Welcome to the Board!
New RACC Board Members

Cathy Le, CRA
University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Suzanne Wiltgen, CRA
University of Central Arkansas

Rick Roberts, CRA
Morehouse School of Medicine

Jacqueline Rearick, CRA
Liberty University

Shelaza Mohamad, CRA
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Brent Bell, CRA
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute

The Positive Side of a Global Pandemic
Anne McMains, MPA, CRA
Arkansas Children's Research Institute

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had many devastating effects and difficult challenges, it has also resulted in a few positive outcomes for Research Administration. The pandemic has forced Research Administrators to see things from a different perspective and act quickly to produce the best results for our investigators and our organizations. The need to remain socially distant and the rise of the tele-conference meeting and other collaborative platforms have resulted in greater flexibility to work from home and increased productivity during meetings. It is beneficial to see a silver lining in an otherwise gloomy situation. Full Story
What Makes a Research Administrator?
A Follow up Story to the 2016 Survey
Jenifer Hoffman, CPRA, CRA
The Pennsylvania State University

The 2016 Survey “What Makes a Research Administrator?”¹ asked those in the profession how they self-define, to get a better sense of the profession as a whole. Penn State uses the 2016 Survey as a tool for its Administrative Committee on Research (ACOR) Certification & Education Series (ACES)² Soft Skills class. The ACES program is designed to give Research Administrators at every level the necessary skills and expertise to support faculty in research. This program provides the essentials for every step of research support process – from proposal development to project management to compliance. John Hanold, Penn State’s Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs uses this program to help Research Administrators value their career choices. As one of the Soft Skills co-presenters, I was curious to know if Research Administrators feelings about their careers have changed from 2016 to 2022. With permission from the authors of the original survey, Zoya Davis-Hamilton and Sarah Marina, I repeated the survey. Through RESADM-L listserv, I asked the same questions using a brief anonymous survey. The Survey was open between March 1 and March 17, 2022 and collected 191 responses. Below is a comparison of the survey results from 2016 and now. Full Story

Hats Off to our Volunteers!

Rashonda Harris, CRA
Director of Award Management and Post Award Services at the University of Connecticut and an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University.

She teaches for Johns Hopkins Master’s Research Administration degree program. Rashonda, like many in the field, did so accidentally at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and has been in the field for over 20 years. She earned her CRA to encourage her staff to do so and emphasizes the importance of Research Administration. As a committed volunteer, Rashonda joined the RACC newsletter to give back to the research community. She plans to continue volunteering with the hope of joining the RACC board in the future.

Getting to Know a Board Member

Jacqueline Rearick, MS, CRA
Executive Director Office of Sponsored Programs

In 2008 I began my work in federal grants as an evaluation coordinator for multiple Department of Education projects. I quickly moved into grant writing at the foundation, state and federal level, and then in 2012, secured a role as a grants specialist at a growing community college. I have worked as a grant consultant in my local community for NPO’s as well as a contractor, for McAllister and Quinn in Washington, D.C., writing and/or reviewing grants for IHE’s. Currently I serve (since 2017) as the Executive Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) at
Liberty University (LU). In 2019 I received my Certified Research Administrator (CRA) credential.

I joined the RACC board in October of 2021 because I like taking the practical steps of a vision and bringing it to life. What does it mean to be a professional Research Administrator (RA) in a career that is highly dynamic and adaptive? Where is our common ground as RA’s regardless of the size or shape of our institutions? And how can we as RA’s grow, learn and resource with one another in our day-to-day activities? Being on the RACC board allows me to connect not only with thought leaders in the RA field to address these questions, but it also allows me to serve you, the professional community of RA’s.

As a member of the RACC board I assist on several committee’s including Body of Knowledge Presenters/Review, Volunteer Coordination Committee and Newsletter. Each of these committee’s combines my love of presenting, writing, and collaborating with peers to support the growth of individual RA’s.

This is an exciting time to be part of the RACC Board as there is a strong focus on engaging the full community of certificants CRA’s, CFRA’s and CPRA’s to be more involved in board priorities and activities. Engagement opportunities include volunteering on the RACC Board, writing for the newsletter, or serving on the RACC CRA or CPRA Item Writing, or Item Review or Exam Review Committees. It is truly a blessing to serve on the RACC board to help our profession grow. I hope you will consider getting involved as well.

Take us with you

If you plan to move to another job and still want to receive the RACC Newsletter, please let us know your new email address. We will ensure that you still receive the same great service and reading material. Thanks!

Believe it or Not!

I have a faculty member who insists that all her awards go into one account. "It would just be easier for me to manage that way" says my faculty member. While I pick my jaw off the floor, I counter, "No, I'm sorry, we can't do that for you. I understand that this is easier for you. However, we are mandated by law to ensure that each and every award has their own account." I normally don't say 'no' to a faculty member. I try with all my resources to find a way that helps them without infringing on any federal law, grant policies, or procedures managed by the university. This particular faculty has asked this same question to the negotiator, the finance officer, the dean, and of course myself. We have all come back with the same response. I have explained that we need to account for each charge for every award and assure the sponsor that every charge is reasonable, allowable, and allocable. It frightens me that faculty who hold millions of dollars in federal, state, and fellowship funds would ask this type of question.

Please share your story!

Use the "Believe it or Not" button and send us your story. This is the one place where research administrators from all over can laugh, cry, and sympathize. We have all been there!
Exam Schedules and Body of Knowledge Review Sessions

Exam schedules and Body of Knowledge Review sessions can be found [HERE].

To host a review session contact Michelle Breton, Review Session Coordinator

Ready to Recertify?

Keep track of your contact hours and supporting documentation. If you have any questions on our recertification process, please contact Susanne MacDonald.

Go to the RACC Website for vital information regarding recertification.

Visit our website

Contact Hour Opportunities

Society of Research Administrators International
National Council of University of Research Administrators
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)
Research Administration Demonstration Series (RAD)

Employment Opportunities

View All Job Postings

Contact us to post employment opportunities on the RACC website.

Sign me up or let me go
If you have any friends or colleagues or that may want to receive our newsletter, send me their email address. I will contact them and get their permission. Hit the "sign me up" button. Send a list of names and emails of those who you believe should hear from us. However, if you are tired from hearing from us, no harm, hit the button and say, "let me go" in the subject line.

Are you interested in taking the Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA) Exam? Take the practice exam to test your skill. **CFRA Practice Exam**

**WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS CERTIFICATION COUNCIL?**

The Council is a private, independent, nonprofit organization that develops and administers a voluntary program for the certification of individuals who meet the requirements established by the Council.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) to receive RACC updates, free contact hour opportunities, information regarding upcoming RACC Body of Knowledge Sessions, and celebrate milestones!

**Purchase RACC Merchandise**