Regional Election Candidate Statement for Samantha J. Westcott

Statement of Interest
NCURA is the leader in professional development for those of us privileged enough to be in the field of Research Administration. Research Administration has been my profession for over twenty years. The work is interesting and the relationships are genuinely rewarding and have enriched my life tremendously. The key for much of my success, especially in establishing long-lasting and valuable connections, has been my participation in NCURA. This organization is incredibly respected and important to me and I am determined to give back to NCURA and accept the nomination for Chair-Elect of Region VI to further serve this association.

As Chair-Elect and eventually as Chair, I will seek out and try to create opportunities that both benefit and reflect the diversity of our Member community. It is highly imperative to me that the leadership of NCURA be accessible to our Members. Furthermore, it is my hope that my work would seamlessly support the Regional Meetings with collaboration with Region VII wherever possible. Finally, I would work hard to support NCURA’s efforts toward member recruitment, retaining current members, and increasing professional development opportunities.

My past leadership experience with NCURA has taught me to put the Members first and to be thoughtful and careful when making decisions. My goal would be to continue to connect with the Members while maintaining both the measured sense of responsibility with the humor and humility that is required when making leadership decisions. My work with NCURA has been a matter of pride and working as Region VI Chair-Elect and Chair would be as important to me as all of the other wonderful opportunities I’ve had for working with this group.

Ultimately, this privilege would allow me to follow in the footsteps of many of NCURA’s great leaders and I would seek to exemplify and continue the tradition of such excellence of this great community of Region VI Members.

Brief Bio
Samantha J. Westcott has been in Research Administration since 1992. She has served Region VI as Secretary-Elect and Secretary in 2007 and 2008, respectively and as a Member of the Regional Advisory Committee. During that tenure and in conjunction with the Chair and Treasurer and Region VII leadership held a highly-successful Regional Meeting; worked with the Regional Leadership to make changes in the Bylaws; and supported the creation and implementation of a Strategic Plan which also produced more leadership roles and opportunities for all Members of Region VI. As Secretary, Sam oversaw elections and prepared and provided accurate minutes for our Members. Sam has served on and chaired both the Region VI Outstanding Achievement Award committee, and the Region VI Travel Award Committee. Sam is also a member of the graduate class of the 2010 Leadership Development Institute (LDI).

NCURA-related professional development experience includes presenting at the local, regional, and national level and as workshop faculty. In serving the organization for business and program meetings, Sam has been a Member of the program committee for regional meetings, an ERA conference, a PRA conference, and national meetings. It has also been her privilege to serve as a traveling workshop faculty Member for the Departmental Research Administrators Workshop since 2008. As one who has worked both as a Departmental Administrator and a Central Administrator, Sam recognizes the growth of Departmental Administrators within both
the field and in the organization and that perspective makes her qualified to be empathetic to all our Members.