Personal Statement – Brigette Pfister

Throughout my research administration career, I have been fortunate to have mentors who challenged me to grow, colleagues who shared their expertise, and a professional community that continually reminded me that we're all in this together! NCURA has been central to that journey. It has shaped my development as a research administrator, expanded my perspective as a leader, and provided opportunities to serve a profession that I deeply value.

Experience has taught me that leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about listening, building consensus, empowering volunteers, and creating opportunities for others to succeed. I believe that the best outcomes come from diverse perspectives working toward a common goal.

My work as Post-Award Manager at Colorado State University has reinforced those same principles. Every day, I balance compliance, service, strategic thinking, and team development while navigating an increasingly complex research environment. These experiences have strengthened my ability to analyze difficult issues, make thoughtful decisions, and communicate across a wide variety of stakeholders, skills that I believe are essential for effective service on the National Board. I am also relentlessly creative, which I think is important as we look for new ways to engage with our members (particularly the younger generations now joining our ranks!).

If elected as Region VII's Regionally Elected Member of the National Board, I will strive to be a thoughtful and engaged representative. I want to ensure that members feel heard, that regional perspectives are meaningfully represented in national discussions, and that decisions made by the Board continue to strengthen the organization for members at every stage of their career.

One of the qualities I value most about NCURA is its culture of generosity. This is an organization where experienced professionals willingly share knowledge and celebrate one another's successes. I have tried to embody those values through presenting, writing, mentoring, and volunteering, and I would be honored to continue that service at the national level.

I am grateful for the opportunities NCURA has given me over the years, and I believe this is the right time for me to give back in a broader capacity. I would be honored to serve as a member of the National Board, bringing creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to advancing the research administration profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

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REFERENCES

Available upon request.

EXPERIENCE

JAN 2023-PRESENT
Post-Award Manager | Colorado State University | Ft. Collins, CO

APR 2017-JAN 2023
Assistant Dean for Budget & Operations | UNC Greensboro | Greensboro, NC

MAR 2016-NOV 2016
Director of Proposal and Award Management | University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

JAN 2012-MAR 2016
Director of Sponsored Programs for Humanities and Sciences| Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, VA

DEC 2008-JAN 2012
Director of Grant Support Services | Clemson University | Clemson, SC

JUL 2004-DEC 2008
Grants Coordinator | Clemson University | Clemson, SC

Areas of Expertise: Proposal development, Pre- and Post-award research administration, Financial Compliance, Contracting, Education and training development, Process improvement, Strategic planning, Supervision and coaching, Budgeting/financial forecasting, Financial compliance, Position management.

EDUCATION

Master of Human Resource Development |
Clemson University | Clemson, SC 2010

Bachelor of Business Administration and CIS |
Anderson College, Anderson SC 2004

MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Dual Certificates in Grants Management (Recipient and Pass-Through Tracks) | Management Concepts, Inc | Washington, DC 2006

Certified Research Administrator (CRA) 2010 (lapsed 2020, recertified 2023)

Phi Kappa Phi – inducted 2009

Agile/Lean Management Certificate Course | University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA 2016

National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA)
* Research Management Review (RMR) Assistant to the Editor, 2010-2012

*Region III Program Committee 2015, 2016, 2017

*Region III Social Media Coordinator 2014-2016

*Regional and National Presentations 2008-2016, 2024-Present

*National Workshop Presentation (Full-Day) 2015-2016, (Half-Day) 2025

*NCURA Life Cycle training development and presentation – Closeout Modules 2025

*Region VII Chair/Chair-Elect 2024-2025

*Annual Meeting Program Committee 2026

*Region VI&VII Program Committee 2026

North Carolina Presenters' Consortium (NCPC), At-Large Board Member 2020-2022

*ArtsMarket Showcase evaluation committee

*Programming committee for annual meetings and conferences

Kernersville Arts and Crafts Guild (KACG), 2022-Present

Reconsidered Goods (Creative Reuse Center, Greensboro NC), Board Member, 2026-2029

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Pfister, B. (2026, March/April). *Resilient By Design: How Research Administrators Can Thrive Through Change*. NCURA Magazine, Vol. 58, No 2, p. 5-6.