

Danielle S. McElwain, CRA

Education & Certifications		
Research Administrators Certification Council Certified Research Administrator		2005
Murray State University Master of Business Administration		2001
Murray State University Bachelor of Science		1998
Professional Experience		
University of South Carolina, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) Assistant Dean for Research Enhancement and Operations		March 2024 – Present
Oversee the office of research for compliance and final review and submission of proposal to sponsors. Review and make decisions based on CEC research analytics. Develop and deliver training for faculty to improve competitiveness. Advise faculty on research compliance.		
University of South Carolina, College of Engineering and Computing Director of Research		Mar 2018 – Mar 2024
Oversaw research activities in the College of Engineering and Computing. Assisted faculty with preparation, review and approval of budgets, and cost-share agreements.		
University of South Carolina, College of Engineering and Computing Director of Pre-Award		May 2016 – Feb 2018
Assisted faculty with preparation, review and approval of budgets, cost-share agreements and proposal submissions. Coordinated the preparation and submission of large collaborative proposals.		
University of South Carolina, Office of Sponsored Awards Management Senior Sponsored Programs Administrator		May 2010 – April 2016
Provided professional and regulatory guidance to principal investigators on grant/contract financial, budgetary and administrative issues. Assessment, modification and development of policies and procedures.		
University of South Carolina, Office of Research Development Research Development Coordinator and Training Manager		Sept 2005 – May 2010
Co-directed the creation of the Office of Research Development. Designed a comprehensive training program that educates USC faculty and staff in the grant process.		
University of South Carolina, Office of Sponsored Awards Management Sponsored Programs Administrator		Feb 2003 – Sept 2005
Interpreted administrative regulations and procedures affecting grants and contracts from a variety of sponsors. Assisted with implementation of electronic proposal routing system and developed user guide.		
Murray State University, Office of Sponsored Program Electronic Information Manager		Oct 2001 – Feb 2003
Managed office operations and accounts. Trained faculty in areas pertaining to sponsored programs. Assisted with the implementation of electronic grants management system.		
Murray State University, Bureau of Business and Economic Research Research Associate		Jan 2000 – Oct 2001
Managed office operations and accounts. Assisted faculty with data entry, data collection, survey and database design, basic statistical analysis and general report writing.		
Murray State University, Accounting and Financial Management Accounting Clerk		Feb 1998 – Dec 1999
Prepared financial reports. Monitored spending in sponsored programs accounts.		
Other Professional Experience		
Training Activity		
University of South Carolina		
Gamecock Research Administrator Network and Training (GRANT) Program (2005-Present)		

University of South Carolina, College of Engineering and Computing

PI Academy (2016-Present)

Professional Presentations

McElwain, D., Wessinger, R. *Better Research Development Budget Tools*. Concurrent Session. NCURA Region III Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC. May 2023

McElwain, D., Devereux, E., Wessinger, R. *Advancing Large Competitive Proposals: Getting it all Done*. NCURA National Meeting. Washington, DC. August 2022

McElwain, D., Wessinger, R., Devereux, E., *Building Better Budgeting Tools*. Session. NORDP National Conference. May 2022

Devereux, E., Wessinger, R., McElwain, D. *The Role of Research Development in Improving Competitiveness of Proposal Ancillary Documents*. Pre-Conference Workshop. NCURA Region III Meeting, Louisville, KY. April 2022

McElwain, D., Devereux, E. *Innovations for Pre-Award Workflow*. Concurrent Session. NCURA National Meeting, Virtual. August 2020.

Roy, R., McElwain, D., *A Model to Help Navigate the World of "It Depends"*. Discussion Group. NCURA Region III Meeting, Hollywood Beach, FL. May 2019.

McElwain, D., Devereux, E., *Team Dynamics in the Workplace*. Discussion Group. NCURA Region III Meeting, Williamsburg, VA. May 2018.

Smelser, D., McElwain, D., Callahan, T., *Pre-Award Basics*. Pre-conference Workshop. NCURA National Meeting August 2017.

Howard, K., McElwain, D., *Navigating Increasing Limited Submissions Programs*. Concurrent Session. NCURA Regional III Meeting, Savannah, GA, May 2017.

McElwain, D., Ventimiglia, A., *Case Study: Research Development*. NCURA Pre-Award Administration Conference, March 2016.

Publications

Devereux, E., Wessinger, R., McElwain, D., *The Role of Research Development in Improving Proposal Competitiveness through Ancillary Documents*. NCURA Magazine. May/June 2022.

McElwain, D., Devereux, E., *Innovations for Pre-Award Workflow*. NCURA Sponsored Research Administration Guide. January 2021.

