

## July 2022 Newsletter



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### Introducing : The Re-designed Research Administrators Certification Council's Website!

We are thrilled to announce that the Research Administrators Certification Council has launched an entirely re-designed website at <https://cra-cert.org/>. The redesigned website provides a more user-friendly, comprehensive, and accessible experience!

Some of the great new features of the website offer:

- A Certificant Members-Only area allowing you to edit your user profile and directory information
- Ability to enter and track your contact hours in preparation for recertification
- Information for new certificants, and much more!

**Mark this website as one of your favorites. The resources are valuable and useful tools you will use again and again!**

### Congratulations to our new CRA Certificants!

We are pleased as punch to announce our new CRA Certificants. You show your dedication, ambition, courage, and know-how. Our new list of certificants is located [HERE](#).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**



## Welcome to the Board! New RACC Board Members



Jacqueline Rearick, CRA  
Liberty University



Suzanne Wiltgen, CRA  
University of Central Arkansas



Sheleza Mohamed, CRA  
American Heart Association



Rick Roberts, CRA  
Morehouse School of Medicine



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?”<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup> 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. Attached 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**

Rashonda 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.

## **Auditors. Friend or Foe? Theresa Yockey, BTAS, CRA University of Cincinnati**

The word "auditor" to most people carries negative connotations. When we hear this term, we start to think of the possible upcoming challenges to existing processes and procedures and having the mundane task of explaining why we do what we do, and by which logic we follow. However, we work with our internal auditors on a continual basis so they can provide a more proactive and consultative approach to evaluating and providing a fresh perspective on operations and controls. As our internal auditors take an all-inclusive view of a university's procedures, their job is to ensure the central office and departments are compliant, and to make recommendations for improvement by reviewing the organizational units within a university. They also determine whether we are effectively performing functions efficiently and effectively consistent with university objectives and standards.



So, before you start to assume that an auditor is "bad" or out to get you, just remember they are just doing their job, and more importantly they are there to help you.

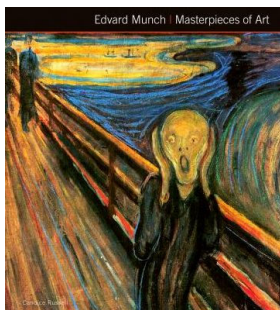
Next time you are in the office, go visit your internal auditor to say hello. You might find they even have the “good” candy in their office!

## 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!

Contact Us

## 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!

Believe it or Not

## Exam Schedules and Body of Knowledge Review Sessions

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

Attend a CRA & CFRA Body of Knowledge review session live and in person at the NCURA Region V meeting on November 6, 2022. Click [HERE](#) to register.



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

Michelle Breton

## 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.

**Susanne MacDonald**

Check out our social media pages for upcoming contact hour opportunities!

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.

**Sign Me Up!**

**Let Me Go!**

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.

[About RACC - More](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[RA Directory](#)

[Contact RACC](#)

**Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive RACC updates, free contact hour opportunities, information regarding upcoming RACC Body of Knowledge Sessions, and celebrate milestones!**

**[Purchase RACC Merchandise](#)**



Research Administrators Certification Council | 12110 N Pecos Street, #220, Westminster, CO 80234

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