**Position Title:** Broadband Project Manager

**Job Locations:** Multiple

Atlanta, GA
Birmingham, AL
Charlotte, NC
Jackson, MS
Jacksonville, FL
Nashville/Memphis, TN
New Orleans, LA
Washington, DC
Wilberforce, OH
(*Candidates within Eastern Time Zone Preferred)*

**Reports to**: Technology Partner Manager

# **Who We Are**

Student Freedom Initiative, Inc. (SFI) is a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Delaware and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. SFI vision is to address the wealth gap through the lens of education. As detailed in Attachment 1, SFI implements it vision through philanthropic support from mission aligned partners who share our core values and seek to elevate students and the entire Minority Serving Institution (MSI) ecosystem and the communities in which they reside.

# **The Role**

We are looking for a **Broadband Project Manager** to serve as overall project coordinator to maximize productivity through management and oversight of implementation processes with SFI’s participating MSI(s) and strategic partners, coordinate the development and approval of required agreements with strategic partners, ensure compliance with relevant federal and state legislation and regulations, and coordinate among broadband provider(s), strategic partners, participating MSI(s), and local community leadership. The successful candidate will approach this critical role with experience in project management, broadband technology and community engagement.

# **What You Will Do**

1. Review existing and evolving federal (and state) requirements for eligible communities to receive federal (and state) funding from government departments.
2. Remain current in new federal broadband programs, industry trends, technologies, and broadband development.
3. Serve as SFI’s primary liaison with the broadband provider(s), Community Anchor Institutions (e.g., MSIs), local community leadership, residents, applicable department of public utilities, and implementation partners.
4. Lead planning, development, coordination, and delivery of broadband master plans within the assigned geographic area(s) in collaboration with stakeholders. (See Attachment 2 – Broadband Master Plan Summary).
5. Facilitate coordination with appropriate stakeholder(s) to ensure compliance with requirements, laws, and regulations.
6. Identify and cultivate relationship(s) with local and state broadband offices, within the assigned geographic area(s), to enable support and acceptance of broadband master plans as an input to their plan submission to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for concurrence on allocation strategy for federal infrastructure bill funding.
7. Prepare white papers, presentations, reports, analysis, and recommendations to enable understanding of broadband master plan(s) and understanding of service provider approach to delivery of reliable, cost effective broadband services.
8. Ensure alignment of broadband master plan with eligible communities and Community Anchor Institutions goals and objectives.
9. Support community implementation of deployment of broadband services.
10. Align broadband risk management with company-wide risk management.
11. Estimate and establish cost parameters, budgets, and potential ROI; evaluate financial sustainability.
12. Coordinate engagement, workforce development and training, internships, and research opportunities among relevant stakeholders (e.g., MSI(s), residents, community leadership).

# **What You Will Bring**

1. BS/BA in Information Technology or relevant engineering field; MS/MA preferred.
2. 10+ years of experience in project leadership roles with a mix of strategic, tactical, and service responsibilities.
3. Experience in the broadband/telecommunication sectors.
4. Prior experience leading organizational assessment, implementation, and compliance and the application of Telecommunication Industry best practices.
5. Knowledge of the following: 4G/5G technology, performance analysis, broadband project design/development, implementation, and maintenance.
6. Experience with serving as a strategic advisor to senior leadership.
7. Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate complex technology matters in an easy-to-understand manner to executives, teams, and individual contributors across the organization.
8. Ability to work independently, taking initiative in identifying alternative solutions to mitigate risks.
9. Creative problem-solving under ambiguous circumstances.
10. Demonstrated experience working in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment.
11. Willingness to travel up to 15% of the time.

*It is impossible to list every requirement for, or responsibility of, any position.  Similarly, we cannot identify all the skills a position may require since job responsibilities and the Company’s needs may change over time.  Therefore, the above job description is not comprehensive or exhaustive.   The Company reserves the right to adjust, add to or eliminate any aspect of the above description.  The Company also retains the right to require all employees to undertake additional or different job responsibilities when necessary to meet business needs.*

*Student Freedom Initiative is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.*

**Attachment 1 – Organization Summary**

* + 1. **Overview**

Student Freedom Initiative, Inc. (“SFI”) is a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Delaware and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. Our vision is to reduce the wealth gap faced by all too many of the young men and women, focusing on students attending Minority-Serving Institutions (“MSIs”). SFI’s mission builds on and expands the work of recognized section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations and initiatives (e.g., distance and online learning, wireless/broadband, decarbonization, clean energy) under way at leading institutions.

