



## October 2022 Newsletter

- How do I study for the CRA?
- New RACC Website
- Welcome to the board
- Pat Buennemeyer Scholarship Winners
- Hats off to our Volunteers
- Spotlight on a Board Member
- Take us with you when you move
- Believe it or Not!
- Exam Schedules and Body of Knowledge Review Sessions
- Ready to Recertify?
- Contact Hours Opportunities
- Employment Opportunities
- Sign Me Up or Let Me Go

### How do I study for the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) exam?

By Jacqueline Rearick, MS, CRA  
Liberty University



If you follow the research administration listservs long enough you tend to notice some common themes; questions about effort reporting, training programs for faculty, compliance questions regarding agency regs for subawards, reporting or international partners, and more recently, many job postings.

One question which seems to remain a constant is “How do I study for the Certified Research Administrator (CRA<sup>®</sup>) exam?” or any of its sister exams: Certified Pre-Award Research Administrator (CPRA<sup>®</sup>) or Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA). The RESADM-L or Research Administrators listserv has over 20,000 hits when you search for “CRA” and almost 1,000 hits when you search “study CRA.” It is obvious research administrators are interested in learning how to prepare for the CRA exam and are not afraid to ask for help. [Full Story](#)

### New Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC) website

By Lauren Zajac, MPA, CRA  
University of Arizona Health Sciences

**RACC has a new Website!**

Are you looking to find a review session or more information on the certification exams offered through RACC? <http://www.cra-cert.org/review-sessions>

Are you wondering what Body of Knowledge is covered in the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) <http://www.cra-cert.org/cra-body-of-knowledge>, Certified Pre-Award Research Administrator (CPRA) <http://www.cra-cert.org/cpra-body-of-knowledge> or Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA) Exam? <http://www.cra-cert.org/cfra-body-of-knowledge>

Have you been wondering about the dates for the next CRA, CFRA, or CPRA exam? <http://www.cra-cert.org/exam-schedule>

Do you want to purchase RACC “swag” to frame your certificate, or congratulate a colleague who recently passed a RACC exam? <https://www.cafepress.com/researchadministrators>

Do you want more information on ways to earn contact hours <http://www.cra-cert.org/how-to-earn-contact-hours>, and how to track them? <http://www.cra-cert.org/new-certificant-information>

Do you remember something interesting that you read in the RACC newsletter, and want to access a previous version? <http://www.cra-cert.org/quarterly-newsletters>

Do you want to connect with other certified research administrators in your university, city, state, or region? <http://www.cra-cert.org/research-administrator-directory#/>

All of the answers to these questions (and more!) can be found in the redesigned comprehensive RACC website at <https://cra-cert.org/>. The revamped website provides clear links to information and many new user-friendly features. Please take a look and happy clicking!

*If you encounter any trouble or have questions,  
please feel free to contact us at  
(303) 433-4446 or [info@cra-cert.org](mailto:info@cra-cert.org).*

## Welcome to the Board!



**Cathy Le, MBA, CRA**  
Senior Research Administrator  
University of Southern California Norris  
Comprehensive Cancer Center



**Stephen L. Williams, CRA**  
Assistant Director  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
Wake Forest University

## 2022 Pat Buennemeyer Scholarship Winners!



***Congratulations*** to **Veronica Sudol, MD**, Anderson Cancer Center and **Julianne Fowler**, Southern Connecticut State University who are the 2022 Pat Buennemeyer Scholarship Winners. The Third Annual Pat Buennemeyer Scholarship was initiated by the RACC Board to honor and celebrate one of RACC staunch proponents, Pat Buennemeyer. Pat worked tirelessly to support research administrators, build the three certificate programs, and presented thousands of Body of Knowledge sessions. The award winners will receive up to \$1,000 each, which includes a waiver of the cost of the Body of Knowledge Review Session registration fee and travel costs.

Dear Readers,

The RACC Board was so touched by our winner's applications that we wanted to share their stories with you. We would like to follow up with them and let you know their progress, so stay tuned to future newsletters.

**Veronica's Story**

**Julianne's Story**

## Hats Off to our Volunteers!

**Carolyn Mazzella, MPA, CRA**  
**Post-Award Administrator at the University**  
**of Pittsburgh**

Carolyn, like many in our field, fell into research administrator as a profession through a series of career and life changes. Advancing in administrative positions within the higher education research sphere, Carolyn has nearly 12 years' experience in the field. She brings a unique perspective to her current Post-Award team from work in research service centers, think-tanks, and large multi-disciplinary defense contracts. A part of a team of pre and post award administrators in the School of Arts & Science, she provides support to the Geology & Environmental Science and Physics & Astronomy departments. Earning her CRA in 2019 she is committed to volunteering within the research administration community by supporting the professional development of early career professionals. Carolyn has volunteered in her local Pittsburgh community for The Young Nonprofits Professional Network, the University of Pittsburgh's Committee of Research Administrators, as well as mentor work for the University of Pittsburgh History Department, and finally volunteering with the RACC newsletter.



