

# CELESTE RIVERA-NUÑEZ

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, OFFICE OF RESEARCH — Orlando, FL

Director for Sponsored Programs – Pre-Award Administration, Research Training and Outreach

February 2022 to Present

- ◆ Provides effective leadership, direction, supervision, training, and mentorship to Pre-Award Administration team and the Office of Research Training and Outreach team in support of the Vice President of Research and Associate VP for Research and the missions of the office and University.
- ◆ Manage activities related to grants and contracts funding research, establish, and oversee processes to ensure compliance with funder, federal, and accepted industry standards, provide support to administration, faculty, and staff in the UCF research community, and provide resources and training to support a culture of effective sponsored research program management.
- ◆ Develop policies for the Office of Research to promote improvement of processes with adherence to relevant university, state, and federal guidelines. Gather and report on meaningful metrics to assist in reaching strategic goals for research.
- ◆ Create and foster an environment of support for the University research community through relationships with Deans, Associate Deans for Research, and research faculty by extending and supporting their research endeavors to secure funding.
- ◆ Responsible for setting the annual budgets for Pre-Award and Research Training and Outreach and working with the AVP for Research Administration to ensure the budget is on track.
- ◆ Interact with other Office of Research and University personnel to ensure effective communication, cooperation, and collaborations.
- ◆ Facilitate communication regarding research administration issues to the university community at large in a timely manner.
- ◆ Serve as liaison with a variety of agencies and professional groups to keep abreast of current developments and to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Work closely with faculty from a variety of disciplines, Office of Business Administration and Finance & Accounting to encourage a culture of excellence in grantsmanship.

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## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY — New York, NY

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Spanish Literature 1995

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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

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Presentations and Workshops:

- Various sessions on research administration, diversity, equity, and inclusion presented at NCURA and other conferences (2014-2023).

Academic Committee Activities

University of Central Florida

- Chair, Proposal Deadline Policy Subcommittee, 2023

- Member, Process Mapping Committee, 2023
- Various committee roles related to research planning and strategy.

#### Extramural Professional Activities – Professional Organizations

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Society of Research Administrators (SRAI) - Member since 2008, held roles including Track Committee Chair.

National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) – Member since 1997 (Region IV and III)

National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) – Member since 2008. Various roles in planning and diversity committees.

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#### Leadership Training

- SRAI Research Leadership Training Program, 2020
  - NCURA Leadership Certificate, 2008
  - Various leadership enhancement and training programs.
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#### Community Service

- Eucharistic Minister and Lector at local churches in Saint Cloud and College Park (2018-Present).

#### Bio:

Celeste Rivera-Nuñez is the Director of Sponsored Programs Pre-Award and Research Training and Outreach within the Office of Research at the University of Central Florida. With over 25 years of experience in research administration, Celeste has honed her expertise in various domains, including pre-award processes, contract negotiations, post-award management, subaward oversight, and research administration training. She has played a pivotal role in grant business systems implementation and workforce development initiatives, demonstrating her commitment to advancing best practices in research administration.

Celeste's career has been shaped by influential mentors who emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion. She actively participates in mentorship programs such as the UCF Leadership Empowerment Program and the NCURA Region III RAMP Program. Her dedication to fostering inclusivity is evident through her leadership roles on NCURA committees, including the NCURA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the NCURA Region III Program Committee.

Beyond mentorship and committee involvement, Celeste has co-chaired the UCF Annual FRAC Conference and currently leads the UCF Office of Research's training and education initiatives through the Office of Research Training and Outreach and "The Hub." Her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in research administration is highlighted by her co-authorship of "Perhaps We Should Have a Conversation About Racial Disparity in Research Administration" in NCURA Magazine and her recognition with an NCURA Annual Conference Best Poster Award for "Is Ethnicity Disparity Present in Research Administration?"

Recently, Celeste co-presented on topics such as "Evaluating Proposal Success Based on Timelines and Other Factors" alongside her colleagues Joshua Roney and Hanin Alhaddad. Her insights on the impact of proposal deadlines on proposal success were featured in the NCURA Sponsored Research Administration Guide October 2023 issue. In addition, her recent contributions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) topics include an article, "What Keeps You Up At Night" with colleagues, Natasha Williams and Steven Koogler and co-presented on the topic at the 2024 NCURA Region III Spring Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.