

Chad Macuszonok Named UCF's New Assistant Vice President of Research IT

ORLANDO, Feb. 4, 2022 – UCF graduate Chad Macuszonok has come a long way from playing computer games in MS-DOS. Today, he was named UCF's new Assistant Vice President for Research IT.

Macuszonok was selected from a national pool of 37 candidates and will report to the Vice President of Research and the Chief Information Officer. The new position and its dual reporting structure demonstrates the important nature of the job, which aims to align IT resources to help support UCF's mission of becoming a top 50 research university.

"Chad's expertise, experience and ability to bring groups together to solve complex problems made him the best candidate for the position," says Elizabeth Klonoff, Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. "He understands the needs of faculty and will help position UCF to be a research leader."

Macuszonok has served as the interim director for Research Technology in the Office of Research and College of Graduate Studies since 2020. As part of that role, he supervised 30 employees and a department responsible for most of the research IT infrastructure at UCF including defining, staffing, and stabilizing the Research Cyber Infrastructure Program to meet all federal and state guidelines.

"Chad's experience working with our research faculty, the full arc of the discovery cycle from grant ideation to data plans to the dissemination of scientific knowledge make him the ideal choice for the role.," says Matthew Hall, Vice President of Information Technology & CIO. "He's been a great collaborator who brings people from various disciplines and roles together to solve problems our investigators face. It's a pleasure to work with him, and I'm excited about the future and where the team will take us."

For the past 16 years, he's held various IT roles from a programmer and business analyst to a manager and interim director when the former director stepped down to take a full-time faculty position. He credits Klonoff for restructuring the Office of Research and understanding the strategic need to invest in IT to provide researchers with the tools they need to enhance and expand their work.

UCF is home to Macuzonok, who also received his MBA from Knight Nation in 2006. The Melbourne, Fla. native also holds a bachelor's and master's degree in decision information systems from the University of Florida. His love for information technology came from his father.

"My dad worked and still works at (L3) Harris and supported technology," Macuzonok says. "I grew up with a computer and playing games in MS-DOS on the big floppy drives and such and was always into gaming as a kid."

As AVP, Macuzonok will be the key liaison among research administrators, researchers, campus-wide IT, and senior leadership. He says his team, made up of graduate and research IT personnel, will be key in building UCF's research IT capacity.

"We plan to focus on providing more direct support to researchers in investments and training of needed tools and services such as Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Amazon Web Services (AWS)," he says. "We will continue our focus to ensure Knight Vision is a success while bringing on additional modules within the Huron Research Suite in support of the research and graduate mission. Achieving this position is truly a reflection of the great work that has been done by the team over the past years in support of the university mission"

IT is technical, but at the end of the day it is about empowering people to do better.

"My goal is to support UCF to achieve its research and graduate mission of being a top 50 metropolitan research institution," he says. "This requires providing researchers and graduate students access and tools that are needed to do the kind of work required to be a top institution."

Macuzonok begins his new role today, Feb. 4, 2022.