

Tanya Blackwell
Seattle Children's Research Institute
Candidate Statement - Regional Advisory Committee At-Large Member

As a child, I moved around a lot, finding myself at a new school at least once a year. While I sometimes lament this aspect of my childhood, I mostly look back with gratitude because the frequent moving taught me how to “get it where I fit in” from an early age. I have always been one to approach new opportunities in the same way that I approached a new school – with optimism and enthusiasm. So, it is in this same spirit that I submit my statement of interest to serve as Region VI's Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) At-Large Member. I have been actively engaged with NCURA since 2013, as a member of Region III. Like many, I have been fortunate to find remote work out of my home state, and since joining Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI), I am now a new member of Region VI. It is my desire to find my place among this subset of membership, and I am confident that the At-Large position will allow me to be of immediate service and impact, while acclimating myself to the Region. By attending conferences and networking, as well as serving on and chairing national committees, I have met some wonderful Region VI members that have enriched my career and professional development already. If selected as the At-Large member, I will utilize the position to help enrich the experience of our membership, so that others can say the same about me.

NCURA has been an integral part of my professional development for almost a decade, and I have learned a lot about how to serve through inclusive leadership thanks to the opportunities provided to me by NCURA. I believe that I have acquired useful wisdom and insights through volunteer opportunities on both the regional and national level. When I started in Region III as the Public Relations Coordinator, I initiated the “Third Thursdays” newsletter, which is still ongoing today. Using this platform, I featured a different committee each month, which allowed me to dive deeply into the inner workings of each and share this information with the members as a way of encouraging others to volunteer. Everyone has something to contribute, and I found this newsletter to be an easy way to help others find where they best fit in and can serve using their skills and talents. One of my favorite roles in Region III was when I chaired the New Member Committee. I wanted to help make new members feel welcomed, embraced, and supported immediately. Initiatives such as the passport booklet and scavenger hunt for new members to help make their first conferences less daunting were smash hits! In my last year on this committee, I implemented a “Get Your Feet Wet Challenge” for new members, which helps connect them with regional leadership and volunteer opportunities from the onset. I am proud to say, this challenge is still offered to new members each month. Nationally, when I served as Chair of the Education Scholarship Fund Select Committee, I demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by developing and employing a blind review process for the scholarship recipients and the applications for the next year's members. This blind review allowed us to eliminate potential biases based on names of individuals and the institutions in which they served. I have heard that other committees on the national level have since adopted this same process and I am thrilled to know that the organization is going in a wonderful direction with regards to DEI. These are just a few examples of how I have contributed to my previous Region and the national organization. I am very excited about the opportunity to now contribute to Region VI through the role of At-Large member of the RAC.

My position on DEI is simple. To me, diversity is about so much more than race, gender and sexual orientation. Diversity covers the entire breadth and depth of who we are as people. I personally believe that inclusion requires more than simply making space for others to exist; it requires celebration of our differences, not merely tolerance of them. Equity ensures that access to resources for success is reflective of the needs of each individual, such that all can have an experience that is most appropriate for them. I believe in the power of diverse people coming together to curate an experience that welcomes and embraces all. I fully understand the importance of representation within leadership, which allows those making decisions to have a wider perspective and understanding of the impact of those decisions on the membership. We all need others to help call out our blind spots. This is one of the reasons I now serve nationally on the Select Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. If given the opportunity to serve as At-Large RAC member, I believe that my experience will serve me well towards serving the Region in an inclusive way. Thanks for your consideration.

Tanya M. Blackwell

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- The Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, Maryland May 2018
Master of Science, Research Administration
Thesis: Evaluation of eRA Systems: How Well Do They Deliver on Their Promises?
- Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, Georgia May 2006
Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering

EMPLOYMENT

- ❖ **Seattle Children's Research Institute**
Center Business Operations (CBO)
Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development (CHBD)
Grants and Contracts Supervisor June 2022 – Present
- ❖ **Duke University**
Department of Medicine
Office of Research
Grants and Contracts Manager March 2021 – May 2022
- ❖ **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.**
Office of Research Administration (ORA)
Manager June 2020 – February 2021
Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)
Manager June 2018 – June 2020
Senior Sponsored Program Analyst June 2017 – June 2018
- ❖ **Georgia Institute of Technology**
Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)
Contracting Officer September 2013 – June 2017
- ❖ **Emory University**
Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Medicine
Division of Cardiology, School of Medicine
Sponsored Research Administrator September 2012 – August 2013
September 2011 – September 2012
- ❖ **Georgia Institute of Technology**
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Grant Administrator September 2008 – September 2011
Project Coordinator, NEESR Grand Challenge Project, NSF December 2005 – September 2008

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION EXPERIENCE/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Select Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SCDEI), *NCURA*, Chair-Appointed Member: January 2023 - Present
- ❖ Foundations of EDI and Anti-Racism at Seattle Children's, *SCRI*, December 2022
- ❖ Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at Seattle Children's, *SCRI*, August 2022
- ❖ Teach.Equity.Now (Teaching and Leading Equity Cohort 6), *Duke University*, February – March 2022
- ❖ 2022 eMERGE Pilot Program Cohort, *NCURA*, January – June 2022
- ❖ Conversations with Colleagues: A Deeper Dive into Anti-Racism, *Duke University*, March – April 2021
- ❖ Moments to Movements: Dismantling Racism and Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the School of Medicine, *Duke University*, March – April 2021

