conferences and able to commit to a flexible schedule, including early mornings or evenings to accommodate East Coast-West Coast collaboration.

**Preferred Qualifications**
The preferred candidate will have a doctorate in a field related to developmental science. Two to five years of postdoctoral experience is preferred. Experience working with or in schools is strongly preferred. A record of published scientific research, complex data analysis skills (including the utilization of SPSS, Mplus, R, and Access), advanced methodological skills, scientific writing skills, scientific presentations skills, and the ability to prepare and present complex information to varying audiences are ideal. Qualitative data collection and analysis experience is a plus. Ability to prepare and present complex information to varying audiences. Successful experiences in
grantsmanship, in longitudinal, multivariate research, in scientific publication and speaking, and in managing large quantitative and qualitative scientific projects is preferred.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

❖ Create, in partnership with others in the Institute, strategic plans for the CVUSD research project to ensure that scientific goals are met. Play a leadership role in the design and execution of the overall collaboration with CVUSD and partners, implementation of a needs assessment, data collection design and process, and data interpretation and presentation. 40%

❖ Serve as the primary liaison to the school district and partners, which involves in-person meetings and in-service training at the district. Interpret and translate data findings at the program, school, classroom, and student level to inform instruction and district goals. 40%

❖ Identify publication opportunities, develop and draft manuscripts, represent the Institute at scientific conferences and other meetings where the work of the Institute is being presented. 10%

❖ Mentor graduate, undergraduate, and volunteer students in appropriate research design and methodology, work to balance the educational needs of the students and the needs of the project by being attentive to the interests of the students. 5%

❖ Identify new grant opportunities and play a lead role in the writing and submission of grant applications. Participate in meetings with funders or other collaborators. 5%

Please send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, 2-3 publications, and the names and contact information of three references to: Heidi Johnson, Managing Director, heidi.johnson@tufts.edu