



RAG Mag

Research Administration Group Magazine

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MSU Denver Administrators Attend NCURA Conferences

During Spring Break members of the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs (OSRP) and College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) attended the 27th Annual Financial Research Administration (FRA) and 20th Annual Pre-Award Research Administration (PRA) Conferences in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Laneika Musalini, OSRP Executive Director, and Kimberly Welp, OSRP Post-Award Assistant Director, presented two concurrent sessions. Laneika also facilitated two discussion groups. Kristin Schneider-Baldwin, OSRP Associate Director, and Ikaika Hill, CHHS Director of Grant Operations, also attended the conferences.

The National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) is a non-profit professional society dedicated to advancing the profession of research administration through education and professional development programs, the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and the fostering of a diverse, collegial, and respected global community. NCURA serves 9,000 individual members from over 1,100 colleges, universities, teaching hospitals, and research institutes in 40 countries.



L-R: Laneika Musalini, Kimberly Welp and Rodney Granec, West Alabama University



L-R: Rodney Granec, Laneika Musalini, Kimberly Welp and Tracey Louder, Auburn University-Montgomery

The team was able to network with research administrators from across the globe. They also learned promising practices and attended sessions for federal government updates.

University Advancement Builds Creative Funding Pathways

by Tori Meyers

As public funding for higher education faces ongoing uncertainty, MSU Denver's University Advancement team is digging into creativity, collaboration, and strategic partnerships to advance student success and economic mobility. In approaching national funding partners, MSU Denver positions itself as a nimble and innovative institution, ready to pair national philanthropic investment with strong local and state partnerships to impact Colorado students. University Advancement is pursuing opportunities with a range of national funders and, although each opportunity differs in scale and focus, they reflect a shared commitment to access, workforce relevance, equity, and student-centered design—core pillars of MSU Denver's mission.



Tori Meyers
Senior Director of Development
Corporate and Foundation Relations

Through the WIN Narrative Challenge, MSU Denver has proposed a statewide partnership with the Women's Foundation of Colorado to redefine what leadership and success look like by equipping women alumnae with storytelling and advocacy skills. The initiative pairs individual leadership development with systems-level change, amplifying women's stories to employers, communities, and decision-makers across Colorado and beyond to drive cultural, economic, and workforce transformation.

The Education Design Lab proposal positions MSU Denver to lead a statewide consortium focused on expanding economic mobility for workers skilled through alternative routes (STARs). By integrating nationally recognized certifications, performance-based assessments, and transparent credential data into a shared system, the initiative enables learners and employers to trust, recognize, and act on skills—creating scalable pathways from training to high-wage jobs and bachelor's degrees across Colorado.

MSU Denver has benefited from smaller but consistent philanthropic partners, such as the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Through multiple awards, Dollar General has supported MSU Denver's Family Literacy Program, reinforcing the importance of family literacy as a cornerstone of educational and economic mobility. Though modest in amount, these investments have had an outsized impact by sustaining programming that strengthens families, supports intergenerational learning, and builds community resilience.



Explore New Funding Pathways: Attend the AASCU 2026 Grants Resource Center (GRC) Virtual Funding Summit April 14–15.

This event is complimentary for MSU Denver faculty and staff. Enter the code GRCFREE to apply the discount at [registration](#).

In addition to sessions devoted to postsecondary student success, education research, health funding, environmental research, agricultural research, and the arts, the summit will also feature sessions devoted to STEM research, including:

- Updates from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Award Management
- Fellowship opportunities with the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Fellowships abroad, where attendees will learn about overseas fellowship opportunities
- Science research with the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation; Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation

On Tuesday, April 14, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions focused on strategies to encourage faculty and staff to pursue grant funding

Schneider-Baldwin Completes 2026 LAUNCH Program



We congratulate OSRP Associate Director, Kristin Schneider Baldwin, on completing the 2026 MSU Denver LAUNCH Program. LAUNCH focuses on building essential leadership skills while aligning leadership practices with MSU Denver's mission and CADRE values, and building cross-campus relationships with fellow leaders.

Institutional Review Board News and Updates

Summer Deadline

If you have plans of conducting research over the summer months, please keep in mind that the MSU Denver IRB does not conduct Expedited and Full Board reviews during the summer months. Exempt protocols (which account for 85% of our submissions) will continue to be reviewed/approved over the summer. Expedited and Full Board projects are typically projects regarding a sensitive subject matter and must be reviewed by at least two board members. Submissions requiring Expedited reviews must be submitted before the end of the day on April 30, 2026, to be reviewed before the summer. Expedited protocols submitted after this deadline will be reviewed in the order in which they were received, starting August 15th. Please contact us at hspp@msudenver.edu with any questions.



Mike Heathcote
Associate Director of
Human Subjects
Protections

IRB is Recruiting New Community Members

Every Institutional Review Board (IRB) must have at least one member from the community. A community member is someone who is not affiliated with the institution, meaning they have not attended or been employed by MSU Denver. They also must not have any immediate family members who are affiliated with MSU Denver. We would like to recruit at least two new community members to join our board. Having community members is not only a requirement, but it also strengthens our expertise and provides a connection to our local community. If you know of someone who might be interested in this role or would like more information, please contact Mike Heathcote at hspp@msudenver.edu

IRB Virtual Office Hours

The MSU Denver HSPP offers a virtual office hour, every other Friday at 11:30am until 12:30pm. This is a time where anyone can drop in and ask any IRB related questions and receive immediate answers. Please [visit our website](#) for more information.

