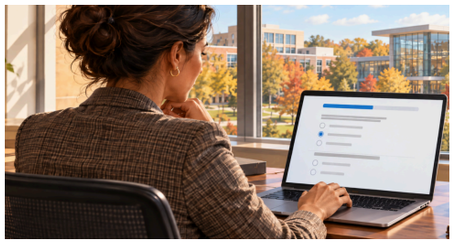
NACRO NEWS

Take the NACRO 2026 Career Exploration Survey



NACRO's 2026 Annual Career Exploration Survey is now open to academic corporate relations professionals (including non-NACRO members).

This survey builds on previous NACRO benchmarking efforts to better understand roles, responsibilities, compensation and career advancement across institutions.

Findings will help inform professional development resources and provide context for institutional discussions about staffing and support for academic corporate relations teams.

Responses will be reported only in aggregate, with no individuals or institutions identified, and results will be shared with NACRO members. Professionals at all career stages are encouraged to participate and share the survey with colleagues to help capture the breadth of the academic corporate relations community.

TAKE THE CAREER EXPLORATION SURVEY

NACRO: LinkedIn Group

NACRO Members! If you haven't yet, be sure to join our NACRO Members-Only Forum – a discussion forum that is hosted as a private, unlisted LinkedIn group.



NACRO members can request to join the group by clicking on the link below.

JOIN THE LINKEDIN GROUP

NACRO Blog: Heather Hirsch, Texas A&M Foundation & Tony Llano, University of Georgia

In the NACRO Blog this month, NACRO Benchmarking Committee Chair and Chair-elect **Heather Hirsch** (Texas A&M Foundation) and **Tony Llano** (University of Georgia) write about NACRO's newly opened 2026 Annual Career Exploration Survey.

In their Blog post, Heather and Tony ask those in academic corporate relations – NACRO members and non-members – help build a clearer picture of careers in academic corporate relations by taking the Career Survey.



“Last year’s NACRO Career survey continued an important effort to better understand the varied roles, responsibilities and career experiences within our profession,” write Heather and Tony. “This year, we’re continuing that work to build a stronger, data-driven picture of how corporate relations professionals are positioned, compensated and supported.” Read more.

NACRO 2027 Conference: Call for Speakers!



Step up to the podium! For NACRO's 2027 Annual Conference (July 13-15 in Baltimore, MD), NACRO invites you to submit your Speaker Proposal, due December 4.

We welcome proposals from all types and sizes of institutions as well as industry. In addition to submitting a proposal, please encourage your colleagues at all institution types to submit.

NACRO’s 2027 Annual Conference will bring together professionals, thought leaders and experts from diverse fields. In Baltimore, help celebrate NACRO’s 20th year anniversary with your peers and showcase your experience and expertise as a conference speaker!

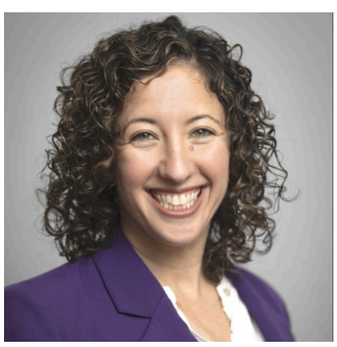
Topics we are looking for include (but are not limited to):

- **Evolution of Corporate Relations** – we welcome submissions that examine historic trends and, above all, offer a forward-looking perspective on the future of our industry.
- **Corporate Relations Operations** (i.e., management, leadership, organizational structures, metrics for success, stewardship, advisory committees, capital campaigns)
- **External Collaborations and Relationships** (i.e., relationship building with external stakeholders – corporate partners, government agencies, community economic development)

We look forward to receiving your proposals by December 4 and welcoming you as a speaker at NACRO 2027 Annual Conference!

SUBMIT YOUR SPEAKER PROPOSAL

NACRO Member Spotlight: Dorian Varga



This month we’re very happy to feature **Dorian Varga**, Director, Corporate Relations with the University of Washington.

In this video, Dorian shares one aspect of NACRO’s value to her is having the opportunity to meet with peers in person and make close personal connections at the NACRO Annual Conference.

We hope you enjoy Dorian's video!

WATCH DORIAN'S VIDEO

NACRO: Upcoming Virtual Events



November Webinar
Coauthorship to Collaboration: A New Approach to Faculty Engagement
November 17, 12:00-1:00pm ET
Learn More & Register

November Regional Meetups
Adjusting to Federal Funding Limits & Changes

- Midwest - November 18, 10:00-11:00am CT
- Western - November 18, 11:00am-12:00pm PT
- Southeast - November 18, 2:00-3:00pm ET
- South Central - November 19, 10:00-11:00am CT
- Northeast - November 19, 1:30-2:30pm ET

*You should have received a calendar invite for these meetups. If you did not receive an invite and would like to participate, please email Jessica Hutchins.

NACRO: Corporate Relations Roundup



Johns Hopkins University is launching a university-wide effort to deepen corporate partnerships, connecting faculty expertise with opportunities in sponsored research, philanthropy, executive education and student careers. **Christy Wyskiel**, recently appointed the university's first chief innovation officer, will lead the initiative, building on Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures' commercialization work. Amid a challenging research funding environment, the university is expanding its business development expertise to help faculty secure industry collaborations, translate discoveries into practical solutions and create new pathways for students. Read more.



Indiana University has established a partnership with imec, a global semiconductor research and development center, to advance collaborative research, commercialization and talent development. This new partnership is facilitated through IU Inc., the university's gateway for industry engagement. The partnership will also provide students with hands-on experience evaluating emerging semiconductor technologies while strengthening Indiana's innovation ecosystem and microelectronics workforce. Read more.



Purdue University's partnerships with Accenture and Google demonstrate how corporate engagement can connect student learning, workforce development and applied innovation. Accenture's collaboration spans industry advisory boards, student projects addressing client challenges and smart manufacturing training. Purdue's partnership with Google Public Sector provides advanced AI and computing resources for teaching and research, supports the university's AI competency graduation requirement and establishes a campus Google AI Hub. Read more.

More Corporate Relations Roundup News

Industry Partnerships Offer New Opportunities for Universities Amid Federal Funding Pressures

What Brown's first associate provost of corporate engagement has been up to since the position's creation

UAPB hires Kristi Smith as vice chancellor for institutional advancement

University of New Haven Expands Industry Partnerships, Creates New Collaborations with Four Technology-Driven Companies

With $6 million NSF grant UWM will reimagine how research moves from lab to the marketplace

Marist University and IBM Launch Innovation Incubator with IBM z17, Expanding 50-Year Partnership to Advance AI Research and Student Career Readiness

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NACRO: Job Postings



Northern Illinois University - Assistant Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, Strategy, & Stewardship

UC Santa Barbara - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Technology & Industry Engagement

Utah State University - Sr. Director of Development, Janet Q. Lawson Institute for Land, Water, & Air

Job posting forms are due to Jessica Hutchins no later than the 1st of the month to be included in that month's *NACRO News*. The newsletter goes out the second Tuesday of every month.

NACRO: New & Returning Members

We would like to extend a big welcome to our newest members and welcome back those that stepped away for a bit but have recently returned to NACRO!

Kristin Anderson, Norwich University
Terri Deasy, Carnegie Mellon University
Diana Kiser, James Madison University
Christina Kyres, North Central College
Salvo Rodriguez, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Laurie Somerville, Cleveland Clinic

BECOME A NACRO MEMBER!

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