Regional Election Candidate Statement for Kim Small

Statement of Interest
It is an honor to be accepting the nomination for NCURA’s Regional Chair Elect. I am humbled by your consideration of my skills for this position. It takes a lot of teamwork to keep an organization such as NCURA running strong and still growing. I will do my best to continue the tradition and support that NCURA has given to me.

NCURA was there at the start of my adventure in research administration. I attended my first annual meeting in 2004 and was overwhelmed with the sheer size and number of the membership in attendance and the welcoming support that is extended to all that attend. I am amazed at the connectedness of the individual regions. I believe it is important for our region to reach out to the other regions to benefit from the exchange of ideas, questions, and solutions to the issues we all face in our daily interactions as research professionals.

Since then I have been a part of the new member welcoming committee and have watched as our region has grown. This growth has created challenges and as the flip side of a challenge, opportunities for the region as well. As the region grows it is easy for the new members to feel overwhelmed and intimidated by the number of people that attend the various meetings. It is also a natural evolution for the returning members to find a comfort level in their existing connections and not take advantage of the continuing or new opportunities that are available. I believe it is important that the region manages and improves its communication and warm welcome to its members so that this tradition is not lost but grows.

In order for the growth that NCURA has experienced to happen, a strong network of volunteers has to exist. The continued growth is creating additional volunteer opportunities for the existing membership’s involvement, or a chance for new members to become involved. It is important that we communicate to the membership keeping them abreast of changes and new developments. There is a strong compliment of professional development programs and connections to the other regions within NCURA, and it is important that we take advantage of these opportunities. The benefits of NCURA membership to promote your own career growth, both professionally and personally are waiting for you to participate. It is a vast pool of experience that you can tap into as you struggle with the daily questions you’re not quite sure how to answer. I believe we need to tap into the vast experience of the growing NCURA family to expand and continue to provide volunteer and growth opportunities.

In closing I would like to restate that NCURA and its members have had a tremendous impact on my professional development and I am honored to be nominated for the position of Chair-elect/Chair. I am also grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve Region VI and working with the regional membership, officers and advisory committee, as well as the national officers, board and staff to address these challenges and develop initiatives in response to these opportunities. I will do my best to represent the region in a manner that will honor your faith in this office.

Brief Bio
Kim Small is Director of Sponsored Programs Services at Washington State University. She joined NCURA in 2004 and has been active in Region VI since. She has served on the New
Member Welcome Committee, Regional Advisory Committee, and is currently a member of the Pre-Award Neighborhood Committee. She is a graduate of NCURA’s Leadership Development Institute (LDI). Her experience lies in the post award side of research administration, but her involvement with the Pre-Award neighborhood is broadening her perspective of the complexities prior to award issuance. She has progressed in her career from a Grant and Contract Specialist to a Director in the space of 2004 to 2009.