

NCURA Region IV

M I D - A M E R I C A R E G I O N N E W S L E T T E R

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E-Gov, E-Grants, E-Gads! Region IV to Meet in Cincinnati

William Sharp, University of Kansas

If you haven't already registered for this year's Region IV spring meeting in Cincinnati, it's not too late! The cut-off date for early bird registration and for the special hotel rate is April 11, 2003 (5pm EST). Even after that you can still register for an additional \$25. (The hotel rate will be somewhat higher, however.) Register online at <http://www.ncura.uc.edu>.

Something for Everyone

As you might infer from the title *E-Gov, E-Grants, E-Gads!*, the theme of this year's meeting is electronic research administration (eRA). Concurrent and roundtable sessions will cover cutting edge eRA topics such as the NIH Commons, eRA at the University of Minnesota and at Indiana University, effective use of e-mail, and eRA project structure and management.

But the spring meeting will include sessions on a far greater variety of topics than just eRA. For example, Lauren M. Goralski and Michael Edwards will help us take a look at "IP and Industry Sponsorship: Knowing What Matters." Jean Feldman from NSF and Rebecca Claycamp from NIH will each provide updates on the latest happenings at those federal agencies. Linda Harpster from the University of Cincinnati will address the compliance subject on everyone's tongue this year in her "Hip Pocket HIPAA" session. Debi Galloway and Diane Sparks will walk us through OMB Circulars, Federal Acquisition Regulations, and other sponsor regula-

tions in a session on pre- and post-award "Tools of the Trade." Some other concurrent session topics are "Research Administration from the Faculty Point of View," "Change Management: Communication and Tools," and "Contracting with Industry...An Industry Perspective, a Central Administration Perspective, and a Departmental Perspective." Roundtable session topics include "Working with State Agencies: An Iowa State Perspective," "What's It All About and How Do I get in the Middle of It: An NCURA Primer for New Comers," and "How to Avoid Being Bitten by Your COBRE (or Other Multi-Investigator/Multi-Institution Award)." For many more session topics and descriptions, see the preliminary meeting program at <http://www.ncura.uc.edu>.



This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Randy Seeley, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Director of the Obesity Research Center at the University of Cincinnati.

The Workshops

Both "diaper dandies" as well as "old salts" in the field of research administration may want to attend one of the national workshops held on the afternoon of Saturday, April 26 prior to the beginning of the spring meeting proper.

For the more experienced research administrator, Kim Moreland and Steve Hansen will examine "The Janus Face of Research Administration." Janus, the two-headed Roman god of beginnings and endings, has been portrayed historically with one face looking forward, to the future, while a second face looks simultaneously to the past.

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"The regional spring meeting is where I first was introduced to Research Administration. What an experience!!! It is like attending a family reunion each year. The camaraderie and collaboration with old friends and having the opportunity to meet new friends (all doing Research Administration) is something I don't want to miss."

~Crystal Taylor-Nevils, University of Chicago

Spring Meeting Offers *E-xciting E-vents*

Likewise, Kim and Steve will put their two seasoned heads together to help us explore the changes in the profession resulting from more regulations, more opportunities for funding (as well as more competition for funding), while at the same time keeping one gaze fixed on what past experience has shown us.

For those new to the field of research administration, Diane Barrett of the University of Wisconsin–Madison will be your guide to the “Fundamentals of Pre-Award for the New Grant Administrator.” Topics in this workshop will include funding information services, development of proposal budgets, compliance issues, proposal review, facilities and administrative costs, cost sharing, and “other things to watch out for!”

Regional workshops will be held on Sunday morning, and there are several to choose from: NCURA Executive Director Kathleen Larmett and NCURA Information Services Manager Aamir Hanif will be on hand to examine “Trends and Practices Shaping the Workplace.” Ann Holmes and Timothy Reuter will provide an “OMB Circular Overview.” Pamela Webb and Tim Twomey will conduct an “NIH Commons Practicum” on using and deploying the Commons at your institution. And Rebecca Claycamp of NIH will conduct a workshop on “NIH Fundamentals.”

