

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Chair's Corner	2
And the Results Are in . . .	2
Get Connected!	3
Nominations Due	3
Region IV Spring Meeting Award Winner!	4
Update Your Member Profile	4
Region IV Travel Award Announced	4
Do I Have a Deal for You! The New Financial Research Administration Workshop	5
Rhythm of the Future in Research Administration	6
Region IV Board of Directors Spring Election	6
2006-2007 NCURA Region IV Communications Committee	7
Region IV Board Members	7

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NCURA Region IV

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A Region IV View of the 2006 Annual NCURA Meeting



Region IV Business Meeting

- The Region IV business meeting.

These events all provided opportunities for new members to connect with Region IV; however, two special efforts (in addition to the new member orientations) helped to make new members feel welcome. One was the pre-banquet reception at the hospitality suite, which focused particularly on meeting and greeting new members. At that reception, new members were given green Region IV lanyards to hand out to fellow Region IV members as a way to break the ice.

The regional business meeting also offered a great way for new members to meet their regional colleagues. In addition to the usual business conducted at the meeting, new members were asked to fill out a form so they could be entered into a drawing to receive free registration to the joint Region III/IV Spring Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in May. The winner of the drawing was Tammy Kuhn-Martin of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Engineering.

Another opportunity for visibility of Region IV at the national meeting was the presentation of the Outstanding Achievement in Research Administration award. I'm sure everyone in Region IV was bursting with pride when this award was presented to our own



Dancing to Sole Source and the No-Cost Extensions

Mary Ellen Sheridan, Associate Vice President for Research, University of Chicago. Steve Hansen, who presented the award, summed it up best: "When Mary Ellen Sheridan speaks, research administrators listen."

Although the huge annual meeting can be daunting, Region IV leaders did a great job reaching out to the membership and creating visibility and community.

*Karen Spear
Methodist Research Institute at Clarian Health Partners*



Standing Room Only at the Regional Business Meeting



Chair's Corner: Hello Region IV!

The year has flown by and here we are approaching our regional meeting. I can't believe it. Suddenly, I have a daughter in college and a son with a driver's license, and I'm just a year shy of the big 5-0. NCURA has increased the number and types of professional education, and there is so much demand that we went from three Fundamentals teams to five this year. There were record numbers of people taking the online courses and attending meetings and visiting the neighborhoods, and the national office finally admitted that it was out of space and moved to new, larger quarters.

In Region IV, we have implemented new ways to bring us together as a region. I am astonished and delighted at the number of volunteers helping with the region's business this year, and I've already received numerous e-mails from those of you who would like to help out at the regional meeting.

I'm very proud of us in Region IV. We have grown, and yet we've managed not only to maintain our sense of community but to enhance it. When all is said and done, it may be the educational opportunities that draw us to NCURA, but it is the greater sense of community that keeps us with this organization and makes us want to attend meetings, meet new colleagues, volunteer, and take a greater part in the life that is NCURA.

It has been my great privilege to serve as your regional chair. Before running for chair-elect, I was worried about the time commitment. I have to laugh at that now. Yes, it has been a big responsibility and it has taken time, but if I measure it in terms of the time saved when I can call or e-mail a colleague who has more knowledge on a certain topic than I do, I believe I've come out ahead. And, just the sheer joy of having someone understand what I do and commiserate with me is a wonderful thing.

I hope to see many, many of you at the regional meeting. I will warn you ahead of time that, as a native of Oklahoma, I will sound exactly like I belong in Nashville. It isn't true, though. I belong to Region IV.

Diane Barrett
University of Wisconsin-Madison

And the Results Are in . . .

Over 70% of Region IV registered NCURA members surveyed would prefer to have the annual Region IV Spring Meeting scheduled as one weekend day plus two and a half work days.

The subject of scheduling preference came up during the 2006 Spring Board Meeting. After discussion at both the 2006 Spring Board Meeting and the business meeting, both groups decided that it would be best to survey the entire Region IV membership to allow for a fair response.

