

# Sponsored Projects Accounting

A D I V I S I O N O F F I N A N C E A N D A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SPA!

In October 2016, SPA hired its newest team member, Ms. Reverie Powell. Ms. Powell came to us from Auburn University at Montgomery where she was an accountant working with post-award accounting. She has a BS and a Masters in Finance; and also, holds a Masters in Human Resources Management and Services. In the short time she has been here she has completed the Sponsored Projects Accounting Certification.

Ms. Powell has made a strong addition to the SPA team and our UTK Family. Some of you have probably already met Reverie, but if not, please feel free to introduce yourself to her at the next upcoming RAOR forum.

We hope all of you will join us in taking this time to **WELCOME Reverie!**

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New SPA Team Member!
- New Account Distributions
- Training Schedule
- NSF Audit info

## NEW ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS

Beginning January 2017, some new account assignments took effect that may impact the accountant you work with for the particular projects involved. Please see the list below for the changes. If you have any additional questions, please contact the accountant assigned to your project.

**UT-Battelle Cost-Type and US Department of Defense (R01-01 through R01-10)** are now handled by Stacey Conroy.

**UT-Battelle Cost-Type (R01-11 through R01-99)** are now handled by Reverie Powell.

**UTSI (R02) and Other Campuses UT-Battelle Cost Type projects** are now handled by Reverie Powell

**US Department of Defense (R01-11 through R01-99)** are now handled by Helen Baek

**UTSI (R02) and Other Campuses US Department of Defense projects** are handled by Stacey Conroy.

## TRAINING NEWS

### **SPA Trainings currently available:**

February 7th—OMB & Cost Accounting Standards

February 28—Effort Certification Training

(Register through the IRIS Training link for this one)

March 22nd—Cost Sharing

April 18th—Direct Costing

May 23rd—Overview of Accounting

June 13rd—F&A Costs

July 11th—Business Ethics

August 8th—Advanced Topics and Sub. Contract Monitoring

September 27th—Cost Transfers

October 11th—IRIS Reports

November 15th—Schedule of Final Charges

### **Register here for training classes:**

[http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/TandD/Management\\_Supervision.shtml](http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/TandD/Management_Supervision.shtml)

### **SPA Certification**

Each class listed for training is a required class towards the SPA Certification.

If you have questions regarding the SPA Certification, please contact Jay Taylor @ 974-0952 or vtaylor@utk.edu.

## A U D I T N E W S

In July 2016, UT received notification from NSF stating that they would be performing a Data Analytics Audit of UT. Aldena Phillips, Director of Accounting, UT Controller's Office, is serving as our point of contact for this audit. The audit is being conducted in three phases. Phase one required UT to supply 100% of transactional data to support 3 years of financial draws. The process of collecting the data and compiling it in the format requested by NSF was very intense and time consuming; however, it was submitted to NSF in September 2016.

Phase two of this process involves identifying items for review and conducting field work. NSF has contracted with an accounting firm to perform this action. The accounting firm will relay their findings and comments to NSF, who will then issue a draft report. UT will be given opportunities to address concerns and mitigate potential findings throughout this process.

The last phase, NSF will officially finalize the audit report. UT will then issue their response and any corrective actions suggested will be addressed.

UT has not yet moved to phase two. As of last week, UT is responding to NSF on their questions of our data fields. While we don't have very much information to share with you at this point, we felt it was important for the campus research community to be aware of this audit. We will also keep you up-to-date on any information we receive and to the progress being made. We've been aware for some time that NSF is conducting this type of audit, so we have just been waiting for our turn. The outcome can only help to make us stronger, and we are looking forward to the results.

Thank you to each and every one of you who come to work every day to do your best in maintaining financial compliance.