



# **NCURA Region VII**

## **June News**

*Inspiring research administrators to pioneer frontiers*

## **Happy June All!**

Happy start of summer and end of fiscal year to many of you! Here is to surviving the next few months!

This newsletter will highlight the election for our four open elected official positions for terms beginning in 2020.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR REGIONAL MEETING IN SEATTLE! [Click Here!](#)

Also: check out the PUI corner to learn more about Risk Assessments and to read the spotlight on Montana Tech!!



# Voting is OPEN June 24 to July 23

Voting will close at 5:00 pm Mountain Time on July 23, 2019. **Please click the Vote Now button at the end of your unique email to participate.** This ballot link is unique to you and your vote may be recorded only once.

You may cast one vote for each position, and there is a provision for your write-in vote as well.

[Click Here for the Election Website](#)

## Your Nominees Are...

Chair Elect Nominee



**Trisha Southergill**

Montana Technological University

[Click Here to Read More about Trisha](#)

Secretary Nominee



**Joelina Peck**

Arizona State University

[Click Here to Read More about Joelina](#)

Treasurer Elect Nominee

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## Liz Grinstead

Colorado State University

[Click Here to Read More about Liz](#)

Member-at-Large Nominee

Member-at-Large Nominee



## Beth Kingsley

Denver Health and Hospital Authority

[Click Here to Read More about Beth](#)

## Nicole Quartiero

Colorado State University- Pueblo

[Click Here to Read More about Nicole](#)

# Annual Meeting 61 - August 4-7



REGISTER

Building towards the future... *together*

Registration is open for AM61 - August 4-7 in Washington DC!

**CLICK HERE for more information about registration!**

Join the national membership and make sure to carve out time to connect with your other Region VII members in attendance!

Going to AM61? Would you be interested in a night bus tour of DC one night? If so- email Natalie Buys at [NATALIE.BUYS@UCDENVER.EDU](mailto:NATALIE.BUYS@UCDENVER.EDU) to let her know your interest!

## CONGRATULATIONS to the NCURA National Travel Award Winner

Join Region VII in congratulating our very own NCURA National Travel Award Winner-  
Liz Grinstead from Colorado State University!



## CONGRATULATIONS to the Region VII National Travel Award Winner

Congratulations to John Williamson from Colorado State University - Pueblo on receiving the Region VII Travel Award to the National Meeting!

# Region VI & VII Regional Meeting October 27-30



**Research Administration Meets Bigfoot:**  
Confronting mysteries and challenges in our changing environment

We are excited to announce that registration is NOW  
OPEN!

[Click Here to Register!](#)

The Motif Hotel will **NOT** be sending a confirmation email of your reservation. Be sure to print your hotel reservation confirmation information from the website. Hope to see you in Seattle!

## Preliminary Program

[Click Here for preliminary program information!](#)

There are several not to miss workshops and presentations! Seattle is shaping up to be excellent!

Hope to see you there!



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## Get Your Jackalope Swag!



Jackalope T Shirt  
[Click Here!](#)



Jackalope Crossing  
[Click Here!](#)



Jackalope Pin  
[Click Here!](#)



## PUI Corner

PUI Risk Assessment  
Getting to Know Your Institutional Risk Tolerance

*Sylvia Bradshaw*

*Director of Sponsored Programs, Agreements, Research, and Contracts (SPARC)*

*Southern Utah University*

RISK! It's a word that may breed intense anxiety or a rush of exhilaration; interestingly, the emotion associated with risk doesn't not usually lie anywhere in between those two continuums. However, as we ponder where our institutions fit on the risk monitor, we should remember we are research administrators, thus... the answer will always be, "it depends".

This blurb is going to focus on the first step in Risk Assessment – know your institutions tolerance risk level. Does it thrive on risk, eliminate risk, or mitigate risk to a healthy level somewhere in between?

