



# BRAKE

**BORDERLESS RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

**BRAKE Faculty:** The University of Maryland's administrative training program, *Borderless Research Administration Knowledge Exchange (BRAKE)*, focuses on engaging international institutions as strategic cohorts concentrated on building expertise and collaboration in the management and oversight of U.S. federal funding.



**Denise Clark**  
**Associate Vice President for**  
**Research Administration,**  
**University of Maryland**

Denise Clark is the Associate Vice President for Administration in the Division of Research at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is responsible for providing support to the campus community's research, creative activities, and outreach initiatives, a vibrant enterprise that brought in \$560 million in external research awards last year. Her responsibilities include oversight of pre-award activities, such as proposal preparation and submission, award negotiation and management, sub-award issuance and monitoring; post-award activities, including financial reporting, costing, data analytics, and financial compliance; electronic research administration; administrative oversight of regulatory compliance committees (including the use of human subjects, animal welfare, export controls, and conflicts of interest); and Strategic Research Administrative processes, including but not limited to International Strategic Research Partnerships, collaborations with our University of Maryland Baltimore campus, and complex interdisciplinary Centers and Institutes. In addition, on behalf of the Vice President for Research, Denise is responsible for all budgetary and human resource actions within the Division. She also launched UMD's Borderless Research Administration Knowledge Exchange (BRAKE) initiative to facilitate international research collaborations by reducing administrative obstacles for researchers and encouraging joint proposal endeavors, research administration, and research exchange programs.



**Ann Holmes**  
**Assistant Dean, Administration and**  
**Finance**  
**College of Behavioral & Social Science**  
**University of Maryland**

Ann Holmes is currently the Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her responsibilities include oversight of activities for budget preparation and control, contracts and grants, compliance with University, State and federal regulations, ethical stewardship of funds, and planning to assure responsible fiscal management. Prior to her position in BSOS she was the Director of Finance for the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL) a multi-million dollar federally funded research center. She was the former Assistant Comptroller, Contract and Grant Accounting at the University and was responsible for the post-award administration of over \$300 million in research awards.



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**Beth Brittan-Powell**  
**Director, Joint Research**  
**Collaborations**  
**University of Maryland**

Beth Brittan-Powell joined the Division of Research in November of 2012 is responsible for the management of Joint Research Collaborations, as well as promoting the research collaborations between College Park and Baltimore; College Park and International Strategic Partners; and the newly formed Brain and Behavior Initiative. Beth has extensive experience with the grants development process through her work as the Grants Development Specialist for the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program. She also has over 20 years of experience as a researcher in the Laboratory of Comparative Psychoacoustics at UMD. Beth received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland College Park.



**Dennis Paffrath**  
**Assistant Vice President, Sponsored**  
**Program Administration**  
**University of Maryland Baltimore**

Dennis J Paffrath is the Assistant Vice President of Research Administration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In this role, he oversees the Office for Sponsored Programs Administration, which includes all pre-award and non-financial postaward. He also works with the University's various Schools and other Central Administration units to create and maintain a well-developed process for all research administration, which is designed to support their unique research needs, as well as serves as a liaison and advocate for departmental administrators campus wide. Dennis has over 30 years of experience in research administration and began his career at Arizona State University in post award administration. He joined the University of Maryland, Baltimore in 2006 as the Director of Contracts and Grants. Throughout his career he has worked at several U.S. universities (Private and Public) in a variety of positions in both the central office and the department. Dennis holds a MBA (2014) from the University of Maryland University College and a BS in Finance (1989) from Arizona State University.