[Mike Heathcote](#), Associate Director of Human Subject Protections Office of Sponsored Research & Programs (OSRP)

Announcements

All proposals should start with OSRP. Please do not submit any grant proposals. Those interested in applying for sponsored funding/grant, please engage OSRP, no matter the size of the grant, as the authorized organizational representatives (AOR) for the university.

All sponsor communication should be initiated by OSRP. OSRP should also respond to sponsor emails and requests as the official university authorized representative. If you receive any sponsor communication, please forward the request/email to OSRP immediately. OSRP will work with the PI and appropriate university partners (i.e. general counsel, governmental affairs, provost, etc.) to respond to requests.

The deadline to request an OSRP cash match is July 1, 2026.

Some funders require the university to share a portion of the cost for specific projects, called cost share, which may include cash match, in-kind contributions, or third-party match. **Application information is available in the Announcements section on the OSRP website home page.**

To aid in quickly accessing OSRP forms we have added a Forms Library to the Toolkit section of the website. Forms in the library include:

- Research Request
- Project Development
- Intent to Submit
- Financial Conflict of Interest (COI)
- Principal Investigator Eligibility
- Limited Submissions Competition
- Cash Match Application
- Cost Sharing Agreement
- Subrecipient Commitment
- Proposal Processing
- Internal Budget Revision

OSRP Executive Director 1 of 100 Experts to Develop Online Certificate Program

Laneika Musalini, Executive Director of OSRP, was selected to assist with developing NCURA's very first online certificate program. The Life Cycle of the Award is an online, self-paced certificate program offering an end-to-end overview of research administration—from proposal development through closeout.



The Program includes 40+ hours across nine milestones. Learners earn certificates by completing session knowledge checks plus a final certificate for completing the full program (NCURA, 2026).

Designed for both new and experienced research administrators, the Life Cycle of the Award complements NCURA's broader learning portfolio—including workshops, conferences, webinars, and tutorials—by offering a flexible, end-to-end learning pathway. Further, the Program is designed to complement both day-to-day learning and specific learning experiences by giving participants a structured way to learn, absorb, and apply concepts across the full award life cycle—building confidence and perspective that carries into real work. Laneika's module focuses on roles and responsibilities and institutional policies and procedures.

Sponsored Research & Programs Handbook Now Available



The newly created [Sponsored Research & Programs Handbook](#) is a guide for principal investigators and grant administrators. This is a “living” guide that is housed on the OSRP website. Please note, although the Sponsored Research & Programs Handbook is available for printing, it is subject to constant change and would render printed versions obsolete, as Research procedures, guidance and policies are subject to continuous updates and revisions in response to the changing landscape.

This handbook is intended to serve as a guide—a useful “tool” for MSU Denver faculty and staff to refer to when questions about finding and applying for external funding might arise, or questions on award management might come up in the course of carrying out their funded projects. Where further clarification is needed, members of the MSU Denver community should always feel free to contact OSRP, SPAC, and CFR.

The handbook provides guidance on:

- Services provided by OSRP and SPAC
- Responsibilities of PIs, research staff, and administrative personnel
- Sponsored project policies, procedures and practices (e.g., pre- and post-award, research compliance, contracts, and human subjects)
- Brief list of policies and procedures for MSU Denver Foundation and CFR
- Definitions and available resources

First Principal Investigator Readiness Badges Issued

The Roadrunner PI Certification Program is well underway. Those who successfully completed the training program before the end of March should have received their PI Readiness Badge by April 1st. Congratulations to our first round of completers, listed below! You are an important player in keeping MSU Denver compliant with regulations, policies, and procedures.

Pamela Ansburg	Michael Gref	Sabrina Mlodzianowska	JJ Seggelke
Cassandra Bailey	Kathy Hardin	Mira Morton Luna	Linda Sivertson
Maluwa Behringer	Timothy Hawkins	Tony Nunez	Katie Taft
Christy Bonney	Brian Healy	Christine Odell	Alfred Tatum
Michael Botyarov	Bill Henry	Waleska Orozco Gimenez	Rebecca Trammel
Ann Diker	Ikaika Hill	Daniel Pittman	Kate Trujillo
Sonia Falcon	Jangwoo Jo	Prabhdeep Sandha	Marcia Walsh-Aziz
Joseph Feldman	Janelle Johnson	Emily Ragan	Cat Williams
Caitlin Fine	Kristen Lyons	Ranjidha Rajan	Lina Xu
Maureen Flynn	Satvika Marrapu	Steven Rissman	Kathryn S. Young
Emma Forrest	Karen Meyer	Dennis Lance Rudnick	

The Roadrunner PI Certification Program is a comprehensive program that prepares faculty, staff, and administrators to become thriving principal investigators (PIs) who are aware of the changing funding landscape, compliance policies, and internal processes. Consisting of three phases—Getting Started, Pre-Award, and Post-Award—this Program identifies the responsibilities that comes with being a PI, explains internal processes, describes how to best utilize internal resources, and visualizes the grant lifecycle through closeout. The completion of each phase culminates with an internal micro-credential—the PI Readiness badge.

