

MARCH 8–10, 2017

San Diego

TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

▶ PRE-AWARD RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

As nearly 600 attendees gathered from all over the world, San Diego truly proved to be America's Finest City and greeted us with perfect, sunny weather for the 11th Annual Pre-Award Research Administration Conference. This proved to be a welcome respite for many of us who traveled from (and returned to!) bitterly cold climates. The venue's beautiful waterfront views provided an ideal backdrop for three days of networking and learning opportunities with friends and colleagues.

The first day official day of the conference kicked off with our inspirational keynote speaker, Dr. Carolin Rekar Munro. Dr. Munro is a Professor at Royal Roads University in British Columbia, an Adjunct Professor at Central Michigan University, and a visiting professor at Mount Meru University in Tanzania, Africa. Her interactive talk focused on how we could strengthen our individual capacity to build and sustain long-term connections and explored how we can exercise our leadership to enhance engagement and inclusivity in the workplace. Dr. Munro helped us understand and hopefully avoid the *5 Connection Killers*: (1) Failure to value everyone; (2) Letting ego seize center stage; (3) Making assumptions; (4) Not paying attention to the 10 second message you might be sending in the first 10 seconds of a meeting; and (5) Judging. The talk then focused on the *3 C's of Connectivity* in order to get everyone into the spirit of the conference theme *Together Towards Tomorrow*: (1) Curiosity to look with genuine interest at the world around us in a state of inquiry; (2) Courageousness to show up as our authentic self; and (3) Cultivating leadership to take the initiative to engage with someone.

A total of 13 pre-conference workshops, 56 concurrent sessions, 32 discussion groups, and 20 spark sessions were offered by our fantastic and dedicated program committee, all facilitated by volunteers from across the world. Every session provided a comprehensive and vast range of information for which everyone in any role or at any level was able to return to their respective institutions and immediately use.

We want to express our deep gratitude to NCURA's President, Barbara Gray, for allowing us this wonderful opportunity to serve as this year's PRA co-chairs. Without the nine months of support, guidance, and patience from the NCURA National Office staff—especially Susan McKenna and Kati Barber—this meeting would not have been possible. Also, no meeting is successful without willing volunteers such as our dedicated workshop faculty, discussion group leaders, concurrent and spark session facilitators, evaluators, breakfast table leaders, or registration desk volunteers.



It truly does take a village, and NCURA depends on everyone's willingness to volunteer.

We hope everyone is armed and ready to embark on the 2017 spring season rejuvenated and reenergized with new knowledge and collaborations! ■

Yours... Together Towards Tomorrow,
Rosemary Madnick and Denise Moody



L-R: Rosemary Madnick, Co-Chair; Kathleen Larmett, NCURA Executive Director; Carolin Rekar Munro; Barbara Gray, NCURA President; Denise Moody, Co-Chair

