

Sandy Fowler,
NCURA Region IV Chair

Personal Profile

My story is like many other university research administrators. I fell into grant management. I though did not know I had fallen into it. Sometime in the early 2000s, while working in a university department, I received a call from a person at the university's sponsored program office. I was told to move expenses of an award or because they were unallowable. I had so many questions, and the first one was "what's sponsored programs?" The last question was "where can I learn more?"

Eventually I moved to a financial support position at divisional level and my last question was answered - NCURA. In 2006, I attended a Fundamentals of Sponsored Projects Administration Workshops. I was overwhelmed and yet excited because I saw there was so much to learn and eventually share. Learning came full circle at the end of 2024 when my tenure as a Fundamentals Traveling faculty ended.

NCURA provides opportunities for growth and can be credited for my professional growth. One opportunity has been to serve as Chair Elect. I would be honored if the members voted me forward to continue as Chair. NCURA opportunities and colleagues have been vital teaching tools, growing me into an experienced grant manager, leader, and thoughtful individual. I have listened, learned, and been guided by various perspectives and knowledge. I am thrilled that I am in a place in my career where I have built upon knowledge and experience to share, mentor, and cheer on other NCURA members through their careers and answer their questions.

Professional Positions

University of Wisconsin Madison, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Assistant Dean for Research, Research Division (2023 to Present)

Assistant Dean/Director, Business Services (2019-2023)

NCURA Activities and Position Held

- AM67 Workshop Co-Track Lead
- 2024-25 Region IV Chair-elect (appointed because elected person needed to step down)
- 2024 Region IV Spring Meeting Program Chair
- 2024 FRA Conference Departmental Co-Track Lead
- 2022-2023 Traveling Faculty & Professional Development Committee Subcommittee; Served as Chair in 2023
- AM64 Travel Award Subcommittee and Research Development Track Co-Lead
- 2021 PRA Conference Departmental Co-Track Lead.
- Mentoring Our Own (MOO) Mentor starting in 2020
- 2019-2024 Traveling Faculty for Level 1: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration
- 2019-2023 Region IV Membership Committee

Current Professional Activities

- University of Wisconsin Madison, Workday Research Administration Facilitator Subject Matter Expert
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Research Education Development mentor
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Workday Change Readiness and Grant Reporting Member
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, RAMP Implementation, Trainer, and Governance Member
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Research Education Development Program Advisory Committee member