



Date: April 5, 2021

Job Description: Technical Director

Background

Founded to prevent injuries and death as a result of avalanches, AIARE – The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education – has become the leading provider of avalanche training courses in the United States. AIARE serves professionals working to protect public safety as well as backcountry recreationists, both mechanized and self-propelled. AIARE's mission is to save lives through avalanche education.

Since 1999, AIARE has trained more than 1,000 instructors who have taught more than 50,000 students worldwide. Today, over 450 qualified AIARE instructors offer courses to more than 12,000 students each year. AIARE course providers supply backcountry users at all levels of experience with the knowledge and tools necessary to assess and manage the risks inherent in backcountry travel. To this end, AIARE pursues partnerships and alliances that promote winter recreation and public safety.

AIARE's goals are to:

- Provide high quality education regarding the risks of work, travel, and recreation in avalanche terrain.
- Produce the curriculum, training, and tools with which to educate students about the knowledge, methods, and decision-making skills necessary to travel in avalanche terrain.
- Cultivate an international network of professional avalanche educators by providing instructor training and continuing professional education.

Position Summary:

The AIARE Technical Director is a fixed retainer position of approximately 10 hours a week, with additional hours during the spring planning and fall training sessions. The Technical Director provides technical oversight of AIARE's Recreation and Professional programming including but not limited to curriculum review and development, student evaluations, course quality, Instructor Staff training, risk management practices. The Technical Director works closely with AIARE's Executive Team and Education Committee, to ensure AIARE is continuing to lead the avalanche industry in curriculum development, program execution and instructor education.

**Reports to:**

Executive Director

Job Description

The Technical Director is engaged throughout the avalanche and risk management industry and brings in the expertise, experience, advice, and research of many organizations and individuals. The Technical Director provides technical leadership to AIARE by working in collaboration with AIARE Executive Staff as well AIARE's Education Committee to provide technical direction to AIARE as a curricular and training organization.

The Technical Director provides technical oversight to the organization's risk management guidelines and training curriculum and is expected to provide leadership in collaboration with industry organizations to develop and further industry best practices and standards.

Primary Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Advise AIARE on best practices, provide monitoring, evaluation, and advice on topics such as emerging technical issues and standards, curriculum standards, risk management & messaging, and industry issues.
- Provides advice to the AIARE Executive and staff on matters, guidelines and standards that relate to AIARE educational programs including public avalanche awareness initiatives, recreational and professional education, and AIARE course leader and instructor training.
- Work with AIARE staff to provide direction and coordination in the development of projects related to educational curriculum, materials, and programs.
- Facilitate continuing professional development programming for AIARE Instructor Staff including annual presentations to Trainers at the pre-season training and contributing articles to newsletters and AIARE communications.
- Connect program development to current research including snow & avalanche science and educational research.
- Attend AIARE BoD meetings as a staff representative to speak to technical or industry wide issues.
- Engagement with delivery of the programs for which they are advising including AIARE 1, AIARE 2, Rescue, PRO 1, PRO 2, ITC, CLT.



Compensation and Scope of Work

The Technical Director is retained by an annual fixed stipend of \$15,000 that accounts for the outlined annual calendar and regular as-needed basis by the Executive Team and Board of Directors.

The Technical Director is expected to meet with and engage the Program Staff on a regular basis throughout the year as well as participate in season review and planning sessions that take place in April/May and September. The Technical Advisor is also expected to attend AIARE Board meetings that take place three times a year (February, June, October).

Qualifications

1. Minimum 10 years of experience as an educator. Familiar with contemporary curriculum design and instructional practice.
2. Post-secondary education or equivalent.
3. Experience in more than one of the following: ski patrolling, mechanized guiding, human powered guiding, snowmobile operations, public forecasting, transportation & infrastructure avalanche risk management, education, forecasting for the extraction industry in the winter.
4. Member of the A3 or CAA
5. Professional level avalanche course certificate (i.e. Pro 2, Level 3, CAA 2 or 3, NZ Level 2).
6. Team and Project Management experience.
7. Experience in a team environment. References describe ability to facilitate, engage opinion, seek consensus and resolve issues.

Required Assets

1. Experienced industry mentor and educator. Responsible for making decisions and providing an informed opinion.
2. Experienced at informing and educating public and professionals about the avalanche phenomena.
3. Recent or ongoing experience delivering AIARE's Recreational and Professional Education Curriculum.
4. Exceptional verbal and written communication skills.
5. Self-motivated while working independently with minimal supervision.
6. Proven interpersonal and collaborative skills. References describe ability to facilitate, engage opinion, build consensus and resolve issues.
7. Technological expertise and experience with digital tools such as InfoEx, Zoom, Google Classroom, and Google Drive.
8. AIARE is a virtual organization. Successful candidates have abilities to collaborate in a virtual and electronic environment. Must have a phone, access to reliable high speed internet, and a computer.



How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit an application package that includes the following:

- A cover letter indicating why the applicant wants to join the AIARE team and explains how the applicant's experiences meet the qualifications of this position.
- A resume that highlights their relevant professional experience.

Email a complete application package to jobs@avtraining.org. Please include your name and "AIARE Technical Director" and applicant name in the subject line of the email.

We will begin to review applications on April 26 and conduct interviews on a rolling basis. This job will remain open until filled.