

## Middle Tennessee Research Administration and Innovation Network (M-TRAIN)

Workshop 2: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## M-TRAIN WORKSHOP 2

### LOCATION & TIMES

<b>DATE</b>	Monday, February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<b>TIMES</b>	8:30 am: On-site registration 9:00 – 3:00 pm: Workshop 3:00 – 4:30 pm: Informal networking
<b>PARKING ADDRESS</b>	Park behind Woodcuts Gallery and Framing: <b>1613 Jefferson Street, Nashville TN 37208</b> . Parking is also available along <b>17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North</b> (Woodcuts is on the corner of 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Jefferson Street.)
<b>EVENT ADDRESS</b>	Appleton Room, Jubilee Hall, Fisk University. Jubilee Hall, 1000 17th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37208

### AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration and Check-In
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Introduction: updates to the website and community tools Workshop rules and tools
9:10 am – 9:15 am	Introduction to Breakout 1
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Breakout 1: Research Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools for Collaboration and Data Sharing</li> <li>• Peer Engagement</li> </ul>
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Recap Breakout 1
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 11:05 am	Introduction to Breakout 2
11:05 am – 12:05 pm	Breakout 2: Research Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training the Regional Workforce</li> <li>• Challenges of Research Finance</li> </ul>
12:05 pm – 12:30 pm	Recap Breakout 2
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Introduction to Breakout 3
1:35 pm – 1:50 pm	Presentation by Ben Bamberger and Daniel Gregory from Vanderbilt’s Research Integrity and Compliance (RIC) team
1:50 pm – 2:35 pm	Breakout 3: Research Integrity and Compliance
2:35 pm – 2:50 pm	Recap Breakout 3
2:50 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Informal networking time

## WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES



# M-TRAIN JAMBOARD

February 26th, 2024: Workshop 2

### Jamboard App (Android)



Link to download  
the app for Android  
Devices

### Jamboard App (iOS)



Link to download  
the app for iOS  
(Apple) devices

### Link to Jamboard



Link to the projected  
JamBoard

## How to use Jamboard


### Computers:

1. Use the JamBoard link in the latest email from M-TRAIN and navigate to JamBoard.
2. Click on the text boxes and edit with your group's ideas!

### Mobile Devices:

1. Scan the QR Code to download the JamBoard app onto your device (Android or iOS).
2. Scan the QR Code for today's Jamboard (code on the right) and click the link - it will open today's JamBoard.
3. Use the "sticky note" function to contribute. On JamBoard, click "+" and select "Sticky Note".

 <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/research-development-and-support/m-train/>

 [mtrain@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mtrain@vanderbilt.edu)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Joanne Spitz, MA, CRA (Co-Chair):** Joanne is the Executive Director of the Research Development and Support (RDS) team within Vanderbilt's Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation. Prior to this role, she served as the Senior Director of Grant Initiatives, Corporate and Foundation Relations at Baylor University, resulting in a significant increase in Foundation and other private support for faculty researchers. Joanne also spent over 30 years in research development and pre- and post-award administration at Washington University in St. Louis in multiple departments and schools, including Neuroscience, Biology, and the Olin Business School. While at Olin, she worked for 11 years as the administrator of an interdisciplinary research network sponsored by The MacArthur Foundation. She was also instrumental in the establishment of a new grants program for the Olin School and served as its first Grant Development Manager.



**Quincy Quick, PhD (Co-Chair):** Quincy serves as the Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs and Chief Research Officer at Tennessee State University (TSU). As a scientist, Quincy has studied novel targets and therapeutics for the treatment of glioblastomas for the past 20 years and has been an active NIH grant reviewer, as well as reviewer and editor for several journals. Quincy has also served as a research mentor and/or coordinator on several NIH and NSF funded developmental training grant programs that include RISE, MARC, NIMH-COR, HBCU-UP, and served as the co-program director for the TSU-NERVE program, an NIH funded developmental training program to increase the number of students that earn PhDs in neuroscience. As part of these initiatives, Quincy has mentored more than 80 students at the PhD, Masters, and undergraduate levels. This service and productivity have led to Quincy being acknowledged as one of the most inspiring black scientists in the US by Cell Mentor. Furthermore, in his role as AVP of Research and Sponsored Programs, Quincy mentors and supports research efforts and development of faculty at all levels.