A survey was sent out in September 2006 to all Region IV members. The survey asked for individual responses related to preferred spring meeting schedules. Members had the choice of either (1) choosing all work days for both the workshops and concurrent meeting

sessions or (2) remaining with the current practice of either Sunday workshops with Monday to Wednesday concurrent sessions or Wednesday to Friday concurrent sessions with Saturday workshops. Of the 1,057 registered members, 15% responded to the survey, and 71% chose (2) to remain with the same schedule as past spring meetings.

The survey response was shared with Region IV members at the fall business meeting in Washington, DC, in November 2006 and with the board and Site Selection Committee, which will utilize the information when they negotiate contracts for future spring meetings. The committee hopes to be able to accommodate the group consensus, but some rental property may not have the

availability to meet the preferred schedule of days.

Thank you to all who responded.

Julia Ogden
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Get Connected!

Feeling lost and alone in the world of research administration? Is your significant other tired of hearing you complain about effort reporting and Grants.gov? Looking for answers in all the wrong places? If so, then maybe it's time you broadened your circle of friends and acquaintances! And with electronic communication as prevalent as it is today, you can do so without ever leaving the comfy confines of your office! Here are three ways to connect virtually with the larger research administration community (text messaging notwithstanding):

NCURA Region IV Listserv

To subscribe to the NCURA Region IV Listserv, login to the Members section of the NCURA website at www.ncura.edu/members with your User ID and password. Once logged in, click on the link to "Join NCURA Listservs," and complete

the form that appears. While you're there, why not update your profile, too?

RES-ADM Listserv

To subscribe to the Research Administration Discussion Listserv (RES-ADM as it's known by its 2,300+ subscribers), send an e-mail to listserv@hrinet.org with the command "SUBSCRIBE RES-ADM *firstname lastname*" in the body of the e-mail (exclude the quotes, and use your own name).

NCURA Neighborhoods

The national NCURA office has created seven online "neighborhoods," each dedicated to a particular topic relevant to the profession: (1) Compliance, (2) Departmental Administration, (3) Electronic Research, (4) Financial Research, (5) International,

(6) Pre-Award, and (7) Predominantly Undergraduate. Each neighborhood has special sections for listservs, town hall, events, and resources and occasionally hosts interactive chat sessions. To visit a neighborhood, login to the NCURA website at www.ncura.edu/member/neighborhoods/login.asp with your User ID and password.

So what are you waiting for? Get connected! There's a whole world of virtual friends—or friends who are virtual or virtually friendly people (you get the picture)—just waiting to meet you. Besides, where else are you going to find someone willing to talk about export controls and cost transfers? Your family will thank you for it.

Craig Reynolds
Central Michigan University

Nominations Due for Regional Awards

The Awards Committee of NCURA Region IV invites your participation in selecting and recognizing members and/or programs within our region deserving of special recognition in one of the following award categories:

The Distinguished Service Award is given each year to individuals who have made continuing and long-term contributions (more than 5 years) to research administration, including service as an NCURA officer at the regional or national level, published articles in the field, and/or presentations at workshops or other institutions.

The Kevin Reed Outstanding Professional Award recognizes the contributions of newer members in the region (less than 5 years) who have demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm for Region IV, including participation in annual or regional meetings, committee service, or service as an NCURA officer at the regional or national level.

The Meritorious Contribution Award goes to an individual or group of individuals who have developed and implemented an innovative program to enhance the research environment on their campus.

Please consider nominating colleagues for any of these awards. Self-nominations are also encouraged in the categories of Outstanding Professional and Meritorious Contributions. Each award recipient will receive a commemorative plaque and be recognized at the Region III/IV meeting in May during the Awards Luncheon.

Nominations are due by **Friday, March 23, 2007**, and should be submitted to Jim Maus at the Washington University jmaus@wustl.edu. For more information on the award guidelines or for the nomination forms, please visit www.ncuraregioniv.com and go to the Honors & Awards link. For questions, please contact Jim Maus at jmaus@wustl.edu or (314) 286-1802.

Aaron Crandall
University of Wisconsin—Madison

Region IV Spring Meeting Award Winner!

Tammy Kuhn-Martin from the University of Wisconsin—Madison School of Engineering was announced as this year's winner of the NCURA Region IV Travel Award. She will receive free registration for this spring's regional meeting to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, with Region III.