Before we dive too deep into the topic, it is important to note that most think of risk as negative. This is a fallacy. Think about a few of these one-liners to further develop your consideration of appropriate risk:

- 1) "The biggest risk is not taking any risk." Mark Zuckerberg
- 2) "If you don't play, you can't win." Judith McNaught
- 3) "Why not go out on a limb, that is where the fruit is." Frank Scully
- 4) "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." William G. T. Shedd

Now back to anxiety and/or exhilaration – what does our institutional emotional response depend on? Well, in this matter it's time to admit - it really isn't about us. It depends on the institution name at the top of each of our pay stubs. What is your institutions appetite for risk? The answer to this question is certainly abstract and can sometimes alter very quickly depending on the audit environment and current findings. However, a general consensus can usually be derived. Here are a few questions to contemplate when informally evaluating institutional tolerance of risk.

**1) Does your institution require participation in a robust risk assessment?**

a. If so,

- i. At what level does this assessment occur? (system/institution/division/department/etc)
- ii. How often does this risk assessment occur?
- iii. Is there follow up to the results of the risk assessment?
- iv. Does the institutional strategic plan involve risk or risk avoidance?

b. If not,

- i. Is it a lack of accountability or simply a lack of resources/positions?
- ii. To whom will the accountability lie if/when something goes wrong?

**2) Does your institution value innovation?** If so, do they put dollars behind innovative endeavors? Or simply incorporate the buzz word without monetary support?

**3) Does your institution give a point value to activities containing risk in the rank/tenure/promotion process?** If so, what type of activities are valued and what type

of activities are not given weight? What types of activities would the review committee view as a negative?

**4) What were your institutional responses to the most recent audit findings?** Was there a swift top down mandate or a collaborative flexible solution created by stakeholders?

**5) Think about your institutional risk management team.** What is their focus? Safety? Financial? Training? At what level is this position held at your institution?

**6) Does your institution offer risk training?** Is it mandated or optional?

**7) Are institutional policies specific with clearly defined consequence or broader and more generalized?**

After reviewing these few aspects, it is likely you'll identify other clues to help you align practices with your institutional level of risk tolerance. Don't be afraid to simply ask around. Talk to the internal auditor, business services, faculty senate, policy office or anyone else you think could lend more information on the topic. Finally, try to understand the "why" behind your institutional risk culture. The "why" often leads to pertinent, relevant information. Developing a 360' perception of risk will give you the advantage when navigating discussions that develop the perfect balance of risk where you don't have to hyperventilate from anxiety or over exhilaration!

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Institutional Spotlight  
On:

## Montana Technological University

Trisha Southergill

Grant Support and E-Thesis Manager



Originally chartered as The Montana State School of Mines, Montana Technological University (Montana Tech) has evolved into a dynamic institution composed of two colleges and two schools (College of Letters, Sciences, & Professional Studies; Highlands College; School of Mines and Engineering; and Graduate School); and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. There are 45 undergraduate degrees offered with 15 minors, 11 certification degrees, and 10 pre-professional career programs. Montana Tech also offers 21 graduate degrees and a Ph.D. in Material Science.

Montana Tech continued to evolve in May 2017 when the Montana Board of Regents approved a fourth institutional classification for institutions higher education (IHE) in the state. The new classification, Special Focus Four-Year University, was given to Montana



Tech. Today Montana Tech is the only IHE in Montana with this designation. In May 2018, the Montana Board of Regents approved a new institution name for Montana Tech, Montana Technological University.

Over the past 5 years, Montana Tech has increased its research volume from 85 proposals valued at \$12.5 million in FY13 to 143 proposals valued at \$35.2 million in FY18. Awards have nearly doubled from \$4.4 million in FY13 to \$9.5million in FY18.

Today, Montana Tech is recognized among America's best values in undergraduate education ranking #6 in the nation for graduates earning the highest starting salaries. Montana Tech possesses an internationally esteemed, century-old tradition of excellence in higher education.

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## Quote of the Month

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"We don't need a protocol. We are testing the new device on ourselves."

Response from a PI and Co-I after NCRR called and asked the central office if they were aware that one of their PIs had checked 'no human subjects' and did indeed have subjects in two years. The 'device' turned out to be a laser they were shooting near their eyes.





[www.ncuraregionvii.org](http://www.ncuraregionvii.org)

Questions or Ideas?

Email them to

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