

Personal Profile

Nominee: Katie Eilers

Institution: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Position Sought: NCURA Region IV – At-Large Member

I am grateful to be considered for the NCURA Region IV At-Large Member position. I currently serve as the Director of Award Management in the Office of Research and Projects at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where I lead a post-award team that supports approximately \$ 30 million in sponsored project activity each year. My focus is on finding the right balance between compliance and service, helping faculty manage their grants efficiently while maintaining a collaborative and solution-driven process.

What draws me to this opportunity is the chance to give back to the NCURA community that has influenced so much of my career. After attending the 2024 National Conference, I developed a deep appreciation for Region IV and the way it reflects the best parts of our field: collegiality, creativity, and a shared commitment to helping one another succeed. I would be excited to contribute to that work by helping connect members, strengthening post-award operations, and supporting emerging research institutions across the region.

Fun fact: When I am not working with grants and dashboards, you can usually find me in the garden or watching college basketball with my family.

NCURA & Professional Activities

- Presenter, NCURA National Conference (2024) – “Where Do I Go From Here? Career Ladder”
- Active Region IV member with engagement in national development opportunities
- Attendee at the Research Analytics Summit (2024)
- Committee service at SIUE on budgeting, sponsored program oversight, and institutional effectiveness

Professional Experience

Director of Award Management, Office of Research & Projects • Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Edwardsville, IL) • *September 2020 – Present*

Lead and manage the university's post-award team through all financial aspects of grants and contracts. Revamped PI onboarding, streamlined new employee training, eliminated unnecessary processes, and developed SIUE's first Power BI PI dashboard, all while maintaining zero audit findings.

Education

Doctorate in Education (Anticipated December 2025) • Western Illinois University

Higher Education: Social Justice & Organizational Structure

Proposed Dissertation: Exploring the Crucial Influence of Research Engagement on Retention Among Underrepresented Students at a Midwestern Public University

Master's in Public Administration (2016) • Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

B.A. Political Science (2009) • McKendree University