African American Policy Forum
Chief Operating Officer
Position Description

Background

The African American Policy Forum, a national organization, was founded in 1996 by co-founders Kimberlé Crenshaw and Luke Charles Harris, both professors. Kimberlé Crenshaw enjoys tenured faculty appointments at both the Columbia University and UCLA schools of law respectively. Luke Harris is a tenured faculty member at Vassar College. The African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is an innovative think tank that connects academics, activists, and policy-makers to support efforts to dismantle structural inequality by recognizing intersectional concerns. The AAPF, while housed at Columbia, also maintains a west coast presence based at UCLA. It promotes frameworks and strategies that address a vision of social justice that centers the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and the array of barriers that serve to disempower those who are marginalized in society.

Addressing patterns of subordination and injustice through the lens of intersectionality is even more critical in today’s political and social environment.

Current Situation

This is an exciting and critical moment for the AAPF. Thirty years ago co-founder Kimberlé Crenshaw published the ground-breaking scholarship that introduced the concept of intersectionality in the legal arena and its role in the struggle for social justice, gender justice, and racial justice. We will celebrate this event in April 2020.

Over the past two years the AAPF has grown exponentially in terms of funding, staff, and programming. There are now 4 staff members (principally on the research team), and several cohorts of research interns. AAPF’s public education initiatives, arts and activism programming, and international footprint have expanded and now include eight initiatives.
Key initiatives of AAPF include the following: the #SayHerName campaign -- a digital campaign that brings attention to police violence against Black women, girls, and femmes; the #BlackGirlsMatter campaign -- which included a report and digital campaign that highlights the gendered consequences of disciplinary and push-out policies in public schools for girls of color, and, Black girls in particular; Breaking the Silence: A National Town Hall Series on Women & Girls of Color which has been held in 12 cities over the past two years; and year in and year out the Negril Social Justice Writers Retreat brings together a number of thought leaders from disparate fields to constructively critique one another’s work.

Today the goal of AAPF is to create results oriented programming that advances social justice objectives through an intersectional lens. Toward this end AAPF is seeking an individual who can contribute to the growth of the organization by taking on an internal leadership role as the Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Specific Role:

Reporting to co-founders Kimberlé Crenshaw and Luke Charles Harris, the COO will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for administering all AAPF programs, will manage all staff in their various capacities, and work with the AAPF Board of Directors to keep it abreast of program progress and implementation. This individual will establish specific project/event plans and monitor and be a part of the execution of them in real time.

As the COO she or he will provide leadership for the AAPF strategic planning process and will implement new programmatic initiatives. In addition, the COO will provide coordination for the AAPF senior management team; and serve as the liaison to AAPF’S partners.

To apply, submit a CV and a letter of interest to chrisb@boulwareinc.com.