

ABOUT ISAACSON, MILLER

Isaacson, Miller is a national executive search firm devoted to recruiting exceptional leaders for mission-driven organizations. Our founders created the firm in 1982, a time when civic institutions rarely used executive search firms.

The firm has grown steadily, and today, Isaacson, Miller stands alone as a large, national, retained search firm dedicated to the full range of public and civic missions. We have active practices in higher education, science and social science research, human services, conservation and environmental defense, human and civil rights advocacy, K-12 education, academic and community healthcare, philanthropy, arts and culture, and community-based economic development, with sub-specialties in almost every functional area.

Many of our clients and past candidates become part of an extended network that shares our goal of strengthening the civic infrastructure. They see their own missions reflected in the work of the firm and choose to assist us, generously, in our quest for the finest talent in their fields.

The country's civic community has come to recognize our persistent commitment to recruiting diverse talent. Since we were founded, 42% of our placements have been women, and 23% have been people of color, with a total of 54% diversity hires.

Isaacson, Miller is a mission-driven business committed to the recruitment of powerful civic leaders who raise our own and our clients' competitive aspirations. We believe that civic organizations are essential to a strong civil society, a vigorous democracy, and to a free market economy. Civic institutions educate us all. They encourage the marketplace of ideas through research, teaching, and advocacy. They inspire innovation, and, through foundations and philanthropy, they arouse the charitable endeavors of private citizens. The civic sector serves as the guardian of our economic and societal strength. We have made its success our business.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

JULIE FILIZETTI
PARTNER

(415) 655-4910
jfilizetti@imsearch.com

As a leader in our San Francisco office, Julie focuses primarily on higher education leadership roles in public and private institutions, including presidents, provosts, vice presidents, deans, and directors. She also conducts searches in a range of areas, including academic medicine, training and development, advancement, research, and technology. Since coming to Isaacson, Miller in 2007, she has developed strong relationships with many clients who turn to Julie for her ability to adapt to an organization's needs and grow their leadership capacity.

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Prior to transitioning to the search world, she served as the associate provost for academic affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and as a fellow of the American Council on Education, the nation's premier higher education leadership development program. She also spent 12 years as a naval officer, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander.

Julie is a member of the Willamette University Board of Trustees and has served on advisory boards for Villanova University, Santa Clara University, and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. She is a Menlo College Trustee Emeritus and chaired the board from 2010-2014. A graduate of Leadership California and Leadership Monterey Peninsula, she is a frequent speaker on how to best prepare for the search process. She holds an EdD in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Villanova University and the Naval Postgraduate School.

PHUONG TA
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

(415) 655-4935
pta@imsearch.com

Since joining Isaacson, Miller in 2019, Phuong has recruited senior leaders for an array of mission-driven organizations, including academic and administrative searches at public and private universities. Previously, Phuong worked at the Posse Foundation, a non-profit that awards full-tuition leadership scholarships to predominantly low-income, first-generation college students. There, he partnered with school districts and non-profits in the Greater Houston area, recruited and supported Posse Scholars at UT Austin and Bryn Mawr College, specializing in leadership development training and cross-cultural facilitation. Prior to joining the firm, Phuong co-founded the Resilient 1st Gen group at Stanford Graduate School of Education, where he earned his MA in Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies. Phuong also holds a BA in American Studies from Tufts University.

KATIE PUSECKER KILCAWLEY
MANAGING SEARCH COORDINATOR

(415) 655-4918
kpusecker@imsearch.com

Katie Pusecker Kilcawley joined Isaacson, Miller in 2014 as a Search Coordinator. She provides logistical support to clients throughout the search process and facilitates the work of search teams. Prior to joining the firm, Katie worked in project management, event planning, and food and beverage operations in the hospitality industry for the Army in Germany, Korea, and Hawaii. Katie holds a BS in hotel, restaurant, and institutional management from the University of Delaware.