At the national meeting, all new members who attended the region's business meeting were asked to fill out entry forms for the drawing and put them in the box. Tammy was the lucky winner drawn from the "hat." We look forward to seeing her this spring in Nashville!

Update Your Member Profile!

Did you know that you can create and update your profile on the NCURA national website? Your profile is a valuable way for other NCURA members to know who you are and obtain your contact information.

If you have already created a profile, but haven't updated it since that last job change or promotion, now is a good time to update your information. If you've never created a profile, why not do so now? Here's how:

Go to the National NCURA website at www.ncura.edu.

Click on "Quick Member Search" under "Membership" near the top of the page.

You'll be prompted for your user ID and password. Haven't used your ID and password since 1995? Don't worry: there's a "Forgotten Password?" link.

In the box on the left side of the screen, click on "Update Your Member Profile."

Fill in/change your info; then click on "Update This Account."

The next screen will be "Demographics." Fill in your demographics information; then click on "Update Your Demographics."

The next screen will be "Responsibilities, Expertise, and Interests." Click on those items for which you have responsibility, expertise, and/or interest; then click on "Update Your Interests."

You have completed the update to your member profile!

Region IV Travel Award Announced

The Region IV Board of Directors has voted to offer a new travel award starting in 2008. Reimbursement of up to \$1,000 towards expenses plus free registration to a spring meeting will be granted to the selected research administrator.

Each year, an individual from the nominated pool of research administrators will be selected by the Region IV Awards Committee. Financial need and professional benefit to the applicant are the determining factors for selection of a winner. Nominees must be working in the Region IV geographical area, have never attended a NCURA Regional Meeting, and provide a written statement on how the award will benefit the nominee and his or her home institution. A letter of support from the home institution must be included in the nomination. NCURA membership is not required at time of nomination.

Watch for more details!

Do I Have a Deal for You!

The New Financial Research Administration Workshop

How many of you out there watch the new “Deal or No Deal?” show. I have to admit I do. Will the contestant select the right case and win a million? **It depends . . .** Depends on what dollar amount is in which case, what the banker offer is, how attractive the model is to the favored numbered case, and numerous other variables. Does “**It depends**” sound familiar?



In the grant world, there are probably even more possible combinations of variables than Howie Mandel could ever present. Basically, just like the contestant, we have to work through to an answer by weighing all the known factors and thinking through a process shaped by years of grant experience. It is vital that a research administrator develop a solid thought process to determine the right answer for a given situation.

NCURA has a new workshop that focuses on developing the thought processes necessary for making grant-related decisions. “The Financial Research Administration Workshop” focuses on the financial side of grant administration. Presenters use case studies including current high-risk compliance issues and hot topics to illustrate how to utilize the grant cost principles and practices. Participants are encouraged to discuss openly any questions on specific issues and to receive feedback from the group.

“We wanted a format that maximizes interaction with the participants to enhance the learning experience,” said former NCURA President Patrick Fitzgerald, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This workshop was developed under the leadership of Patrick Fitzgerald with his copresenters, Patricia Hawk, the Assistant Director of Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance at Oregon State University, and Ann Holmes, currently the Chief Financial Officer at the Center of Advanced Study of Language at the University of Maryland, College Park. Laura Wade, Associate Director for Research Center Administration at the University of Houston’s Center for Superconductivity, is another workshop developer, but was unable to attend the inaugural session.

Ann Holmes remarked that “the workshop participants gain direct insight into how other institutions view and deal with financial issues. By working together on case studies, we can learn from each other by what went wrong and what went right [in a given grant scenario].”

Please note that workshop attendees are provided with extensive supplemental material including copies of relevant OMB circulars, audit reports, and current grant news articles along with sample policies, procedures, forms, and notices.

The Financial Research Administration Workshop is probably the best educational opportunity for a financial grant administrator. After attending the first session in Boston this fall, I’d say it’s a real deal.

*Julia Ogden
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center*



Joint Region III/IV Meeting: Rhythm of the Future in Research Administration

Members from NCURA Region IV will join Region III in Nashville for the 2007 Regional Spring Meeting May 13 – 16. The theme for the conference is “Rhythm of the Future in Research Administration.”