**Sajid Hussain, PhD (Co-Chair):** Sajid Hussain is Associate Provost for Research and the Director of the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs (OSP) at Fisk University. In 2009, he joined Fisk University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Prior to Fisk, he worked as Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in the Jodrey School of Computer Science, Acadia University, Canada, 2005-09. He received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 2004. Sajid is interested in applying machine learning to projects related to healthcare, bioinformatics, digital humanities, and criminal justice. He is also interested in energy-efficient communication protocols and security techniques for mobile, ubiquitous, and pervasive applications.



**Donna Ingles, MS, MPH (Organizing Committee Member):** Donna is an Associate Director of Research Development on Vanderbilt’s RDS team. She has nearly 20 years of grant development, writing, and editing experience, and has held positions focused on pre- and post-award support, as well as research project management. Donna is the former Assistant Director of Operations for the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, where she focused on optimization of pre- and post-award processes, project development, and implementation, as well as research development capacity-building in low- and middle-income countries. She also held previous roles at Moffitt Cancer Center, in Drug Discovery and then in Epidemiology, culminating in a senior staff position within the Center for Immunization and Infection Research in Cancer.



**Phil Ko, PhD (Organizing Committee Member):** Phil is an Associate Director of Research Development on Vanderbilt’s RDS team. He has 16 years of research experience in cognitive neuroscience conducted at Yale, Harvard, and Vanderbilt. He has held faculty positions at Vanderbilt and Austin Peay State University. Following his scientific career, he pivoted to science policy and research administration, serving the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). At NSF, he managed communications and analytics with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Phil also served as a Science Officer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs within the Department of Defense.



**Phyllis Danner, EdD, CRA (Organizing Committee Member):** Phyllis is Executive Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at TSU, providing daily leadership, supervision, and administration of the division. She is responsible for pre-award and non-financial post-award administration for proposals and awards of federal, state, private, foundation, and local agencies. She is the project manager of all external information systems, e.g., Research.gov, Grants.gov, NIH Commons, etc. She is also responsible for assisting in garnering over \$100 million in funding awards during the 2023 fiscal year, conducts university-wide training and leadership concerning compliance and budget development, and is an adjunct professor at TSU.



**Sufyan Baksh, PhD, MBA (Co-Investigator):** Sufyan is the Executive Director of Innovation and Distinguished Professor of Business in the Department of Business Administration at Fisk University. He received a PhD in integrated marketing communication and advanced research methods from Texas Tech University and completed a post-doctorate at the University of Florida. He has an MBA in entrepreneurship and international business from RIT, an MBA/MMS in marketing from RIMSIR, and a BA in Economics and Commerce from Jai Hind College (Bombay, India). He is a board member of Wahed Invest Inc. and worked for LINOpinion PR (Mumbai, India) for four years. His research in marketing, communication, digital transformation, etc. is published in several internationally renowned peer reviewed journals and has been presented at leading national and international conferences.



**Lena Winfree (Co-Investigator):** Lena Winfree is the inaugural John Lewis Center Fellow for Tech/Data Science at Fisk University. Lena is the co-founder of Rachel + Winfree Consulting, a data analytics consulting firm that provides data strategy and analytics solutions to small and mid-sized businesses. Lena is also Vice President and co-organizer of the Nashville chapter of the Blacks In Technology Foundation. In this role, she has been responsible for launching social justice initiatives (including equitable workforce development) that increase digital equity and literacy for historically excluded minorities. Lena also launched LocalTek-Thrive, a technology education initiative in partnership with Dell Technologies that aims to diversify the tech talent pipeline by providing Nashville high school students with opportunities to receive hands-on tech education, college credit, and industry certifications that prepare them to join Nashville's rapidly growing tech workforce. This initiative currently serves over 150 students in the MNPS school district, with over 90 percent being minorities. In addition to her business and non-profit work, Lena is an active part of the Nashville tech community. Lena dedicates her time by serving on the Women in Technology Tennessee (WiTT), the Nashville Technology Council (NTC) executive board, and the Nashville Technology Council's Education Committee. Lena has also served on the steering committee for the Nashville Analytics Summit for the past two years. Lena was awarded the "Women of Influence" (2023) for the greater Nashville area.

