

Lee accepted into inaugural Masters in Research Administration (MRA) program at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

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Research Administration as a profession has advanced substantially over the past few years as sponsored research has become increasingly complex. The success of research endeavors depends on the scientific merit of the project as well as the effective administration of the project to insure efficient use of resources and compliance with sponsor guidelines. Research administrators are instrumental in proposal preparation, budgeting, reporting, monitoring, contracting, procurement and staffing. They also emphasize the importance of the primary compliance issues facing institutions today (protection of human and animal research subjects, research misconduct, subrecipient monitoring and effort reporting). They are vital members of the research team, contributing substantially to the success of the individual researchers, the home institution and the sponsoring organization.



Menia Lee (L) is pictured here with George Gardner (R) and Megan Columbus (rear) at the National Institutes of Health

A new graduate program now offered through MUSC's College of Health Professions (CHP) combines the culture of research with the advanced study of management. The Master in Research Administration (MRA) program focuses on content tailored for professionals who are already working in research administration.

Menia Lee, Grants Administrator for the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities at the University of South Carolina is one of few select applicants accepted into this inaugural graduate degree program for Fall 2009. Lee earned her B.S. Degree in Business Administration and Organizational Management from Claflin University and she is a Spring 2007 graduate of the Gamecock Research Administrators Network (GRANT) program at USC.

MUSC's MRA Program is the only one of its kind in the Southeast and 1 of only four nationwide. It is the only program with an executive-style format. Graduates of this inaugural program will be the first to hold the designation of MRA. The MRA faculty includes members in the CHP's Department of Health Administration and Policy as well as adjunct faculty from the research community. MRA coursework includes a mix of on-campus classes and on-line lessons. The curriculum consists of 36 credit hours that fulltime students may earn over four to six semesters. The program expects to only admit 30 students per year.

"I'm very excited to be a part of such a history-making cohort. This program will certainly enhance my abilities to provide stronger and more advanced research administration support and I look forward to not only realizing yet another professional development goal but emerging as a future leader in my career field".

In addition to serving as the department-level research administrator for IPEHD, Lee is a member of the Health Law SPIG of the American Public Health Association, where she will moderate a session on youth and CBPR at this year's 137th Annual Meeting & Expo. She serves as a contributing editor for the Community-Based Public Health Caucus (CBPHC) Presentations and Publications Workgroup and was recently nominated to serve as community co-chair elect for 2009-10. In addition, Lee is a member of the International Society of Research Administrators (SRA) and the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) where she is an active member of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee.

She is the Editor of the IPEHD Compass, an annual research report highlighting the department's research initiatives, has contributed as an author on 3 publications submitted to peer-reviewed journals and currently preparing a manuscript submission to the Journal of Research Administration.