Memberships and Affiliations

National Organization of Research Development Professionals	2019 – Present
--	-----------------------

National Counsel of University Research Administrators	2005 – Present
---	-----------------------

National Service

- Serving on the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee
- Served as Chair of On-line Programming Subcommittee for the Professional Development Committee 2018
- Served as Co-Chair of Pre-Award Track for AM60 Program Committee
- Completed the NCURA Executive Leadership Program in 2016
- Served on On-line Programming Subcommittee for the Professional Development Committee in 2017
- Served on Evaluation Subcommittee for the Professional Development Committee
- Served as Co-Chair of the Case Study Track for the 2016 PRA Program Committee

Service to Region III

- Served as Chair of Regional Volunteer Committee 2013-2014
- Served as Regional Chair-Elect and Program Chair of 2015 Regional Meeting
- Served on Program Committee for the 2009, 2014 and 2016 Regional Meeting
- Served as Regional Chair 2015-2016 and Immediate Past Chair 2016-2017
- Served as Chair of Site Selection Committee for 2018 Regional Meeting
- Served as Co-Chair of the Program Committee for the 2018 and 2019 Regional Meeting
- Serving as Chair Appointed Executive Board Member 2018-2019

Hello, I am Danielle McElwain from the University of South Carolina, and I would be honored to serve you as an Regionally Elected Member on the NCURA Board of Directors. I currently serve as Assistant Dean for Research Enhancement in the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing at the University of South Carolina and have a diverse background of experience in Research Administration, including pre-award, research development, and in grant training. My NCURA volunteer experience has afforded me to have a deep understanding of our mission and the ability to set aside personal concerns while acting in the best interests of our organization. I have actively served committees both at the regional and national level, including the Executive Leadership Program, Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, Chair of multiple national sub-committees, Co-chair of national and regional meeting tracks, and Regional Executive Leadership. In addition to NCURA service, I have experience at both a research university and a predominately undergraduate institution. This unique and extensive background in RA and NCURA will enable me to successfully serve on the Board of Directors, as it has enhanced my understanding of the challenges that arise across the diversity of institutions, the inclusivity of the diverse research administrator, and the variety of professional needs that we must address in an impactful manner for our membership.

My desire to serve as your Regionally Elected Board Member stems from my passion for Research Administration and how we strategically support and help the profession progress in crucial areas across the diverse realm of our members, their institutions, and geographical regions. I am most interested in serving on the Board of Directors due to the opportunity of how we can strategically advance our field as a profession during this critical point in time that has been affected and shaped by the global pandemic, ensure inclusivity of diverse membership in our profession as we navigate the hurdles that higher education is currently facing, and how we continue to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion to gain more traction in our field and those that we serve as Research Administrators. We have an open book of opportunities for growth and change in our profession, and it is a critical time for us to not only identify these opportunities, but to strategically act on them for impactfully advancing our mission.

DEI personally means to me that we not only respect, but intentionally listen to and work to understand our fellow people and their perspectives and values. The only way that we can advance our profession is to embrace the diverse field of Research Administration and our fellow communities that are Research Administrators. *The diverse membership, perspectives, and experiences of our NCURA membership is the value of our organization.* Personally, DEI has touched me through fellow colleagues and experiences in NCURA along my career path. One such way was the realization of the differences in need across the diversity of institutional missions for research administration. Our field is not a “one-size fits all”, and it varies by institutional mission, focus, and geographical regions. Initiatives that I would like to see for DEI includes making sure there is an intentional focus on representation across committees and opportunities that include diverse institutional missions. I would also like to see more professional development opportunities for both equity and inclusion in growing our leadership from different backgrounds and identities. It is not only bringing them into the profession, but identifying what resources they need, how they best learn and thrive in their career paths, and how to secure them a seat in leadership and service. Inclusivity for volunteerism and professional development will require the increased use of technology in delivery due to the inability for many to travel to destinations, whether it is due to decreased travel budgets from the effects of Covid, or other reasons that in the past have prohibited travel and increased the divide of those who have been able to obtain the necessary career development in our field. Increased delivery through technology also allows more collaboration and a global perspective where everyone can come together no matter where they are located geographically. Only through new opportunities for volunteerism and delivery can inclusivity truly be achieved and help advance our membership in their careers and the advancement of our field.

Initiatives that I would like to see for DEI includes making sure there is an intentional focus on representation across committees and opportunities that include diverse institutional missions, including but not limited to, community and technical colleges, HBCUs, PUIs, liberal arts colleges, special focus institutions, and research-intensive institutions. I would also like to see more professional development opportunities for both equity and inclusion in growing our leadership from different backgrounds and identities. It is not only bringing them into the profession, but identifying what resources they need, how they best learn and thrive in their career paths, and how to secure them a seat in leadership and service.