

Laura Valdez
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Secretary Candidate

I am honored and grateful to be nominated for the position of Secretary for NCURA Region V. Throughout my career in research administration, I have experienced firsthand the tremendous value that NCURA provides through professional development, mentorship, networking, and community. The relationships and knowledge I have gained through NCURA have not only strengthened my professional skills but have also inspired me to become more involved in serving the organization that has given so much to me.

I currently serve as a Senior Research Services Coordinator at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where I support faculty and researchers across a broad range of sponsored programs activities. My role requires strong organizational skills, attention to detail, effective communication, and a commitment to service, qualities that align closely with the responsibilities of Secretary.

My involvement with NCURA has allowed me to contribute to our profession in a variety of ways. I currently serve as a Virtual Education Coordinator for the Region V Roundups, helping provide educational opportunities and resources for our members. I am also a member of the Accessibility and Belonging (ABC) Committee and serve on the Professional Development Institute (PDI) Committee. In addition, I have volunteered at both the Regional Meeting and the NCURA National Meeting, where I was honored to receive a scholarship to attend and further invest in professional growth and be part of the 2026 MMP cohort.

What I value most about NCURA is the sense of community. Whether through educational programming, committee service, conferences, or conversations with colleagues, Region V has consistently demonstrated a commitment to supporting research administrators at every stage of their careers. As someone who has benefited greatly from these opportunities, I am passionate about helping others build connections, develop professionally, and find their place within our NCURA community.

As Secretary, I would work diligently to support the Region V leadership team, maintain accurate records, promote transparent communication, and help preserve the continuity and institutional knowledge that are essential to our region's success. I would be honored to serve the membership in this capacity and contribute to the continued growth and strength of Region V.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve Region V. I look forward to continuing to support and engage with our vibrant NCURA community.