

Carrie Childs Personal Statement - Candidate for Region VII Treasurer-Elect

My professional journey has been motivated by a keen interest in financial management, strategic planning, and leadership development. With BS in accounting, an MBA and the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) designation, I have built a robust foundation in grant management and accounting, equipping me with the skills and knowledge to excel in these fields.

From the outset of my career, I have been drawn to the complex world of finance and accounting. My early roles in various accounting positions both in the private and public sectors provided me with a solid understanding of financial principles and practices. These experiences laid the groundwork for my transition into grant management, where I have spent the past five years honing my expertise. Managing grants has allowed me to merge my financial acumen with my strategic planning abilities, ensuring the effective allocation and utilization of resources to achieve organizational goals.

Education has been a cornerstone of my professional development. Building on an undergraduate degree in Accounting, I completed my MBA in 2017. This deepened my understanding of business management and enhanced my strategic thinking capabilities. The rigorous coursework and collaborative projects during my MBA program equipped me with the tools to navigate complex business environments and drive organizational success.

Achieving the CRA certification was another pivotal moment in my career. It affirmed my commitment to excellence in research administration and underscored my dedication to adhering to regulatory standards and best practices. This certification has been instrumental in my ability to manage grants with a high degree of accuracy and compliance.

Leadership development has been a continuous theme throughout my career. Completing the 2017 SUU President's Leadership Academy and participating in the 2023 LeadMe Program have been instrumental in shaping my leadership style. These programs have not only enhanced my decision-making and team leadership skills but also instilled in me the importance of mentorship and lifelong learning.

In 2024, I took on the role of co-mentor in the LeadMe Program, a role that has been both challenging and rewarding. Guiding participants through their leadership development journeys has reinforced my belief in the power of collaboration and the transformative impact of effective mentorship.

My professional journey is characterized by a commitment to excellence and a dedication to continuous learning. I am driven by the belief that effective financial management and leadership can significantly impact organizational success. As I look to the future, I am excited about the opportunities to leverage my skills and experiences to contribute to the growth and success of forward-thinking organizations.

CARRIE L. CHILDS

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PROFILE

- Motivated and friendly with a firm understanding of what it takes to help build an efficient and pleasant environment
- Skilled at researching and communicating difficult concepts such as federal laws and program compliance to increase stakeholder understanding
- Cooperates well with fellow employees to help build relationships and develop open communication across departments and organizations
- Actively seeks opportunities to learn and expand experience
- Effective problem solver; can prioritize and manage work flow without direct supervision, is dependable and committed to excellence
- Strives to balance professional and personal commitments and interests allowing a well-rounded perspective
- Over 15 years of professional experience ranging from public accounting to higher education accounting management, offering a practical perspective and approach

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration

Graduated 2017

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

- 3.97 graduate GPA

Bachelor of Accounting

Graduated 2000

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

CREDENTIALS & CERTIFICATES

Certified Research Administrator

Fall 2022

Earned Certified Research Administrator designation

Co-Mentor 2024 LeadMe Cohort ~ Member 2023 LeadMe Cohort

Participated in this comprehensive leadership development program focusing on personal and professional growth, effective communication, and leadership in dynamic environments. As a co-mentor for the 2024 Cohort, I have the opportunity to share what I have learned helping to guide current participants through their leadership development journey.

EXPERIENCE **Assistant Director, Sponsored Programs, Agreements, Research and Contracts/Research Administrator** *2021 to Present*

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

The SPARC Assistant Director supports the SPARC Director in Research Administration. As a Research Administrator I provide post-award support to ensure the financial and programmatic requirements are completed, including compliance with all federal laws and granting agency regulations. I assist to provide faculty and staff with pre-award support to identify funding opportunities and develop and submit proposals. Researching ways to improve Effort Reporting process

- Ensure compliance and adherence to all current policies and procedures and participate in the development of SPARC policies related to the administration of sponsored programs
- Supports the Director by researching issues and advising on the regulatory developments that impact research administration and by providing background information, research, documentation, metrics and measurements or other data as requested
- Act as a liaison with funding agencies to resolve complex issues both programmatic and financial
- Provides leadership and coordination through all steps of the SPARC grant cycle, including: identifying funding opportunities, proposal development and submission, managing the award, ensuring compliance, and award closeout.
- Leads the post-award project management oversight activities of SPARC as they relate to OMB Uniform Guidance (including all applicable regulatory and administrative laws).
- Works with the Director of SPARC to conduct informational workshops for faculty/staff interested in applying for grant funding.

Accounting Supervisor

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

I worked as the main liaison between SPARC and SUU Accounting Services. In this capacity I am responsible for managing the financial aspects of grants and contracts. I draw grant funds from various governmental sponsors, invoice those on other platforms and file required financial reports externally. I develop relationships with PIs and support staff to answer questions and improve processes.

- Used SQL and Excel to streamline the grant draw preparation process, cutting preparation time in half
- Assisted with initial implementation of SmartGrant Software
- Researching ways to improve Effort Reporting process
- Developing Excel sheets for the SUU IIC to track complex grant details and enable them to quickly update information for their entire grant portfolio, greatly reducing manual entry

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS

REGION VII

NOMINATION FORM ELECTION 2024

Nominator:

Name: Carrie Childs

Institution: Southern Utah University

Position: Asst Director, SPARC

Phone: 435-586-7727 Email: carriechilds@suu.edu

Candidate Information:

Select One: Chair-Elect (2025)

Treasurer-Elect (2025)

Member-at-Large – 2 year term (2025-2026)

Regionally Elected Member of the National Board of Directors (2025-2026)

Name: Carrie Childs

Institution: Southern Utah University

Position: Asst Director, SPARC

Phone: 435-586-7727 Email: carriechilds@suu.edu

Nominator's Statement of Candidate's Qualifications:

Self-Nominating, I am a Certified Research Administrator, and have completed a BS in Accounting and an MBA with 5 years grant management experience in various capacities and many years of prior experience in diverse accounting roles. Please see attached personal statement for more information