## ATTENDEES



**Chad Brooks (Austin Peay State University):** Chad Brooks is the Vice Provost of Research at Austin Peay State University. He is responsible for coordinating all of the administrative duties for Research, Grants and Sponsored Programs, International Education, the Center for Workforce Development, and the College of Graduate Studies. He is also responsible for establishing the policies and procedures that govern these areas. Chad chairs the Graduate and Research Council, facilitates the Institutional Review Board, and coordinates Graduate Faculty approvals and the Graduate Student Appeals Process. Chad also represents APSU's College of Graduate Studies at THEC and several other professional organizations. He is also an active faculty member on campus. He is passionate about foster care and working in the community.



**Sharana Jones (Austin Peay State University):** Sharana Jones is the Grants Specialist for Austin Peay State University in the College of STEM. She has worked in the Research Administration field for over 20 years in the Healthcare and Higher Education industry, working with federal, foundation and private grants supporting underserved, youth, and community-based initiatives. She received her Bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and is working on her Master's in Community Leadership at APSU and her Certified Research Administrator certification. She is an active member of the APSU Black Faculty and Staff Association and the National Council of University Research Administrators.



**Kelly Pitts (Austin Peay State University):** Kelly Pitts is the current Assistant Director of Grants at Austin Peay State University. She has a Master's in Corporate Communications and has been working in Grants Administration since 2017. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Communication and has been at Austin Peay State University since 2012. She has a wealth of knowledge of the campus and the community. She is an active member of NCURA, board member of the university Staff Senate Committee, and volunteers as a board member with Bella's Closet, a local non-profit in Clarksville, as their grant manager.



**Brenda Gill (Belmont University):** Brenda Gill is the Grants Administrator at the Office of Sponsored Programs at Belmont University. She holds a BSN from D'Youville College, an MS in Exercise and Nutrition Science from Lipscomb University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) at Walden University, which she is expected to complete in 2025. Brenda's extensive experience in leadership includes operational, strategic, and clinical roles at Allstate Insurance and Onlife Health respectively. In her current role, Brenda oversees pre-award activities, grant research, and submission processes to position faculty for successful grant funding.



**Jai Starling (Belmont University):** Jai Starling is the Finance Administrator in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Belmont University. She holds an MBA from Trevecca Nazarene University and is pursuing a Master of Data Science at Meharry Medical College (graduating May 2024). She previously served as Director of Communications at the Tennessee Human Rights Commission and prior to that Grants Manager at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Jai's diverse roles showcase her expertise in finance, communication, and grants management. In her current role, she oversees the monitoring of awarded funds compliance, ensuring efficient financial operations.



**Ellen Zinkiewicz (Belmont University):** Ellen is the Director of Belmont University's inaugural Office of Sponsored Programs and responsible for scaling administration, compliance, and customer support for the University-wide push to increase grant funding. Prior to coming to Belmont, she directed Nashville's youth employment programs including creating and leading the city's first full scale, city-funded youth employment initiative, Opportunity NOW. Ellen is a social worker with an MSSW from University of Tennessee's College of Social Work. She has an undergraduate degree from University of Evansville and was a Fulbright in Debrecen, Hungary. In her spare time, she likes to garden. She has an undergraduate degree from University of Evansville and was a Fulbright in Debrecen, Hungary.

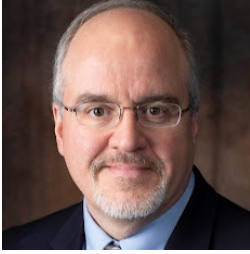


**Brian L. Nelms (Fisk University):** Brian is an Associate Professor of Biology and BMB (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) at Fisk University. His work includes service as the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, academic advising, and mentoring STEM students in research. The Nelms lab studies the molecular control of dopamine neurons using the model organism *C. elegans*.



**Saumya Ramanathan (Fisk University):** Saumya Ramanathan is a biochemist and cancer biologist by training. She runs an NSF funded research program at Fisk University.





