

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT—BETTER BUYING INSTITUTE
VICE PRESIDENT -OR- SENIOR MANAGER OF RESEARCH

[Better Buying Institute](#) (BBI) was launched in 2019 to promote the improvement of buyer purchasing practices, supply chain management, worker conditions, and the natural environment. A young organization working to transform the way global supply chains work, BBI's primary activities include: (i) independent research, (ii) the operation and management of a ratings and evaluation platform on which suppliers provide information about their buyer customers relating to various aspects of purchasing practices and (iii) projects and training on supply chain industry practices to support innovation and promote change. Our work started with the apparel, footwear, and household textiles industries where we are already beginning to see positive changes. We have been organically expanding into the broader consumer goods sector and plan to make more intentional progress with new industries in that sector soon.

Better Buying Institute reimagines supply chain sustainability, leveraging data to strengthen supplier-buyer relationships and improve purchasing practices that drive profitability while protecting workers and the environment. We focus on the day-to-day business activities (purchasing practices) used by retailers and brands to bring products to market. While these purchasing practices have been known to put pressure on supply chains, their negative impacts on suppliers, workplace conditions, worker wages, and environmental performance have increased and become highly visible during the Coronavirus pandemic crisis with brand and retailer purchasing practices often determining the viability of supplier businesses and whether or not workers in their factories go hungry.

Better Buying Institute is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization incorporated in Delaware in the United States and is the outgrowth of a research project started in 2015 and headed by Dr. Marsha Dickson, a distinguished academic scholar.

About the Opportunity

Better Buying Institute is seeking a **Vice President of Research** who will use their analytical skills and their passion for supply chain sustainability to expand the impact of Better Buying's research. As a senior leader in our young and nimble organization, the Vice President of Research will be responsible for managing the research team and leading all research design, data collection, and analysis activities, including annual ratings cycles, custom and externally funded research, and other ongoing research and reporting. With an eye toward making Better Buying's data understandable and useful, the Vice President of Research will work with the research team to continuously refine, simplify, and strengthen Better Buying's research tools. This position will facilitate Better Buying's expansion into new industries and industry verticals by leading research efforts on new supply chains, ensuring all of Better Buying's work is grounded in the voices and perspectives of global suppliers. The ideal candidate will prioritize the integrity of Better Buying's data, taking care to protect and build upon Better Buying's foundation of sound and high quality research. The Vice President of Research will manage the research team to carry out day-to-day research responsibilities and work closely with the President to identify new opportunities that will build on Better Buying's impact. **Should we not identify a strong candidate for this position, we are open to considering applicants for a slightly modified version of this role as a Senior Manager of Research.**

Major Roles & Responsibilities

Research Design & Data Analysis. Take leadership for Better Buying's ongoing quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and reporting, including annual ratings cycles and special projects throughout the year. With support from the research team, design research methods for custom and externally funded projects that support our charitable activities, overseeing the execution of those projects. Responsible for ensuring Better Buying's work is grounded in thorough and high quality research methods and standards for both data collection and analysis. Present research findings to external stakeholders as assigned.

Increase the Usability of Better Buying's Research Tools and Results. Regularly review and refine Better Buying's data collection and analysis tools, identifying opportunities to streamline, improve, and strengthen Better Buying's research capabilities. Collaborate with the Vice President of Business Development to meet the needs of Better Buying subscribers, supporting subscribers in making use of their Better Buying data internally and tracking improvements over time. Drive industry-wide impact with Better Buying's data by making it easier for suppliers to contribute data and for buyers to understand and use Better Buying's insights and reports.

Expand Research Capabilities. Drive Better Buying's expansion into new industries and industry verticals through research into new types of supply chains. Develop, test, and refine new research tools to enable this expansion, ensuring Better Buying's work remains principally focused on the voices and perspectives of global suppliers.

Manage the Research Team. Responsible for managing and delegating tasks to Better Buying's research team, including any interns or global Ambassadors recruited for annual ratings cycles. Develop the team's capabilities and coordinate with the Senior Manager of Operations to identify and fill any research roles necessary to execute Better Buying's mission and vision.

(VP role only) **Strategy and Organizational Leadership.** Work as a thought partner to the President to identify new market opportunities that are consistent with our charitable mission and increase the impact of our work. Take leadership in regularly reviewing and strategically planning research technology. Explore new and emerging technologies that advance organizational objectives and offer new approaches to collect, analyze, present and disseminate our data. Lead development of new revenue-producing programs and contribute direction to our education and training program. Take on other organizational leadership work as assigned by the President.

Qualifications should include:

The ideal candidate for Vice President of Research is **passionate about Better Buying's mission**. In addition:

- At least a research-based Master's degree in a field relevant to global supply chains, sustainability, or business administration
- Extensive experience doing research in applied settings, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods
- Expertise in conducting and interpreting the results of advanced statistical analysis
- Experience designing and carrying out field research, interviews, and focus groups and analyzing qualitative data

- Demonstrated experience in translating scientific research for lay audiences in presentations and publications
- Exceptional communications, business planning, interpersonal, and presentation skills
- Flexible and able to adapt to a rapidly changing, lean start-up environment
- Self-motivated, goal-driven professional with ability to work remotely with minimal supervision and support own administrative needs in a small, entrepreneurial team environment
- High ethical standards and personal integrity
- Software experience: SPSS, NVIVO, and other related tools
- Based in North America or Asia
- Willingness to travel globally as needed when COVID-related restrictions ease

In addition, the following skills and experiences are preferred:

- Ph.D. in a relevant field
- An understanding of the relationship between business behavior and social, environmental, and financial sustainability opportunities and challenges, as well as a desire to deepen knowledge in this area
- Experience using emerging technology for research

Candidates without all the required qualifications may be considered for a position as a Senior Manager of Research should we not identify a strong candidate for the Vice President position.

Details

This is a full-time position. You will work remotely from your home and report to Better Buying's President. Compensation is competitive and commensurate with experience.

Better Buying Institute is an equal employment opportunity employer and considers all applicants for employment regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws.

To Apply

Applicants should send to apply@betterbuying.org:

- A cover letter and CV
- A summary of research efforts you have led, demonstrating both your expertise and the breadth of your capabilities
- Samples of your research publications and presentations
- A statement of whether you wish to be considered for a Senior Manager of Research should we not identify a candidate meeting the requirements of Vice President

You must include "Vice President of Research" as the subject line of the email. Questions concerning this position should be sent to the email address above. No phone calls or faxes, please.