Featured Speakers

Bob Killoren, President of NCURA and Assistant Vice President for Research/Director of Sponsored Programs at Penn State University, will deliver opening remarks at

the Monday luncheon. Tuesday’s Keynote Address will feature Dr. Randy Seeley, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Director of the Obesity Research Center at the University of Cincinnati. The Obesity Research Center conducts basic science research on the regulation of body weight and the etiology and potential treatment of obesity. Dr. Seeley’s talk is entitled “Obesity and the Brain: Maybe It Is All in Your Head.”

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“I try to send as many of my staff to the regional meeting as possible because the quality of the sessions is excellent and the cost is reasonable. More importantly, the supportive nature of the members makes for a truly collaborative learning atmosphere. These factors make the regional meeting an outstanding opportunity for professional development.”

~Steve Hansen,
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

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It is fast and easy! Go to: <http://www.ncura.edu/members/>. Enter your member ID and password (your member number is on the back of any NCURA publications mailed to you—OR just use the quick email service to get it) and spend 5-7 minutes updating your profile. Start taking advantage of opportunities you have as an NCURA member!

Region IV's Spring Meeting Provides Opportunities to Network

Networking Opportunities

The Cincinnati program should allow for ample opportunities to network with colleagues from other Midwestern institutions. Dinner groups and a newcomers' reception are scheduled for Sunday evening. The Monday Night Event, always a fixture of the spring meeting, includes dinner at the Museum of Natural History housed in the magnificently restored Union Terminal building. Breakfast roundtables, the lunches, refreshment breaks, and of course the hospitality suite will also give you plenty of settings to get to know your Region IV colleagues.

NCURA meeting first-timers may want to take advantage of a new "Buddy Program" being tried out for the first time in Cincinnati. Contact Heather Offhaus at hmills@umich.edu if you are interested in being paired with a Region IV "old timer" who will introduce you to other members, answer any questions you might have, and help set you on your way to getting the most out of the spring meeting.

The Setting

The Westin Cincinnati (<http://www.westin.com/Cincinnati>) is located in the heart of downtown, just blocks from the Ohio River and overlooking historic Fountain Square. A convenient sky-bridge provides easy access to Tower Place Mall with over seventy-five shops and restaurants. Saks Fifth Avenue, Lazarus, and Tiffany & Company are just a few of the stores nearby. If you can arrive early or have some free time over the weekend, the Cincinnati Reds baseball team will be playing just two blocks away in the newly-constructed Great American Ball Park (<http://cincinnati.reds.mlb.com>).



The Westin Cincinnati will serve as the conference hotel for this year's Region IV Meeting.

Getting There

From the airport, you can take the Executive Airport Shuttle (\$14 one way; \$24 round trip). To guarantee a reservation, call (800) 990-8841 at least twenty-four hours in advance. Walk up service is also available, but not guaranteed. A shuttle desk is located near each of the baggage claims. Taking a taxi to downtown costs \$24-\$26 one way. The drive is about thirty minutes. The TANK public bus system also runs from the airport to a location about three blocks from the hotel for 75 cents. Buses depart from the airport about once an hour. For driving directions from all points of the compass, see the Westin Cincinnati Web site at <http://www.westin.com/Cincinnati>.

"Although I don't get to attend every spring meeting, I really look forward to the meeting when I do have the opportunity. I always learn something new and it's an excellent way to stay current with up and coming issues. But one of the experiences I enjoy most is making new contacts and in many cases, new friends. It's so interesting to get a different perspective on how another institution handles an issue, and to compare notes on various issues. I have received and shared experiences, forms, procedures, other information with these contacts that have been invaluable in my daily work."

~Barb Kuertz, University of Cincinnati

"I've found the Spring Meeting is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge our colleagues in NCURA's Region IV possess and improve my professional skills. It's a great time to share information and learn what works and what doesn't."

**~Mark Sweet,
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

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