## RACC Board Member Spotlight

**Terri Bigham, MRA, CRA, CFRA**  
**RACC Board Chair**  
**University of Central Florida Research Foundation**

Like so many of us, my career in research administration began quite by accident. Grueling hours, a long commute, and an impending child led me away from my job as Branch Manager of Enterprise Rent-A-Car and toward the Office of Research at the University of Central Florida. More than 22 years ago,

UCF had a much smaller research portfolio and far fewer staff, affording me the opportunity to gain expertise throughout the entire research life cycle. I have worked as a proposal manager, grants manager, subawards manager, contracting officer, compliance manager, and everything in between. Currently, I serve as the Associate Director of Sponsored Activity at the University of Central Florida Research Foundation. I earned by CRA® in 2008, MRA in 2016, and my CFRA in 2020.

Six years ago, I was searching for volunteer opportunities in our field when I saw the Call for Nominations for the RACC Board of Directors. Earning my CRA® in 2008 opened possibilities for me that I might not have had otherwise, and I wanted to give back to the organization. Serving by providing oversight of the RACC operations and ensuring the validity of the RACC exams seemed the perfect fit. I was appointed to board in 2016 and renewed my board seat in 2019. I have served as the RACC Board of Directors Vice Chair since 2020 and will become Chair effective October 1, 2022.

The past two years have been a whirlwind. RACC has withstood the challenges of a worldwide pandemic and continues to provide quality examinations that demonstrate a person's level of knowledge in research administration. As I transition from Vice Chair to Chair, I contemplate what trials and tribulations the next two years will bring. Whatever challenges may arise, I know there is an amazing group of individuals serving on the Board of Directors that will see RACC through.

My favorite RACC initiatives since 2020 include revising the format and frequency of our newsletter to provide more relevant information, offering more volunteer opportunities to our certifiants, an overhaul of our website's look and content, and adapting our Body of Knowledge sessions to a virtual environment. The Board of Directors, side-by-side with certificant volunteers, have exciting projects on the horizon and I am really looking forward to seeing those come to fruition. My hope, over the next two years, is to increase community engagement of our certificant body. I want to see volunteer opportunities in every RACC activity from writing the newsletter, to creating exams, to social media engagement, to website support, to whatever future priorities come our way. I encourage you to participate as RACC announces those opportunities.

## Take us with you

If you plan to move to another job and still want to receive the RACC Newsletter, please let us know your new email address. We will ensure that you still receive the same great service and reading material. Thanks!

**Contact Us**

## Believe it or Not!

Years ago we had a faculty member in our Engineering School who submitted a large grant to NSF. The grant proposal went through the usual university reviews and approvals (chair, dean, research office), and was submitted without issue. The grant was awarded, but then it was discovered that as part of the grant, the PI needed 5,000 contiguous square feet for a wireless test bed. The School of Engineering didn't have that kind of space. The PI finally approached the VP for Research for help. We asked the NSF for a delay for the award; they gave us a year. This resulted in a mad scramble to find suitable space, enter into an appropriate rental agreement (as the space was off-campus), outfit the space appropriately, etc. so we could finally accept the

grant. Luckily, it all worked out and the space is still in use today. However, it could have easily gone south, and we would have had to turn away a multi-million dollar grant. Boo.

**Submitted by Diane Ambrose, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

**Please share your story!**

Use the "Believe it or Not" button and send us your story. This is the one place where research administrators from all over can laugh, cry, and sympathize. We have all been there!

**Believe it or Not**

## Exam Schedules and Body of Knowledge Review Sessions

Exam schedules and Body of Knowledge Review sessions can be found [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).



To host a review session contact **Michelle Breton**, Review Session Coordinator

**Michelle Breton**

## Ready to Recertify?

Keep track of your contact hours and supporting documentation. If you have any questions on our recertification process, please contact Susanne MacDonald. Go to the RACC Website for vital information regarding recertification.

**Susanne MacDonald**

Check out our social media pages for upcoming contact hour opportunities!

**Visit our website**

## Contact Hour Opportunities

[Society of Research Administrators International](#)

[National Council of University of Research Administrators](#)

[Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI Program\)](#)

[Research Administration Demonstration Series \(RAD\)](#)



# Employment Opportunities

[View All Job Postings](#)

[Contact us](#) to post employment opportunities on the RACC website.

## Sign me up or let me go

If you have any friends or colleagues or that may want to receive our newsletter, send me their email address. I will contact them and get their permission. Hit the "sign me up" button. Send a list of names and emails of those who you believe should hear from us. However, if you are tired from hearing from us, no harm, hit the button and say, "let me go" in the subject line.

[Sign Me Up!](#)

[Let Me Go!](#)

Are you interested in taking the Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA) Exam? Take the practice exam to test your skill.

[CFRA Practice Exam](#)

### *WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS CERTIFICATION COUNCIL?*

The Council is a private, independent, nonprofit organization that develops and administers a voluntary program for the certification of individuals who meet the requirements established by the Council.

[About RACC - More](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[RA Directory](#)

[Contact RACC](#)

**Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive RACC updates, free contact hour opportunities, information regarding upcoming RACC Body of Knowledge Sessions, and celebrate milestones!**

[Purchase RACC Merchandise](#)



Research Administrators Certification Council | 12110 N Pecos Street, #220, Westminster, CO 80234

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@racc-cert.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!