

April 2022 Newsletter



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Hats off to our Katie Watkins! You will never be forgotten. Thank you for your Service to RACC

Katie Watkins has been a part of the RACC Board for 18 years. That is some commitment! Her positions on the Board include Vice Chair, Chair, Immediate Past Chair. She has also presented countless Body of Knowledge sessions, the lead of the nominations committee, an integral part in developing the CFRA program, helped with the newsletter, participated in hundreds of meetings and lately has been our historian. We looked to Katie when we wanted to know what happened in the past, and how to make the Board and its actions better. She has been a bright light on our Board, and we are sad to let her go. Here is her summary of her time on the Board, and a fun memory to share from our Co-Board Member Jeff Ritchie

My Time on the RACC Board by Katie Watkins, M.Ed, CRA, CFRA

I became a Certified Research Administrator way back in 2003. Shortly thereafter, I was asked to join the RACC Board. I was enthusiastic about joining this prestigious group and attended my first RACC Board meeting in 2005 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The RACC of 2005 isn't the RACC you see today. Through the years, the Board built and administered two additional Bodies of Knowledge and exams and updated the original certificate's Body of Knowledge and exam numerous times. The Board has taken on many more roles and responsibilities to advance the profession of research administration since those early days, and I'm thankful to have been part of that growth and advancement.

In my years on the Board, I served as Vice Chair, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair. My role on the Board was Body of Knowledge presenter which was a great fit with my Adult Learning background. Presenting to thousands of CRA and CFRA candidates through the years has been one of the most rewarding parts of my 30+ year career in research administration. I've presented all over the United States and some of its territories. In fact, through a mix-up in my original hotel reservation, I found a hotel in the US Virgin Islands that I've visited many times since I presented there in 2006.

While I'll miss the Board and my wonderful colleagues and friends, it's time for me to

move on. My university “day job” will end in August and I’m ready for the next phase of my life. I’m a Certified Personal Chef, and currently finishing my Associates Degree in Culinary Arts. Research Administration served me well through the years, and my involvement in RACC was a huge part of my career. I am so fortunate to have served with so many wonderful people for so many years. I wish RACC nothing but success in the future.

Fond memories of serving with Katie by Jeff Ritchie, CRA, CFRA

It figures.

With Katie Watkins retiring from research administration and pursuing her passion for cooking, it figures that most of my memories of Katie revolve around eating!

Katie and I spent ten years criss-crossing the United States presenting the CRA Body of Knowledge, and we’ve eaten just about everywhere. I’ll never forget our late-night discovery of Varsity Hot Dogs after a session at the University of Georgia.

And then there was breakfast on the beach the day after a session at UC-Irvine. It was late October, and we both delayed our flights home (to frosty Milwaukee and chilly Cleveland) to enjoy a few more hours of warmth and a breakfast al fresco. Then a quick walk down the beach ogling homes that cost more than either of us will earn in our lifetimes (combined).

And how about those breakfast crepes at Honey Honey Café in the theater district of San Francisco? Although you had the crepes, and I had the eggs benedict. Full Disclosure: I almost always have the eggs benedict.

Except in Albuquerque, because there isn’t a better spot-on earth for huevos rancheros.

And, of course, there were all those well-deserved cocktails that we consumed in the evening after a long day of helping folks toward their goal of becoming a CRA. Were those allowable costs? Dunno. It’s probably not on the exam!

Katie, on behalf of all of us in research administration, we have been honored to have you as a colleague, and I have been blessed to have you as my friend. Enjoy your (active) retirement. Now get into the kitchen!

How to Manage an RO1 Award Effectively Sheleza Mohamed, FACHE, MBA, MHA, CRA, CFRA, CPRA and Tamara Mills, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



The Notice of Award (NOA) is the official, legally binding issuance of the award. The recipient institution accepts a grant by signing the grant agreement or by drawing down funds. Once this occurs, the recipient becomes legally obligated to carry out the full terms and conditions of the award. *reprinted with permission [Full Article](#)

Cryptocurrency: Is sponsored research missing out? Evan Javel, CRA, Boston Children’s Hospital CHMC and Katie Mueller, CRA, Harvard Medical School



As the field of research administration has grown, the funding mechanisms that support science and innovation in the field have grown as well. Cryptocurrency could become the next big research funding mechanism as the internet continues to propel the evolution of financial structures toward decentralization. With some nonprofits already supplementing their traditional fundraising strategies by accepting cryptocurrency, research institutions could become the next frontier. [Full Article](#)

You Passed the RACC Exam! Now What? Adding Your Certification to Your Resume

Carolyn Mazzella, MPA, CRA University of Pittsburgh

The RACC certification(s) (CRA/CFA/CPRA) are a great way to showcase your knowledge of research administration. You have studied, studied some more, taken the exam, and passed! You already updated your email with your new credentials and plan to frame that fancy new certificate of yours, but that's not all you should update. Don't forget to add your professional certification to your resume and your LinkedIn profile! [Full Article](#)



Congratulations to all that have passed the CRA, CPRA, and CFRA exams. We celebrate with you on your significant achievement. Please see our full list of new certificants [HERE](#).

Leading Remote Teams

Rashonda Harris, CRA University of Connecticut

Leading remote teams is challenging. Finding the balance in what works for the leader and the group requires commitment and flexibility from both sides. As a remote leader, the best way to find the balance for your workplace is to reduce required communication. This recommendation may seem unusual, but this is a fundamental element necessary for managing stress and remote work-life balance. Employees can often self-manage tasks and goals, so



instead of asking for updates (which can often feel like an uphill battle), use metrics to monitor workloads and progress where/when possible. Finally, give trust for intelligent people to know the best way to approach a problem and manage themselves. Managing communication is essential as this sets a tone. [Full Article](#)

Believe it or Not!

The faculty member was adamant. The submission portal for the annual report opened that morning and it must be submitted today. As the Signing Official (SO) I knew we had X number of days before the next budget period started to work on the report. It was not due the day the portal opened, but the PI insisted. The first email came at 10am, "Report finished. Submit now." I dutifully logged into the portal to review the report and noticed there were a significant number of questions left unanswered. I reached out to the PI to inquire; the response, "No, submit now." I reminded the PI there must be time and effort listed on the project as the faculty member had 2.5 AY months committed. I went ahead and updated this section. I also stated the need to confirm that, yes, there were students working on the project. The PI reluctantly made the changes, yet there were still many sections of the report blank. By mid-afternoon we had exchanged more than a dozen emails. Each time the response would be "Submit now!" Eventually the report was submitted late that afternoon. Less than a week later we received an email from the Program Officer (PO), "Dear PI, I have been going through your report and I have a few concerns..." Of course, I really wanted to say, "I told you so;" but I didn't. Instead, the PI is now endearingly known as "Dr. Submit Now" and always will be.

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.

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](#)

