

Deirdre Beach
University of California, Santa Cruz
Nominee Statement – Treasurer-Elect/Treasurer

Throughout my 20+ year career in research administration, NCURA has been an indispensable partner in my professional development and success. The insights, resources, and networks I've gained through this association have been pivotal in navigating the complex landscape of university research administration. I am eager to give back to the community that has given so much to me by serving in a more strategic capacity as Region VI Treasurer.

In addition to my extensive experience in research administration and leadership, I also experience serving as a board member. From 2017-2019 I served as the Executive Director for Santa Cruz Roller Derby, a local non-profit sports league. I'm confident that this experience, along with my professional background, will support my successfully filling this position if selected.

In both my personal and professional endeavors, I aim to lead by example and continuously educate myself and my colleagues about the value of diversity. I am dedicated to creating opportunities for open dialogue, learning, and growth. I am excited to collaborate with others to identify and dismantle any barriers that may hinder the full participation of every individual within our organization. I am committed to fostering an environment that not only acknowledges and respects our differences but actively values and promotes them.

Diversity is essential for building a thriving and resilient community. As a leader, I am dedicated to creating an environment where all individuals feel safe, valued, and empowered to express their authentic selves. I am grateful that NCURA recognizes the significance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and has taken steps to implement DEI policies and training programs. I firmly believe that diversity fuels innovation and creativity. When we bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints, we open the door to new ideas and approaches that can drive our organization's success. By championing inclusivity, we ensure that every member of our team can contribute their unique talents and skills, ultimately enriching our collective achievements.

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Executive Director, Sponsored Projects Admin.
University of California, Santa Cruz

Objective

Accomplished Executive Director with a proven track record of leading innovative excellence in sponsored research administration. Offering a dynamic combination of visionary leadership, strategic planning, and an unwavering commitment to elevating process efficiency and ensuring compliance. Recognized for adeptly reducing administrative burdens through proactive cross-functional engagement, fostering resilience and flexibility across the organization's administrative research initiatives.

Professional Experience

As the Executive Director of Sponsored Research Administration I am responsible, through direct and indirect reports, for ensuring compliant and successful proposal solicitation and acceptance of all sponsored project agreements on behalf of the UC Santa Cruz campus. In support of OSP's responsibilities to the campus I ensure existing campus process and policies meet UC and Federal compliance requirements and recommend updates needed. As the UCSC's central unit for research administration this position is responsible for identifying best practices in meeting research administration and compliance, advising senior campus leadership on resources and policy change needs, and distributing information to campus stakeholders.

Prior to my current appointment I served as UCSC's Office of Sponsored Projects in multiple positions, including Asst. Director and Lead Contract and Grant Officer, for a combined total of more than 20 years experience in pre-award research administration.

Responsibilities and functions:

- Direct and lead UCSC's Office of Sponsored Project and the shared services Proposal Admin. Team.
- Develop and implement efficient process to ensure accountability and transparency to ensure compliance while reducing administrative burden.
- Ensure best practice processes for the request, review, and documentation of exceptions to policy related to proposal and award administration.
- Assess, advise, and implement policy and processes improvements to meet required compliance regulations while reducing administrative burden, maintaining flexibility, and maximize resiliency.
- Establish communication protocol between other central and divisional units in support of a collaborative and efficient work flow.
- Monitor work distribution between existing staff. Assess, advise and advocate for increased staffing and/or retainment needs.
- Represent UCSC in established research admin organizations (NCURA, FDP, COGR) and system wide meetings (C&G Leadership, Non-profit Policy, Subcontracting, Foreign Influence).
- Develop and coordinate outreach and training for faculty researchers to support their success in complying with campus and sponsor responsibilities.
- Inform OR senior leadership of changing regulations or related policy, impact to existing processes, and identify best practice solutions.

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Selected Accomplishments and Contributions

- Successfully restructured OSP's organizational workflow to optimize efficiency and resiliency while improving staff engagement.
- Participated in a campus wide committee to review all aspects of current post-award systems and processes and identify key areas for improved compliance, faculty support, and reduced administrative burden.
- Attend quarterly FDP and COGR meetings on behalf of UCSC.
- Actively participate in NCURA annual and regional meetings.
- Established and implemented UCSC's first shared services pre-award administration unit to support faculty and researcher across campus.
- Cultivated a collaborative network of faculty and administrative leadership throughout campus, resulting in improved campus opinion and support of OSP.
- Drastically improved OSP's relationship with many external units and stakeholders across campus, visibly changing the historical culture from adversarial to collaborative and supportive.
- Served as a committee member for revising UC's Policy on Classification of Gift and Sponsored Awards, approved by UC Regents March of 2022.
- Successfully led OSP through COVID-19 response without interruption in service despite unprecedented challenges.