

Dear Region IV Members:

I am excited to be running for NCURA Region IV's Secretary position. I have worked at the University of Minnesota for over 18 years, more than 15 of which has been in research administration (pre- and post-award). I began as a departmental research administrator for many years, worked in the central Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) office for approximately 4 years, and went back to working as a departmental research administrator because I missed working with Principal Investigators (PIs). Working in both the central office and in the department has given me unique insight about procedures and how to find a common language between SPA and PIs. Currently, I am the Grants and Contracts Manager in the Department of Surgery with a collaborative team of 7 members. We provide cradle to grave service by liaising and working with SPA, accountants, and our Sponsored Financial Reporting office.

I have been a NCURA member for about 9 years and continue to value the collaboration and support that members provide for one another. I have received invaluable advice and support from the Region IV community that I have tried to reciprocate. Thus far, I have contributed to the NCURA community through:

- Presentations – Spark sessions, discussion sessions, concurrent sessions
- Volunteering – Spark and discussion track leader for spring meetings, registration at multiple meetings, various Spring meeting duties, Region IV volunteer coordinator
- Leadership – MOO mentoring, past Region IV Board Member, Program, Program Co-Lead for Region IV 2026 Spring Conference

I am passionate about research administration. I have been in, and continue to be, a part of research administration groups and committees focused on developing tools, streamlining procedures, and providing education about new sponsor requirements at the departmental, collegiate, and institutional level.

I enjoyed serving Region IV as a board member and, if chosen as secretary, I look forward to continuing my service to the region. I will use my experience to keep careful records of business meetings and other engagements, represent members' interests, and support Region IV to the best of my ability. I am most excited and motivated by the prospect of serving Region IV and its members.

Being a research administrator allows me to play a part in the bigger picture of research breakthroughs to improve lives. Despite the rewards that come with being a research administrator, we are faced with many challenges, such as constant sponsor changes, conflicting needs from PIs and institutional and sponsor policies. I want to do what I can to alleviate some of that struggle. I hope that I will have the opportunity to continue to pay back Region IV, which is a valued resource in meeting the continuing challenges we see in research administration.

One fun fact about myself is that I collect fountain pens. I am an introverted person, but I am pretty much always willing to talk about fountain pens ... or good food! Come find me if either of these topics are up your alley.

Hang McLaughlin