

Grant Writing/Research Content Expert

Carla Howell, Northwestern State University
Director of Purchasing and Sponsored
Programs Administration

howellc@nsula.edu

Office: 318-357-5222 / Fax: 318-357-5250 Cell:
318-663-1451

444 Caspari Street

South Hall – Suite 211

Natchitoches, LA 71497

www.nsula.edu

My direct line is (318)357-5223 to be used after hours and holidays if trying to reach me in my office.



Carla Howell joined the staff of Northwestern State University (NSU) in 1991 and has held positions in research and sponsored programs administration within the University of Louisiana System for over 30 years. She received a BS in Accounting with a minor in Business Administration from NSU in 1996. In June 2022, Carla accepted the position of Director of Purchasing and Sponsored Programs Administration. Her years of service in various areas of higher education made her the perfect candidate for this new challenge. She will now oversee all facets of university purchasing while continuing to supervise the management of pre-award grant and contract administration.

In 2006, she was designated as a Certified Research Administrator by the Research Administrators Certification Council and continues to maintain recertification by demonstrating ongoing participation, continuing education activities, and providing annual CRA exam questions. She has been a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, Society of Research Administrators, Council for Resource Development, Council on Undergraduate Research, and National Association of College and University Business Officers as well as various NSU councils and committees.

Carla has continuously demonstrated her vigor ability to be deadline-driven while possessing a high level of organization to maintain balance and success. During these recent and unprecedented times, the U.S. Department of Education's CARES Act funding was announced to help universities operate under COVID-19 uncertainties. NSU was one of the first ULS institutions to submit and receive all available funding. As the NSU grants.gov delegate, Carla was called upon by three system schools to mentor and assist with the CARES Act's perplexing and daunting guidelines. She continues to maintain relationships and communicates with her cohorts to share informational announcements, troubleshoot concerns, and discuss collaborative opportunities. Carla performs all electronic research administration system activities such as user account creation, modification, updating institutional information, and other electronic research administration duties representing the university. This furthermore includes managing all the various grant submission processes to federal, state, local, and private agencies as the centralized office on campus.

After being selected in the fall of 2019 to serve as the first University of Louisiana System Grant Writing and Research Content Expert, Carla began a new journey that would allow her to share her experiences with her system institutions. She started a series of webinars and networking to focus on the tasks set forth by the system to close the achievement gap and increase educational attainment in the state by supporting efforts to increase external funding in the grants and research realm.

Carla is a proud mother of one son, Cody, a 2018 graduate from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and he is by far her greatest accomplishment. When not at NSU, her family-oriented nature finds her accompanying her nieces and nephews to sporting events and other extracurricular activities, cheering relentlessly, and sharing in their achievements. As a lifelong resident of Natchitoches, she enjoys supporting her community with all its hidden treasures and is very proud of the dynamic atmosphere of her quaint little town. She loves to travel and is anxious for COVID-19 to settle down so the world can re-open and share in its splendor. No matter what the future holds, Carla will faithfully wear her purple and always be a passionate Demon!