Effective as of February 1, 2026, all current and prospective PIs must complete the Roadrunner PI Certification Program before they will be allowed to move forward with any grant proposal submissions.

New Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) Distribution Framework Announced

On February 19, 2026, the Provost communicated to the campus community that there is a new ICR distribution policy. This new guidance changes the distribution percentages as well as provides an advantage for faculty. The change serves to strengthen long-term financial sustainability while continuing to prioritize our academic mission, our students, and the people who make this institution work. Under the new guidance, the distribution is 40% for OSRP operations, 35% for SPAC operations, 12.5% to the PI, and 12.5% to the Provost. This change will take effect on July 1, 2026.

The intent of this change is to strengthen support for faculty scholarship over time. By investing in the systems required to manage sponsored activity and using ICR more strategically, this approach broadens access to resources for faculty, staff, students, and academic units, including first-time principal investigators, teaching-focused faculty, and faculty engaged in community-centered or student-centered work. [View the Academic Affairs Announcement](#)

Join the OSRP Proposal Strategy Sessions

The Office of Sponsored Research & Programs is hosting open Proposal Strategy sessions on the second Wednesday of each month at 10AM via Teams. Current and prospective PIs may join these sessions to ask questions about funding opportunity announcements, discuss how to revamp their proposal, discuss strategy on approaching specific funders, ask questions about how to engage in the proposal development or grant seeking process, ask general questions about sponsored programs, and more. To join the April 8th “**Approaches for Sponsored Funding**” session please find Teams login information in the Announcements section of the [OSRP home page](#). **To watch recordings from previous sessions please access the links in the Announcements section of the [OSRP home page](#).**

- *Internal Timelines and Process Flow, January 11, 2026*
- *Navigating the New Federal Landscape, February 11, 2026*
- *Narrowly Defining Scope of Work, and Proposal Development Brainstorming, March 11, 2026.*

Notice of Required Trainings, Rules, and Documents for PIs and Project Teams

Recent revisions to both MSU Denver internal policies and federal regulations have created new requirements for all current and potential principal investigators (PIs), co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) and senior personnel grant staff. Please note all requirements below must be completed before a grant proposal submission is approved, and all forms are available in the [OSRP Forms Library](#).



Roadrunner PI Certification

Faculty and staff members at MSU Denver who manage grant-funded projects must earn a professional credential through the new **Roadrunner Principal Investigator Certification Program**. The certification is offered fully online through Canvas, with three modules covering the life cycle of a grant. The certification is mandatory for all those serving as a PI or Co-PI on sponsored projects, and must be completed before proposals are submitted.

Intent to Submit

The **Intent to Submit form** serves as the PI's official notice to apply for funding. This form has two purposes: (1) to notify OSRP that a PI is interested in applying for a specific funding opportunity and (2) serves as an initial compliance check for proposal submissions. **All PI's are required to complete this form to request authorization for submitting a grant proposal.** For questions pertaining to the form, please contact your OSRP proposal development specialist.

Financial Conflict of Interest

The **Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) form** ensures that MSU Denver is in compliance with federal regulations and MSU Denver policy. All Investigators involved in sponsored research or programs must disclose significant financial interests (SFI) that may present an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest related to their institutional responsibilities. **OSRP must have disclosures prior to submitting your proposal for external funding.** For questions pertaining to the FCOI form, please contact the OSRP Executive Director.

Supplemental Pay Policy

All budgeted Senior Personnel salaries must comply with the [Faculty and Staff Supplemental Pay for Additional Employment Policy](#).

Required CITI Trainings

Federal regulations require CITI training certifications for all senior personnel on grant projects. CITI training modules are free with your MSU Denver registration:

- Conflict of Interest
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research
- Research Security Training

Submission approvals will not be issued without the completion certifications. We kindly thank you in advance for your cooperation as this will continue to further enhance our research knowledge and ensure high ethical standards. For additional information about CITI trainings please contact [Michael Heathcote](#), Associate Director of Human Subjects Protections.

Proposal Processing Form

The **Proposal Processing Form** is the final requirement before a grant proposal is approved for submission. It provides a snapshot summary of the project and budget, verifications that trainings and required documents are completed, and approvals/signatures from senior personnel, Chairs, Deans and, in some cases, senior administration.

Required Trainings for PIs and Project Teams

	TRAININGS REQUIRED				
	CITI Conflict of Interest	CITI Responsible Conduct of Research	CITI Social Behavioral all human subjects research	Research Security	Roadrunner PI Certification
All PIs	x				x
All PIs performing research w/human subjects	x	x	x	x	x
Project Teams performing research w/human subjects	x	x	x		
All PIs & Senior Key Personnel w/federal grants	x	x		x	x
All PIs performing research	x	x			x
IRB Member	x	x	x		



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