* + 1. **Mission Statement**

The SFI mission is to provide a catalyst for freedom in professional and life choices for students attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) by increasing their social and economic mobility guided by the core values identified below.

* + 1. **Core Values**

SFI will be guided by the following core values as we pursue our mission:

* + 1. Student-Centered *-* SFI remains acutely focused on the interest of students/families and recognizes that their success benefits communities, employers and MSIs.
		2. Holistic - SFI elevates the totality of the MSI ecosystem; recognizes the implication to people, process, technology, and governance; and provides a suite of solutions that enable MSI and student success.
		3. Evidence-Based - SFI refines and adjusts its program to optimize student outcomes based on continuous analysis of data throughout the program’s lifecycle, and generates high quality research to support broad(er) adoption of this transformative program.
		4. Collaborative - SFI develops mission-aligned, strategic partnerships; leverages core competencies of subject matter experts; and capitalizes on synergies with related goals.
		5. **Pillars**

SFI’s holistic approach includes the following:

* + - 1. Alternative to Parent PLUS loans. Achieved through the Student Freedom Fund, a flexible approach to replace traditional Parent PLUS loans, but with more favorable economic and non-economic terms. After graduation, participants make payment back into the SFF for the benefit of future students. The audience is juniors and seniors majoring in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) at participating MSIs. The objective is to reduce student loan debt.
			2. Internships and Certifications. Paid internships are achieved through the InternXL platform. The audience is all academic years and all majors at participating MSIs. The objective is to increase hands-on experience and the associated employability of participating students.
			3. Comprehensive Supports. Achieved through the Handling Everyday Life Problems For Student (HELPS) and the Students Investment Program (SIP), the audience is all academic years and majors at participating MSIs. The objective is to increase persistence by providing emergency assistance and improved understanding of finance and investing.
			4. Targeted MSI Capacity Building. Achieved through strategic partnerships, projects are developed to improve the competitiveness and resilience of participating MSIs. Pilots are implemented at subsets of MSIs who chose to participate. Current pilot projects include community broadband planning, MSI campus wireless capability planning and implementation, solar energy planning and implementation, Investment Policy Statement (IPS) updates, and Cyber Security upgrades.
		1. **Outcomes**

Leveraging its core values and our four components, SFI enables improved outcomes:

* + - 1. Liberate students to make professional and life choices.
			2. Increase African-American economic mobility via STEM
			3. Provide more favorable terms and flexibility than alternatives
			4. Institutionalize scalable platform to eventually support all STEM students at subset of remaining MSIs (subject to raised capital).
			5. Enable HBCU transformation, resilience, and increased competitiveness.
			6. Provide transformative model for policy, researchers, and policy advocate.

**Attachment 2 – Broadband Master Plan**

1. **Summary**

A broadband master plan is created using subject matter expertise and strategic partners. These plans enable eligible low income, under resourced communities and community anchor institutions (e.g., Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)) who lack access to reliable, affordable broadband services to gain critical expertise to position themselves for receipt of funding through the various government programs (e.g., Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD), Connecting Minority Communities Pilot (CMCP))

1. **Content Summary**

In collaboration with community and other stakeholders, the following will be collected, validated, and summarized into the final document:

1. Demographic profile of the eligible community,
2. Community needs assessment, including digital literacy, workforce development, and device access needs,
3. Current list broadband service provider(s) within assigned geographic area(s), standard cost for broadband and other service(s) provided, and any discounts made available,
4. Inventory of current assets (e.g., physical broadband infrastructure, poles, conduit, used/unused fiber),
5. Assessment of alternative courses of action for provision of reliable, affordable broadband services,
6. Estimate of capital and operational expenditures for recommended course of action,
7. Preliminary implementation schedule for the delivery of required broadband services,
8. Employment, development, and revenue creation opportunities for community anchor institution(s),
9. Employment, development, and revenue creation opportunities for eligible communities,