**Trace Hebert (Lipscomb University):** Trace Hebert is the Associate Provost for Research and Graduate Studies at Lipscomb University. He is also the director for the Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies and Doctor of Education programs. He also oversees the Office of Research and Grants.



**Robyn Saakian (Lipscomb University):** Robyn Saakian is the director of the Office of Research and Grants at Lipscomb University. She has led Lipscomb to attain public and private grants for academics and research for the past twelve years. In her role in the Office of Research and Grants, Saakian manages institutional oversight of the entire life of the grant cycle, from proposal development to grant management and compliance. Prior to joining Lipscomb, Saakian spent more than a dozen years in Washington, D.C., overseeing international development-related grant programs for two national nonprofit organizations.



**Kelsey Benton (Middle Tennessee State University):** Kelsey Benton is an award management specialist at Middle Tennessee State University. Her role primarily focuses on the post-award aspect of grants, and she oversees time and effort reporting for the institution. Kelsey holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Science and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration. When she is not working, you can find her reading a book, listening to a true crime podcast, or exploring the outdoors with her goofy golden retrievers.



**Nolan Hatley (Middle Tennessee State University):** A. "Nolan" Hatley is the Research Compliance Officer at Middle Tennessee State University. His academic and professional training is in philosophy, in which he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee in 2016. He has enjoyed transferring his analytical skills from this background to research compliance, especially with IRB protocol reviews.



**Michelle Willard (Middle Tennessee State University):** Michelle is currently a pre-award specialist at MTSU. In her spare time, she runs MiddleTennesseeMysteries.com, a true crime blog dedicated to unsolved murders and missing people. She has appeared in true crime documentaries on Investigation Discovery and the Oxygen Network.



**Neal Hunt (Tennessee Technological University):** Neal Hunt has worked in sponsored programs since 1996, beginning at a small quasi-state agency focused on water supply and conservation. In his career he has worked at non-profit, for profit and state institutions. After working at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for 18 years as a Contracts Team Lead and as Department Manager, Neal joined Tennessee Technological University in 2022 as Director of Sponsored Programs.



**Janice Lovell (Trevecca Nazarene University):** Janice Lovell is Director of Grants and Foundation Relations at Trevecca Nazarene University. Janice is currently in the tenth year of leadership at Trevecca Nazarene University, her alma mater. She spent over 25 years in the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at TSU working with federally funded higher education degree pathways for early childhood teachers. Janice hosts Grants Academy sessions for AmeriCorps VISTA members from the campus and conducts Responsible Conduct in Research training. She is a member and frequent mentor for the Grant Professional Association of middle Tennessee.



**Heidi R. Ventura (Trevecca Nazarene University):** Heidi serves as Associate Dean for Academic Research and Innovation at Trevecca Nazarene University. She is a tenured professor in the School of Leadership and Interdisciplinary Studies, teaching doctoral research design and serving as a dissertation methodologist. Heidi serves as the chair of Trevecca's Institutional Review Board. She has taught courses in business, management, leadership, research, and interdisciplinary studies and has published and presented on topics of accreditation, adult learner experience, faculty engagement, accountability, authentic leadership, and other areas of leadership theory and praxis.



**Ben Bamberger (Vanderbilt University):** Ben Bamberger promotes best practices for the ethical conduct of research and helps the university prepare for evolving regulations. He works closely with the schools as well as a variety of offices to enhance compliance via outreach, policy development, and process improvements. Prior to working at Vanderbilt University, Ben was a Senior Proposal Coordinator in the Sponsored Programs Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He received his Ph.D. in Russian History from UIUC in 2019 and has research expertise in questions of empire, nationalism, and Soviet Georgia.



**Daniel Gregory (Vanderbilt University):** Mr. Gregory manages the export compliance program and helps Vanderbilt researchers navigate complex US export control regulations and laws. In addition, he supports all areas of research compliance and works closely on projects that span VU and VUMC; he is also a member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Prior to working at Vanderbilt, Daniel served as an export control specialist at East Carolina University and a regulatory compliance specialist at Siemens Corporation.