

Liz Grinstead

## Personal Statement

I am excited for the opportunity to run for an at large board member position with Region IV. NCURA has been a large part of my professional growth and I am ready to continue to give back and help grow, shape Region IV for the needs of the membership and the future of research administration. I bring my experience with the region from past involvement, a strong sense of collaboration, attention to detail, and a genuine interest in helping NCURA continue to be better, look forward, and help shape the next few years with the region. This role provides a unique platform to listen to members' needs, bring forward fresh ideas, and contribute to initiatives that make a tangible impact on our profession. I'm especially excited to help improve and build member engagement and create spaces where members feel valued, inspired, and empowered to grow. Fun fact, at my desk, you'll find a variety of tchotchkes including felted succulents, toddler art work, blown glass, and Lego models.

My service with NCURA has been varied. With Region IV, I have served as an at large board member for 2024-2026, co-chair of the Communications Committee, Program Co-Lead of the 2025 Spring Meeting in Chicago, webmaster and web designer of the current Region IV website, regional meeting presenter, and regional meeting track co-lead. I have also been a part of Region II and VII, served and chaired on several committees in regions II and VII including awards, communications, site selection, strategic planning, and volunteer and membership; helped design and revamp websites for regions II, IV, and VII; served as treasurer for Region VII; and served on many program and planning committees for regional meetings. Nationally, I am a Professional Development Committee Member, and have served as co-chair of a track for the 65th and 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. I have also been a presenter at various conferences and workshops for both regional and national meetings. Through these leadership roles, I have gained experience balancing long-term planning with the ability to respond to new challenges, emerging trends, and member needs.

Locally, within the universities I have worked at, I have mentored and trained newer staff members both within my department and outside. This involved sharing knowledge, being a point of first contact for questions or concerns, and encouraging mentees to grow and reach. I have shared my knowledge via presentations and newsletters. I feel as though I am seen as a leader in my research administration knowledge and often am contacted to bounce ideas off of and find answers.

All the positions I have held have been within the central office. I have been throughout the lifecycle, from Pre to Post, both financial and non-financial specific, some subawards, and some contracts. My broad knowledge of research administration has been crucial to my career growth. Additionally, I have been curious about so many aspects of research administration that being able to have such varied positions has sparked my continued interest and desire to learn more about the field and the issues.

I hope to be one of your next at large board members for Region IV and will endeavor to serve the membership at large.