NCURA MAGAZINE PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ [Justice in Research: One Institution's Efforts towards Leading Including and Just Research](#), May/June 2023, pages 18-19
- ❖ [Don't Call the Baby Ugly](#), October/November 2022, pages 24-25 (Co-Author: Lamar Oglesby)
- ❖ [When Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are More than Just a Statement](#), December 2021, page 24
- ❖ [Survey Says...eRA Systems Fulfill Their Promises](#), August 2018, pages 26-27
- ❖ [Between the Ellipses](#), October/November 2017, page 15
- ❖ [Looking Over the Fence: How the UIDP Quick Guide Helps Preadward Research Administrators Understand the Other Side](#), May/June 2017, page 12-13

NCURA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Professional Development Committee, Online Programming Subcommittee Chair: 2022
- ❖ PRA Program Committee, Research Development Track, Co-Chair, 2022
- ❖ Professional Development Committee, Member: 2021
- ❖ PRA Program Committee, Central Track, Co-Chair: 2020
- ❖ Executive Leadership Program, Graduate: 2020
- ❖ Education Scholarship Fund Select Committee, Chair: 2020
- ❖ Education Scholarship Fund Select Committee, Vice Chair: 2019
- ❖ AM61 Program Committee, Departmental Track Co-Chair: 2019
- ❖ AM61 Travel Award Selection Committee: 2019
- ❖ Annual Meeting Tech Team Volunteer: 2014, 2016, and 2017

NCURA ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND WORKSHOPS

- ❖ Same Same, But Different: Departmental Challenges and Successes (Co-Presenters: Susie Sedwick and Robyn Remotigue), accepted for AM65, August 2023
- ❖ NCURA Core Values (Executive Leadership Program Class of 2020), 2020
- ❖ Think Like a Leader, Lead like a Multiplier, Workshop (Co-Presenter: Abby Guillory), 2020
- ❖ Back and Forth: Making the Best of Departmental and Central Office Career Moves (Co-Facilitator: Laura Letbetter), 2019
- ❖ Lifting the Patch and Avoiding the Plank: Tips, Tools, and Tricks for the Newbie Onboard, 2015

NCURA FRA/PRA PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND WORKSHOPS

- ❖ Be the P.A.R.T.N.E.R. You Wish to Have: Pre-award and Post-Award Collaborations, PRA, 2023
- ❖ Mo' Money, Mo' Problems: Tools, tips, and Tricks for Large/Complex Federal Submissions, PRA 2023
- ❖ Building a Plane While Flying in a Natural Disaster (Co-Presenters: Janice Grace and Jatasha Haralson), PRA 2022
- ❖ The Speed of Trust in Research Administration (Co-Presenter: Jessica Weaver), PRA 2022

NCURA WEBINARS AND YOUTUBE TUESDAYS

- ❖ [Women in Research Administration Leadership Panel Discussion](#): Moderator, February 2023
- ❖ YouTube Tuesday: [Transferring of Existing Awards – Subawards](#), January 18, 2022
- ❖ YouTube Tuesday: [Transferring of Existing Awards](#), January 11, 2022
- ❖ In-N-Out: Here's What PI Transfers Are All About (Co-Presenters: Robyn Remotigue and Kay Gilstrap), 2021

NCURA REGION III LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Spring Meeting Planning Committee: 2021 - 2022
- ❖ Diversity and Inclusion Committee: 2020 - 2022
- ❖ New Member Committee, Member: 2020 - 2022
- ❖ Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Member: 2020 - 2022
- ❖ New Member Committee, Coordinator: 2016 - 2018; 2018 - 2020
- ❖ Joint Spring Meeting Program Committee, Book Club Co-Chair: 2020
- ❖ Spring Meeting Program Committee, Post-Award Track Chair: 2018
- ❖ Spring Meeting Program Committee, General/Professional Development Track Chair: 2017
- ❖ Region III Communications Committee, Public Relations Coordinator: 2014 - 2016

NCURA REGION III SPRING MEETING PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND WORKSHOPS

- ❖ [Interview with the Author](#), Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, The Empowered University, 2022
- ❖ Don't Just Count, MULTIPLY, 2019
- ❖ Fresh Blood! Recruitment into Our Field and Professional Organization (Co-Facilitators: Lacey Rhea and David Smelser) 2019
- ❖ Broader Impacts? Really? Can't You Just Give me a Template? (Co-Facilitator: Laura Letbetter), 2019
- ❖ Developing Educational Modules for Online Learning (Co-Presenter: Margaret Rankovic), 2018
- ❖ "With Threads Drawn from the Heart": Love and the Art of Research (Co-Presenter: Laura Letbetter), 2017
- ❖ Subrecipient Monitoring (Co-Presenter: Rob Bingham-Roy), 2017
- ❖ The B.R.I.D.G.E. Method: Closing the Divide between PIs, Departmental Administrators, and Central Office (Co-Facilitator: Adam Lawler), 2016
- ❖ Lifting the Patch and Avoiding the Plan: Tips, Tools, and Tricks for the Newbie Onboard (Co-Presenter: Natasha Stark), 2015

NCURA HONORS AND AWARDS

- ❖ 2020 Pam Whitlock Rising Star Award (Region III)
- ❖ 2014 Catherine Core Travel Award, National Council of University Research Administrators