IRIS Board of Directors

Kimberly Griffin, Director, Electronic Research Administration, Office for Sponsored Research, Northwestern University
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018

Kimberly Griffin is the Director for Electronic Research Administration in the Office for Sponsored Research (OSR) at Northwestern University. A graduate of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Kim joined the staff at her alma mater in 2014. In her current position, she has collaborated with colleagues in OSR and Information Technology to implement solutions that enable data-driven decision making in the sponsored research office and provide transparency to customers. Kim served as the university's key point of contact in joining the UMetrics initiative, working with the Vice President for Research to persuade business leaders across the university, including key data stewards in Human Resources and the Registrar's Office, of the benefits of participating in UMetrics. Prior to joining Northwestern's staff, Kim worked at The University of Chicago for 15 years, beginning with positions in pre- and post-award administration, and ending with 10 years in Business Intelligence as a Sr. Business Analyst. Kim holds an M.S. in Computer Science from The University of Chicago and an M.S. in Public Service Management from DePaul University.

Christopher J. Molloy, Senior Vice President, Office of Research and Economic Development, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018

Christopher Molloy joined Rutgers University in 2007 as dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. In 2011, he was appointed interim provost for biomedical and health sciences and successfully led the complex integration of Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the largest merger of academic institutions in U.S. history. Molloy then served as interim chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences from July – October 2013. In November, 2013, he became the university's senior vice president for research and economic development. Under his leadership, the Office of Research and Economic Development is expanding its commercialization of research through patents, startups and the transfer of technology to industry, maximizing the university's ability to conduct translational research in the life sciences and other critical research and development activities. The Office provides enhanced services to foster interdisciplinary collaborations, facilitate corporate contracts and support the submission of grant proposals to governmental and private sponsors. Dr. Molloy received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Rutgers and his doctoral degree from the joint Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Graduate School–New Brunswick. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Prior to joining Rutgers, Molloy held senior research and management positions at Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development L.L.C., 3-Dimensional Pharmaceuticals Inc., and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute.

Neil A. Sharkey, Vice President for Research, Office of Research, Pennsylvania State University
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2019

Neil A. Sharkey, Ph.D., was appointed vice president for research at Penn State on September 19, 2015 after serving in an interim capacity for the two years prior. In his role as vice president Sharkey is the principal academic and administrative officer for Penn State's Office of Research. The Office of Research oversees the work of six major, university-wide interdisciplinary research institutes, two defense-related research units and offices for industry partnerships, technology transfer, innovation and commercialization. In regard to the latter, Sharkey has been instrumental in the development of the Invent Penn State initiative since its launch in January 2015. Before serving as vice president for research, Sharkey was associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Health and Human Development, where he also holds the title of professor of kinesiology. Sharkey holds a bachelor's degree in physiology and a Ph.D. in comparative pathology, both from the University of California-Davis. He is an expert in tissue biomechanics and has spent his career investigating the interplay between biology and mechanics in collagenous tissues. He currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Council on Research within the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) Council of Sponsoring Institutions, the board of directors for Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, the scientific advisory committee for the University City Science Center in Philadelphia, and the leadership team for health equity in the Big Ten Academic Alliance.

Caroline C. Whitacre, Senior Vice President for Research, The Ohio State University
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2019

Caroline C. Whitacre, Ph.D. serves as the Senior Vice President for Research at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She is a Professor of Microbial Infection & Immunity and her research area is the immunology of multiple sclerosis. She served as Associate Vice President for Health Sciences Research and Vice Dean for Research in the College of Medicine from 2002-2008. Prior to that, she served for 12 years as the Chair of the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics in the College of Medicine. In her current role as SVP for Research, Dr. Whitacre is responsible for the overall strategic planning and infrastructure support for the university's $962 million annual research program. In recognition of her University activities, she was awarded the OSU Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service in 2001 and the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2008. In 2004, she was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2015, she was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors. She serves on the Boards of Center for Science and Industry (COSI), The Transportation Research Center, The Wellington School, BioOhio, the National Boards for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Oak Ridge Associated Universities. She chairs the Board of SciTech, the Ohio State University Research Park. Dr. Whitacre received her BA and PhD degrees at The Ohio State University.

Daniel A. Reed, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University of Iowa
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2020

Daniel A. Reed is Vice President for Research and Economic Development, as well as University Chair in Computational Science and Bioinformatics and Professor of Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Medicine, at the University of Iowa. Previously, he was Microsoft's Corporate Vice President for Technology Policy and Extreme Computing, where he helped shape Microsoft's long-term vision for technology innovations in cloud computing and the company's associated policy engagement with governments and institutions around the world. Before joining Microsoft, he was the Chancellor's Eminent Professor at UNC Chapel Hill, as well as the Director of the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI), Vice Chancellor for IT, and the Chancellor's Senior Advisor for Strategy and Innovation for UNC Chapel Hill. Prior to that, he was Gutgsell Professor and Head of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). He was also one of the principal investigators and chief architect for the NSF TeraGrid, the world's largest computing platform for open scientific research. He received his PhD in computer science in 1983 from Purdue University. Dr. Reed has served as a member of the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC), and the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee.

Kimberly Andrews Espy, Senior Vice President for Research, Chief Research Officer, University of Arizona
Term: April 1, 2017-March 31, 2020

Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy serves as the Senior Vice President for Research at the University of Arizona. She is the Chief Research Officer, and as a leader in the President's senior executive team, is charged to advance transformative excellence in research across the campus towards achievement of the goals articulated in Never Settle, the University's academic strategic plan. Dr. Espy is responsible for university interdisciplinary research centers and institutes that span from basic to applied, from the sciences to the humanities disciplines, as well as the three museums and central core facilities. Dr. Espy is leading efforts to support faculty research through a variety of new research development services and programs, as well as by broadening and deepening strategic external research partnerships. She also represents the University in national organizations such as the American Association of Universities and the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Council on Research, and serves as a member of several public boards, including Arizona Technology Council, the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Large Binocular Telescope Organization and Giant Magellan Telescope Organization. Prior to accepting the post at the UA, Dr. Espy was the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Oregon. She started her academic career at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and was the Founding Director of the Center for Integrated Research in Cognitive & Neural Sciences.

James Hilton, Vice Provost for Academic Innovation, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, University of Michigan
Term: April 1, 2017-

James Hilton is the Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at the University of Michigan. He is also the Vice Provost for Digital Educational Initiatives, responsible for developing strategies and policies around educational technology and other cross-campus digital education initiatives. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Hilton served as Vice President and Chief Information Officer at the University of Virginia from 2006 until 2013. From 2001 to 2006 he was the Associate Provost for Academic Information and Instructional Technology Affairs at the University of Michigan, and served as the Interim University Librarian for one year in 2005. He was a member of the faculty at the University of Michigan in the Psychology Department where he served as the Chair of Undergraduate Studies between 1991 and 2000. He is a three-time recipient of the LS&A Excellence in Education award, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and recipient of the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award. He has published extensively in the areas of information technology policy, person perception, stereotypes, and the psychology of suspicion. Hilton received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981, and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Princeton University in 1985.