“Science is more important to a republican than in any other government.” – Thomas Jefferson - 1821
Objectives

1. Master Degree in Research Administration
   Exploring the Education level impact

2. MRA Program of Study
   Course Content

3. The Future
   Looking Ahead
Source: 
Education, Experience, Credentials or Gender:
What counts most when it comes to salary?
Jennifer Shambrook, Ph.D.¹, Thomas J. Roberts, Ed.D², & Robert S. Triscari, Ph.D. ²
What is more important, getting a degree or studying for the CRA in relation to increase in salary?

-2010 Research Administrators Stress Perception Survey (2010 RASPerRS) measured salary, years experience, educational level, CRA status, and gender. Using these empirical data, comparisons are made to show how salary levels are associated with each of these factors.
Methods:

- Surveyed 6,323 Research Administrators.
- 1,131 completed survey responses
- Confidence level of 99%
- Confidence interval of 3.48
- Data were both descriptive and analytical statistics
- Salaries were stratified into 5 levels in order to perform analysis of variance between groups.
Conclusions:

Masters or doctoral level educational degree, five or more years research administration experience, and male gender are significantly associated with higher salaries.

CRA credentials, higher education below the Masters level, or experience of less than five years are not shown to be statistically associated with higher salaries for Research Administrators.
Education results:

- Research Administrators with associate degrees make the lowest salaries; those with doctoral degrees make the highest.
- There is no significant difference between the salaries until the level of Masters degree is reached. The mean then increases significantly.
- There is also a significant increase between Masters and Doctoral degrees.
How is graduate school different?

**Training**
- Specialized
- Practical skills
- Lower $$$
- Reputation/title
- Higher Interaction
- Short time
- May increase salary/promotion
- Worldview – only profession

**Education**
- General
- Theoretical-principles/Critical Thinking
- Higher $$$
- Reputation/title
- Lower Interaction
- More time
- Increased salary/promotion
- Worldview - International
History

- 2008 NCURA Call for Implementation Proposals
- Fall 2009 NCURA Implementation Grant
- Spring 2011 Program Approved by Trustees
- Fall 2011 First Cohort
- Summer 2013 First graduating class (17)
Challenges During Implementation Proposal

- Obtaining institutional support
- Accurately determining need and demand
- Developing a cost effective budget
- Bucking the F2F versus online myth
- Territorial guarding
While it is difficult to define what is “democratic learning” the goal of the MRA Program is to involve the participation, input and feedback of many stakeholders in the development, evaluation, and implementation of the program of study.
Research Administrators represent their institutions in diverse matters related to:

- Research Development
- Grants and Contracts Administration
- Regulatory Compliance
- Institutional Policies & Procedures
- Commercialization
- Economic Development
Overview of the Profession
What Roles Do We Play?

Resource Locator, Scout
Enforcer
Interpreter
Gatekeeper
Reviewer
Team Builder, Broker
Compliance Expert
Motivator, Catalyst, Advocate

2011 Teaching Public Administration Conference
Overarching Goals of the MRA
Preparing for the Research Office in the 21st Century

- Educate professional research administrators to address the issues facing our research organizations
- Integrate collaboration and participation of national experts in research into the curriculum
- Foster a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in research administration issues
- Instill a sense of duty and service to the research community into the new and current professionals
- Address the need for providing excellence in research administration within our nation
Overview of the MRA Program

- Fully online – 36 credit hours
- 12 courses – 2 courses each term for 6 terms/semesters
- Designed for full-time research administrators
- Eligibility - 5 yrs experience, No GRE
- Tuition – flat rate for in and out of state. Lower than traditionally out of state.
12 Courses/36 hours/2 years

1. Introduction to Research Administration
2. Legal and Regulatory Framework
3. Grant and Contract Management *
4. Leadership and Organization Models
5. Financial Management
6. Human Resource Management
7. Contracting for Sponsored Programs
8. Strategic Planning and Management *
9. Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization
10. Audits in Research Administration
11. Legal and Ethical Compliance
12. Public Program Evaluation Techniques *(capstone)

*Service learning courses
Where do we go from here?

- What defines a profession?
- Future Education
- Future Research
- Accreditation
- Other trends in research administration
“To pursue science is not to disparage the things of the spirit. In fact, to pursue science rightly is to furnish the framework on which the spirit may rise.” – Dr. Vannevar Bush