Society of Research Administrators International Names Tamara Gabrus in ‘Future of the Field’ Recognition

ORLANDO, July 1, 2021 – Tamara Gabrus has been selected by the Society of Research Administrators International to receive their inaugural Future of the Field recognition.

The honor recognizes up-and-comers who are innovating and influencing the research administration profession. Gabrus, a program director II with the Faculty Cluster Initiative & Pre-Award Shared Services, has been with UCF for 14 years.

Gabrus was selected from more than 100 nominations from around the globe. The ‘Future of the Field’ selectees will be formally recognized at SRA International’s Annual Meeting this October in New Orleans.

The Society of Research Administrators International is a global research management society that provides education, professional development, and comprehensive information about research management to professionals from over 40 countries.

Research administrators foster successful research by ensuring compliance to the applicable federal, state and sponsor regulations all while reducing administrative burden on the research team. Their work ensures that researchers can maximize their focus on solving society’s toughest challenges and ultimately make positive impacts on the community.

“Tamara is a dedicated and capable asset for our Faculty Cluster Initiative and Pre-Award Shared Services,” says Winston Schoenfeld, UCF’s associate vice president for research. “I’m proud she is being recognized for her hard work and commitment.”

During her time with UCF, Gabrus has consistently sought opportunities for professional growth and has made major contributions to the research administration profession.
These include helping to create a comprehensive onboarding program and to start an advisory council to serve as a sounding board to Vice President for Research and Dean for the College of Graduate Studies, Elizabeth Klonoff.

“I am incredibly humbled,” Gabrus says of the selection. “UCF administrators have a commitment to our faculty, student and peers, and this is an international recognition of this.”

The onboarding program Gabrus helped to develop while she served as the Office of Research’s Training Liaison was a comprehensive approach to training that included administrative representation from across the units and within the Office of Research. These monthly in-house trainings were later expanded into formalized monthly trainings that continue on through the Florida Research Administration Conference Training in Research Administration eXcellence program, or FRAC TRAX.

The advisory council was founded by Greg Norris, the associate director of administration and finance with the College of Medicine, and Gabrus for the purposes of representing decentralized colleagues within the units who would be affected by onboarding of new technology, Huron Research Suite. It did this by recruiting 13 people from across the units to join the group and offer their perspectives.

The council is now formally recognized as the Departmental Administration Research Focus, or DARF, Council. The council includes a 12-voting membership. Gabrus and Norris are co-chairs. The group advises UCF’s Vice President for Research, and its model was replicated when UCF created its university-wide Campus Community Advisory Group. Other groups on campus are also approaching Gabrus and Norris about replicating the group’s success within their own units.

“I’ve had the ability to work alongside some of the best and brightest administrators, both in the units, the Office of Research, the DARF Advisory Council and last but certainly not least my incredibly hard-working and dedicated FCI/PASS team,” Gabrus says. “I would be remised not to acknowledge that any recognition I have been afforded must also be shared with my outstanding colleagues.”

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