

Personal Statement for NCURA Region IV Chair-Elect

I am honored to be considered for the position of Chair-Elect for NCURA Region IV. I have spent nearly twenty-five years in research administration, serving in strategic, financial, operational, and leadership roles across academic medical centers and research institutes. NCURA has been central to my professional growth, and I am deeply committed to our region's values of collaboration, shared knowledge, and professional development.

I currently serve as a Department Administrator in the Institute for Health & Humanity at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where I oversee budget development, workforce planning, grants and contracts administration, operational efficiency initiatives, and faculty and program support across multiple departments and research centers.

I lead a team of administrative professionals and serve as a liaison to institutional leadership, requiring strategic communication, relationship-building, resource stewardship, and long-range planning—skills essential to the Chair-Elect role, particularly in planning and executing the Region IV Spring Meeting and representing the region at national leadership levels.

My engagement with NCURA is long-standing and deeply meaningful. I currently serve as Region IV Board Secretary and an Executive Committee Member, and previously served as a Region IV Member-at-Large.

I have presented at multiple regional and national NCURA conferences, including Region II and Region IV meetings and the NCURA Financial Research Administration and National meetings, where my presentations have focused on research administration professional development, organizational operations, and compliance. I have also served as a MOO Mentor, and participated in the Region IV Communications, DEI, and Awards Committees, which has given me a broad understanding of member needs and regional priorities.

Academically, I hold a BS in Clinical Laboratory Science and a BA in Communications, a combination that has shaped both my analytical approach and my commitment to clear communication.

A lesser-known part of my background is that I was once Board-Certified as a Medical Technologist by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, maintaining that certification for ten years before transitioning fully into research administration—an experience that continues to inform my understanding of research environments, terminology, and scientific culture.

I also believe that community-building should be meaningful *and* enjoyable. Many members know me as the person behind the cow-themed games and prizes at the NCURA National Tuesday Night events, where connecting with each other reminds us that professional networks are human ones. And as a long-time Doctor Who fan, I believe in the power of reinvention, curiosity, and stepping forward even when the path ahead is bigger on the inside.

Region IV has shaped my career, uplifted my leadership, and connected me to colleagues who became mentors, collaborators, and friends. I would be honored to give back as Chair-Elect, working to strengthen mentorship pathways, expand programming, and foster inclusive spaces where all members can thrive and find belonging.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration.