



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business

VP, Research & Thought Leadership

Reports to: SVP, Membership & Community
Department: Research/Senior Leadership Team
Classification: Exempt
Location: Hybrid/Fully Remote
Date: July 10, 2023

POSITION SUMMARY:

As Vice President of Research and Thought Leadership, you will play a pivotal role in driving our organization's research agenda, cultivating innovative thinking, and positioning us as a thought leader in our industry. You will lead a team of researchers and subject matter experts to deliver cutting-edge research, develop actionable insights, and shape industry narratives. Your strategic vision, strong research acumen, and ability to drive thought leadership initiatives will be essential to our success. This is a remote-based position with a globally distributed workforce.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Research Strategy Development:** Develop and implement a comprehensive research strategy aligned with our organizational goals and industry trends. Identify research opportunities and prioritize areas of focus to drive innovation and thought leadership.
- **Thought Leadership Initiatives:** Lead the development and execution of thought leadership, including white papers, articles, presentations, and conference participation. Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to ensure a consistent and impactful message.
- **Research Team Leadership:** Manage and inspire a team of researchers and subject matter experts. Provide guidance, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to foster a culture of excellence and continuous learning.
- **Research Execution:** Oversee the execution of research projects, ensuring high-quality outputs and adherence to project timelines. Conduct primary and secondary research, data analysis, and synthesis to generate actionable insights.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate with internal teams, external partners, industry experts, and academia to foster strategic partnerships and enhance our research capabilities. Represent the organization in industry forums and conferences to promote thought leadership.
- **Market Intelligence:** Monitor industry trends, emerging technologies, and competitive landscapes to identify opportunities for thought leadership and research projects. Stay abreast of the latest research methodologies and tools to enhance the effectiveness of our research efforts.

- **Publication and Dissemination:** Drive the publication and dissemination of research findings through various channels, such as peer-reviewed journals, industry publications, social media, and our website. Ensure research outputs reach the intended audience and influence industry discourse.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES and OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Master's Degree required in a relevant field such as business, economics, social sciences, or technology. Advanced degree preferred (Ph.D.).
- Proven experience in leading research and thought leadership initiatives within a relevant industry or organization.
- Strong research background with expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, data analysis, and synthesis.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to distill complex research findings into clear, concise, and compelling insights.
- Strategic thinking and vision, with the ability to identify emerging trends and translate them into actionable research initiatives.
- Demonstrated leadership and team management abilities, fostering collaboration, innovation, and a culture of excellence.
- Strong stakeholder engagement and networking skills, with the ability to build and maintain relationships with internal and external partners.
- Proficiency in leveraging technology and research tools to enhance research capabilities.
- A passion for driving innovation, challenging conventional thinking, and shaping industry narratives.
- Ability to travel, and to attend monthly in-person meetings at the Global Headquarters in Montvale, NJ.