



2026 NACRO Annual Conference - 1 Week Away!

The countdown is on! Be a part of history in Salt Lake City as we kick off a year-long celebration of NACRO's 20th anniversary!

We are one week away from NACRO's Annual Conference, July 14-16 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Registration is still open, so if you've been on the fence about joining us, there's still time!

Those that have already registered can expect to receive a housekeeping email later this week with more details as you plan your travel.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Corporate Engagement Bootcamp

Seats are still available for NACRO's Corporate Engagement Bootcamp, taking place Tuesday, July 14 in Salt Lake City (prior to the start of conference).

What is Bootcamp?

Bootcamp is a jam-packed program that incorporates peer learning and networking. You'll be able to connect with other members and learn from their experiences, all while gaining invaluable insights into NACRO best practices for holistic university corporate relations.



Bootcamp is the perfect fit for a range of professionals, including new corporate relations (CR) professionals with less than three years of experience, those new to higher education, new NACRO members, and even individuals who are considering becoming CR professionals.

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2026-2027 NACRO Board of Directors

We're excited to announce the 2026-2027 NACRO Board of Directors! These individuals will lead NACRO through the next year upon the conclusion of the Annual Conference in Salt Lake City.

Co-Presidents

- Tammy Eickhoff, Mayo Clinic
- Jason King, University of California, Irvine

Co-Vice Presidents

- Christine Roth, RBI, US Hazelnuts
- Adam Bear, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Co-Past Presidents

- Joseph Huang, Stanford University
- JoonHyung Cho, University of Minnesota

Benchmarking Committee Co-Chairs

- Heather Hirsch, Texas A&M Foundation
- Tony Llano, University of Georgia

Communications Committee Co-Chairs

- Jordan Broutman, University of Maryland
- David Myers, Kent State University

Membership Committee Co-Chairs

- Marla Morris, University of North Texas
- Deidra Diaz, Samford University

Professional Education Committee Co-Chairs

- Melissa Belcher, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Elizabeth Minard, Iowa State University

Member at Large

- Patricia Allen, Georgia Tech

NACRO Blog: UMass Amherst Foundation's Dave Ortendahl

In the NACRO Blog this month, [UMass Amherst Foundation's](#) Dave Ortendahl shares the value of University-Industry partnerships.

"Two hundred and fifty years ago, this nation's founders made a bet that shared purpose could outlast any single generation. This grand experiment still shapes how institutions carry out their missions today," writes Dave. [Read more.](#)



NACRO: Upcoming Programming

2026 Annual Conference (Salt Lake City, UT)

Tuesday, July 14

- Advanced Career Track Pre-Conference Seminar - 9:30am-3:30pm MT - [Learn more](#)
- Corporate Engagement Bootcamp - 8am-4pm MT - [Learn more](#)
- Conference - Welcome Keynote - 5pm-6pm MT - [Learn more](#)
- Conference - Welcome Reception - 6pm-8pm MT - [Learn more](#)



Wednesday, July 15 - Thursday, July 16

- Annual Conference - [Learn more](#)

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

NACRO: Job Postings

[McAllister & Quinn, Managing Director, Biotechnology](#)

[North Central College, Manager of Partner Engagement](#)

[San Francisco State University, Senior Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations](#)



Job posting forms are due to [Jenna Brown](#) 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.

[JOB POSTING FORM](#)

NACRO: Corporate Relations Roundup

The [University of New Haven](#) has officially named its new innovation hub [The Elevation Center](#), a major initiative designed to strengthen collaboration between the university and industry while advancing workforce development and applied innovation. The center will serve as a destination where corporate partners, faculty, students, entrepreneurs and community organizations work together on research,



experiential learning and technology commercialization. The Elevation Center underscores the growing role of university-industry partnerships in driving regional economic growth, accelerating innovation and preparing graduates with the skills employers need. [Read more.](#)

The [University of Southern Indiana](#) (USI) is driving intentional corporate engagement through its longstanding partnership with AstraZeneca, creating a talent pipeline that benefits students and employers, according to [a new article in its alumni magazine](#). Led by USI's Corporate Partnerships and Career Success team, the collaboration includes customized workforce training, STEM scholarships, internships, career fairs, mentoring and ongoing professional development — all designed to align academic preparation with industry needs. Over the past five years, the university has connected more than 1,000 students with internships at nearly 570 businesses, while AstraZeneca has hired many USI graduates and now employs more than 140 alumni. [Read more.](#)



[Cornell University](#) has named Matt Marx as its inaugural vice provost for entrepreneurship, innovation, and external engagement, signaling a commitment to corporate partnerships and technology commercialization. Marx will establish the Cornell Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, bringing together the university's entrepreneurship, venture development, technology licensing, and regional economic advancement programs to better connect

faculty discoveries with industry partners and investors. The reorganization is designed to strengthen collaboration with corporations, accelerate the commercialization of research and expand the university's innovation ecosystem across its Ithaca, Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine campuses. [Read more.](#)

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!

Shannon Aniciete, Portland State University

Kristina Baggott, Augusta University

Erin Clements, University of Washington-Tacoma

Megan Czako, Otterbein University

Tonya Davis, Utah State University
Michael DiBacco, Carnegie Mellon University
Dawnie Elzinga, Utah State University
Jennifer Gallant, The University of Texas at Austin
Jade Gates, Texas A&M Foundation
Kerry Godes, Western Washington University
Kathleen Hagerty, The University of Tampa
Helen Hammerschmidt, West Chester University
Ryan Heikes, Wichita State University
Bart Heres, Kennesaw State University
Ravan Hilson, Arkansas State University
Liz Iracki, University of Southern California
Casonya Johnson, National Science Foundation
Shaine Lutsky, University of California-Santa Barbara
Christianna Miles, Utah State University
Maggie Norcross Devin, Tufts University
Beverly Parayno, University of California-Merced
Alyse Polly, University of California-Berkeley
Kelly Sexton, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Chad Spann, Butler University
Jacob Turner, Tennessee Technological University
Claire Wright, The University of Texas at Austin
Brandy Zamora, Indiana University, Bloomington
Seth Zonies, Johns Hopkins University

[BECOME A NACRO MEMBER!](#)

NACRO: LinkedIn Group

NACRO has launched one of our most frequently requested member resources – a member-only discussion forum, 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](#)



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