

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF RESEARCH
AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

July 30, 2010

TO: University Community



FROM: Peter Alfonso, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

SUBJ: Merger of Pre- and Post-Award Functions to Form the New Office of Sponsored Projects

We are pleased to announce that effective August 2, 2010 certain functions in the post-award Office of Grants and Contract Accounting in the Division of Administration and Finance will merge with the pre-award Office of Sponsored Projects Review in the Division of Research and Economic Development to form the reorganized Office of Sponsored Projects in the Division of Research and Economic Development with the goal of providing seamless support for pre- and post-award functions from proposal development to award closeout. The new Office of Sponsored Projects will be staffed by the six employees who serve currently in the pre-award Office of Sponsored Projects Review and nine employees who serve currently in the post-award Office of Grant and Contract Accounting. Mary Kate DeMarco will serve as Director of the reorganized office, Franca Cirelli will serve as Assistant Director for the Kingston Campus and Eileen Hayes will serve as Assistant Director of the Narragansett Bay Campus. Post-award functions of account set up and management through close out will be transferred to the Office of Sponsored Projects. The new Controller's Sponsored & Cost Accounting Office will continue to be responsible for grant related billing and receivables, cash management, audits, financial compliance, and other related functions. The former Office of Sponsored Projects Review and the Office of Grant and Contract Accounting will cease to exist.

One of the aims of the reorganized Office of Sponsored Projects is to create teams of dedicated staff who will provide individual support for specific colleges and schools. Thus, faculty in a particular academic unit will be assisted by the same team throughout the life of the award. A total of three pre-post award teams will be created. Two teams will serve the Kingston and Providence campuses and one team will serve the Narragansett Bay campus. While the reorganization becomes effective on August 2, the transition of certain functions will continue through the early part of fiscal year 2011. The URI community will be informed as functions transition.

The Division will hold a university-wide forum early in the fall semester to discuss this and other initiatives in support of URI research and scholarship. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me or Mary Kate DeMarco at 4-2775 for additional details.

C: President's Team
Council of Deans
Department Chairs
Council for Research