



NCURA Teaches in Puerto Rico



NCURA's March 2018 FRA and PRA Conferences made an abrupt change in venue when Puerto Rico was hit with a devastating hurricane called Maria in October of the previous year. Calls to the contracted hotels in San Juan told NCURA's professional staff that the city would not recover in time for the co-located conferences. A decision was then made to cancel contracts, locate another venue that could accommodate a week-long conference for over 1,200 attendees, and commit to returning in 2020.

Since that time, we have all seen photos and read news stories about the long and arduous process of rebuilding, along with the occasional good news piece.

To see first-hand how San Juan has recovered, and to photograph and video tape the changes for our membership to see, NCURA's Board of Directors traveled there in February to hold its winter meeting. Beyond the desire to see in-person and document the changes, the Board wanted to show its commitment to our colleagues there, and to Puerto Rico.

During a routine planning call between NCURA's President, Tony Ventimiglia and Executive Director,

Kathleen Larmett, they realized that almost half of the Board were also NCURA traveling workshop faculty, and an idea surfaced that they knew would show an even greater commitment to Puerto Rico and its research administration community — and one that was in line with NCURA's mission of providing



L-R: Kathleen Larmett, Executive Director, NCURA; Jacqueline Mullen, Vice Chancellor, Sponsored Research & Programs and María del C. González López, Administrative Assistant, Vice-Chancellor for Sponsored Research & Programs, Universidad Ana G. Méndez – Gurabo; Tara Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive, NCURA.

education and training. After asking the Board's members who are NCURA traveling workshop faculty if any would accept a volunteer teaching

“ The workshops are important to stay ahead in the profession. You should come to Puerto Rico twice a year!”

position following their meeting in San Juan, and receiving nine immediate and positive responses, a message was sent to members in Puerto Rico, asking for an institution to host NCURA workshops that would be presented at no-cost. Again, there was a swift and positive response.

On February 19 and 20, what started out as an opportunity for NCURA's Board of Directors to show its support of Puerto Rico, turned into something much larger when NCURA hosted four free workshops for over 200 colleagues at the Universidad Ana G. Méndez – Gurabo.

Thank you to NCURA's wonderful members and staff who volunteered their time to teach and produce this program. And a huge thank you to our colleagues in Puerto Rico. We will return! ■



“ The workshop was very interesting and the information was up-to-date...I was able to develop new skills that I know I will use in my work.”



Workshop Faculty

Departmental Research Administration Workshop
Glenda Bullock, Washington University in St. Louis
Sinnamon Tierney, Boston University

Financial Research Administration Workshop
Anne Albinak, Johns Hopkins University
Rashonda Harris, Emory University

Level I: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration Workshop
Tricia Callahan, Colorado State University
Rosemary Madnick, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Level II: Sponsored Projects Administration Workshop
Robyn Remotigue, University of North Texas Health Science Center
Tony Ventimiglia, Auburn University



“ I sincerely appreciate your support of offering these workshops in Puerto Rico. These workshops are of utmost relevance by maximizing the contribution of the University of Puerto Rico to develop the future workforce of research and education of Puerto Rico. Thank you NCURA!”



“ I liked the part where I did networking with other peers that have the same job as me.”

“ It was a great opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the challenges we face as research administrators and gain insight and knowledge as we share our experiences.”

