

VCU Research Administrator Day - Agenda
Wednesday, September 23, 2026. 9am - 3pm
James Branch Cabell Library, Lecture Room 303

VCU Research Administrator Day is a celebration of the research administration (RA) profession and our RA community at VCU. Through a series of presentations, roundtable discussions, and an award ceremony; faculty, senior leaders, and administrators from around the University will share their contributions to One VCU Research and champion the RAs that made it possible.

Time	Session Title & Description
9 AM - 9:15 AM	RA Day Planning Committee Welcome - Maecy Richmond, Director of Research Administration, College of Health Professions; Liz Seward, Senior Research Administrator, College of Health Professions Staff Senate Introduction - Maya Rogers, Financial Services Manager, Academic Operations, Office of the Provost
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Jimmy Ghaphery, Associate Dean for Scholarly Communications and Publishing
9:30 AM – 10:10 AM	Research Presentations What Introverted Leaders Bring? - Ella Danilovich, Senior Website Developer, OVPRI Virginia Partnership for Gaming and Health - Carolyn E. Hawley, PhD, Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling
10:10 AM – 10:30 AM	Break - RA Appreciation Activity (Human Bingo)
10:30 AM - 11:30 PM	Community Engaged Research Panel Discussion Moderator and faculty - TBD
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	What Can the library do for you? Nina Exner, PhD, Research Data Librarian, VCU Libraries
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch & Networking: <i>Lunch provided</i>
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Research Administrator Presentations DSP / G&C - Topic TBD - Presenters - TBD Stronger Together: How Collaboration Between Finance and Research Administration Creates Better Outcomes for Our Teams and Investigators - Lori Pfister, Director of Business Operations, Shared Services Business Operations Administrator, SOM - Abbie Thorne, Associate Director, Post Award Administration, SOM
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Break
2:00 – 2:45 PM	State of Research and One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan John Ryan, PhD, Associate vice president, Division of Research Development Leadership
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Award Ceremony A final ceremony to present distinguished colleagues with the following awards: Research Administrator of The Year, Outstanding Leadership in Research Administration, Research Administrator Rookie of The Year, Collaborator of The Year, Behind The Scenes
3:00PM	Adjourn