

Personal Statement - Crystal James, Medical College of Wisconsin

Hello Region IV friends,

I've worked in research administration for over 10 years and currently serve as the Senior Finance and Grants Manager for the CIBMTR at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I joined NCURA in 2017, and from my very first Region IV meeting, I knew I had found an incredible network of professionals who truly care about supporting one another and strengthening the research administration community. Like many of you, I initially joined NCURA to learn and connect, but what I found was a group of colleagues and friends who continue to inspire me and remind me why our work matters. My passion for mentorship and professional development has shaped much of my involvement with NCURA, including my time as a mentee in the Region IV MOO Program, an experience that strengthened my confidence, expanded my leadership skills, and deepened my appreciation for connection and support. Since 2019, I've had the privilege of serving on the Region IV Professional Development Committee and now as Co-Chair. Working alongside dedicated colleagues to support professional development opportunities for Region IV members has been one of the most fulfilling parts of my NCURA journey. Contributing to NCURA publications and presenting at both regional and national meetings has deepened my appreciation for our region's shared purpose and strengthened my commitment to serving our members. Region IV has been an important part of my professional and personal journey, and I value the many experiences and relationships that have shaped my growth. I am excited for the opportunity to continue contributing to this work and collaborate with other leaders to support meaningful initiatives for our members. I would be honored to serve as an At-Large Member of the Board and support the continued growth and success of a region that has given me so much.

Outside of work, I'm a proud soccer mom who loves getting lost in a good puzzle and have recently been enjoying the fun (and challenges) of learning to make bread. I also love traveling, exploring new places, and making memories with my family.

NCURA Activities and Positions Held

- Region IV Professional Development Committee (2019–present); Co-Chair (2024–present)
- Co-Author, *NCURA Sponsored Research Administration Guide (SRAG)* Article (2025)
- Contributing Author, *NCURA Magazine* (December 2024)
- Region IV Nominations Committee (2023–2024)
- Program Planning Committee, Poster Session Lead (2022–2024)
- Presenter and Attendee, Regional & National Meetings (2019–2025)
- Award Recipient, NCURA Region IV John Phillips Travel Award (2019)
- Mentee, Region IV Mentoring Our Own (MOO) Program (2018–2019)

Other Professional Activities

- Founding Member & Mentor, MCW Administrative Mentoring Program (2019–2023)
- Mentor and Founding Member, Staff Mentoring Program, Medical College of Wisconsin (2022–2024)
- Institutional Research Ambassador, Medical College of Wisconsin (2017–2023)

Education

- Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI – B.S., *Leadership & Organizations*