Program Co-Chairs Michelle Powell (Region III) and Sara Streich (Region IV) and the rest of the Program Committee are still working on the line-up of workshops, sessions, and discussion groups. The program will feature 9 Sunday workshops and 44 concurrent sessions, in addition to the traditional discussion groups and evening events.

Among the scheduled day-long workshops this year are **Research**

Fundamentals, presented by Robert Andresen of the University of Wisconsin and Marianne Woods of the University of Alabama, and **OMB Circulars – A21**, presented by Jerry Fife and Michelle Vazin of Vanderbilt University.

Half-day workshops scheduled for this year include **Grants.gov**, presented by Maria Valero-Martinez of the University of Miami and Joy Walton of Huron Consulting, and the **NSF Interactive Workshop**, presented by Shirl Ruffin and Beth Strausser of the NSF and Tony Ventimiglia of Auburn University.

Appearing at the Tuesday Night Event will be the Nashville-based band “Soul Incision,” which is a cover band composed of

Vanderbilt University doctors and administrators, including NCURA’s own Steve “Sidecar” Smartt on trumpet and vocals.

The conference hotel for the spring meeting is the Renaissance Nashville, located in the heart of the city, within walking distance to the Historic Second Avenue District, which boasts many of Nashville’s legendary music venues.

You won’t want to miss this year’s Joint Region III/IV Spring Meeting, so make your reservation and join the education and fun in the Music City!

Region IV Board of Directors Spring Election

One of the ways we grow professionally is through the connections we make with colleagues. There’s no better way to do that than through service on the NCURA Region IV Board of Directors. There are five positions on the board up for election this spring. Watch for a call for nominations, via e-mail, from Nominations Committee Chair Heather Offhaus.

Open Board Positions

The following board positions are up for election:

Chair-Elect: The chair-elect serves a one-year term, beginning immediately after the spring regional meeting and continuing through the conclusion of the next spring regional meeting. He/she succeeds to the office of chair when the current chair’s term expires. The chair-elect also chairs the Program Committee for the spring regional meeting.

Treasurer: The treasurer maintains the Region IV financial records and accounts, reporting to the membership and the National NCURA office. This is a two-year term, beginning at the adjournment of the spring regional meeting. The treasurer also serves as a member of the Region IV Site Selection Committee.

At-Large Board Member (2 positions): At-large members serve two-year terms and participate in all board meetings. They are eligible for nomination and election to successive terms.

Region IV Elected Member to the National NCURA Board: This board member serves as a voting ex officio member of the Region IV Board. He/she represents the national membership of NCURA in his/her role on the national board.

More information on the board and directors’ duties and responsibilities can be found in the Region IV bylaws:

www.ncuraregioniv.com/pdf/Bylaws-May_2006.pdf

Region IV members will receive ballots electronically, and election results will be announced just before the spring meeting in Nashville.

Heather Offhaus is also seeking volunteers to serve with her on the Nominations Committee. If interested, send her an e-mail at hmills@umich.edu.

*Elizabeth Gall,
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

2006-2007 NCURA Region IV Communications Committee

Karen Spear, Chair, Methodist Research Institute at Clarian Health Partners, Indianapolis, Indiana
kspear@clarian.org

Position Vacant, Co-Chair

Bill Sharp, Past Chair, University of Kansas
wsharp@ku.edu

Beth Seaton, Newsletter Editor, Western Illinois University
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Michelle Shoenecker, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
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Liz Gall, University of Wisconsin—Madison
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www.ncuraregioniv.com

Region IV Board Members



Chair
Diane Barrett,
University of
Wisconsin—Madison

Treasurer
Robert Aull, Indiana University
Medical Center



At-Large Members (cont.)
Crystal Taylor-Nevils,
University of Chicago



Chair Elect
Sara Streich,
Northwestern University



Other Board Member
Christa Johnson, Southern
Illinois University—Edwardsville



Jaynee Tolle,
University of Cincinnati



Secretary
Michelle Meeks,
Indiana University
Medical Center

At-Large Members
Robert Andresen, University
of Wisconsin—Madison



**NCURA Board
of Directors, Region IV**
James Casey, Cardinal
Stritch University



Past Chair
Heather Offhaus, University
of Michigan—Ann Arbor



Tamara Hill,
University of Cincinnati

