CELESTE RIVERA-NUÑEZ

Director, Sponsored Programs| University of Central Florida
NCURA Members Since: 1997

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Research administration leader with more than 25 years of experience supporting sponsored programs, proposal development, research operations, and workforce development. Dedicated NCURA member since 1997 with regional and national leadership service, mentoring, publications, presentations, and a commitment to advancing the research administration profession.

NCURA MEMBERSHIP

- Region II Member (1997-2006)
- Region III Member (2008-Present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Central Florida: Director, Sponsored Programs (2022-Present); Associate Director (2018-2022); Assistant Director (2014-2018); Research Administrator and Progressive Leadership Roles (2006-2014)

Queens College, CUNY: Sponsored Programs Administration Positions (1996-2006)

NCURA LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Region III Immediate Past Chair, NCURA Region III, 2026-2027
- Region III Chair Representative, NCURA National and Regional Leadership Convention: Reimagining
- Community, September 2025
- Region III Chair, NCURA Region III, 2025-2026
- Co-Chair, NCURA Region III Program Committee – 2026 NCURA Region III Spring Conference
- Chair-Elect, NCURA Region III, 2024-2025
- Co-chair, NCURA Region III Program Committee, Dept. Admin. track – Spring Conference 2024
- Co-chair, NCURA Region III Program Committee, DEI Track -Spring Conference 2023, 2022
- Vice Chair- Elect, NCURA DEI Committee, 2022 – 2023
- Mentor, NCURA Region III RAMP Program, 2019-2021
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Member, NCURA Region III, 2019-2023
- Member, NCURA Region III Spring Program Committee, 2019
- Member, NCURA Region III Spring Program Committee, 2018

NCURA PUBLICATIONS:

Stroud, Lisa, Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste and Wilder, Kelly (pending). Deadline Diaries: Crafting a Deadline Policy that Works. *NCURA Sponsored Research Administration: A Guide to Effective Strategies & Recommended Practices*

Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Roney, Joshua, Alhaddad, Hanin (2023, OCT). Evaluating the Impact of Internal Submission Deadline Policy on Grant Proposal Success. NCURA *Sponsored Research Administration Guide: A Guide to Effective Strategies & Recommended Practices, section 2520.31 pages 211-224*

Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Williams-Brown, Natasha and Koogler, Steve. (2023, OCT). Inclusion Initiatives: What Keeps You Up at Night? *NCURA Magazine*, pages 30-31

Shambrook, J., Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste & Mace, Tameria C. (2020, Oct./Nov.). Perhaps We Should Have a Conversation about Racial Disparity in Research Administration? *NCURA Magazine, page 41-44*

NCURA PRESENTATIONS

Viviani-Ayers, Jeanne and Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste. (2025, August 12). Enhancing Pre-Award/Research Development Excellence: Balancing Formal Training and Professional Development in Research Administration. Discussion group presented at NCURA 67th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Stroud, Lisa, Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste and Wilder, Kelly (2025, March 21). Deadline Diaries: Crafting a Deadline Policy that Works. Concurrent Session presented at 2025 NCURA PRA Conference in San Diego, CA.

Brown, Wayne, Koogler, Steven, Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Williams-Brown, Natasha. (2024, May 6). Breaking Barriers: Strategies for Embracing Diversity in Research Administration. Discussion group presented at 2024 NCURA Region III Spring Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Rodriguez-Makhlouf, Stephanie, Granec, Rodney and Williams-Brown, Natasha (2024, May 3). Pre-Award Basics half-day Workshop presented at 2024 NCURA Region III Spring Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Rodriguez-Makhlouf, Stephanie, Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Mace, Tameria. (2023, MAY 1). Maintaining Morale And Connection Among a Remote Workforce. Discussion presented at 2023 NCURA Region III Spring Conference in Myrtle Beach, FL.

Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Rodriguez-Makhlouf, Stephanie & Minnema, Linnea (2023, Apr. 29). Pre-Award Basics half-day Workshop presented at 2023 NCURA Region III Spring Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Alhaddad, Hanin, Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste, Roney, Joshua. (2023, MAR 9). Evaluating Proposal Success based on timeliness and other factors. Concurrent Session presented at 2023 NCURA PRA Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Shambrook, J., Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste & Mace, Tameria C. (2021, Apr. 24). Does Racial Disparity in Research Administration Exist? Results of the Research Administrator Stress Perception Surveys. Concurrent session presented at 2021 NCURA PRA/FRA Spring Meeting

Solivan, Mindy & Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste. (2017, March). Time Management. Presented at NCURA Region III Spring Meeting in Orlando

Rivera-Nunez, Celeste, Gentilini, Jane, Moran, Shannon. (2016, May 3). Breaking Down Barriers and Building a Career Path for Research Administrators. Presented at NCURA Region III Spring Conference, St. Petersburgh, FL

Gentilini, Jane & Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste. (2014, May 4). Breaking Down Barriers and Building a Career Ladder. Presented at NCURA Region III Spring Meeting in St. Petersburg, FL

Gentilini, Jane & Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste. (2014, May 5). Measuring for Success: Using Metrics in Sponsored Programs Management. Presented at NCURA Region III Spring Meeting in St. Petersburg, FL

Smith, Jo-Ann & Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste. (2013, August 5). Key Components of Team Collaboration. Presented at NCURA 55th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Awards & Recognition

NCURA Annual Meeting (2020)

Shambrook, J., Rivera-Nuñez, Celeste & Mace, Tameria C. (2020, August 7-10). Perhaps We Should Have a Conversation about Racial Disparity in Research Administration? Poster presented at the 2020 NCURA Virtual Annual Meeting, 2nd place winner