

LUANNA K. PUTNEY, PH.D., CCEP

Associate Chancellor & Chief of Staff to the Chancellor

Luanna Putney is the Associate Chancellor & Chief of Staff to the Chancellor at UC Merced. The Chief of Staff is a member of the Chancellor's senior leadership team, reporting directly to the Chancellor. As the principal aide to the Chancellor, the Chief of Staff coordinates all chancellor's office operations and activities in support of institutional priorities and supports the Chancellor interface with UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents. Additionally, the Chief of Staff advises the Chancellor on policy, procedural and operational issues of the university, and is often charged with leading the operationalization of strategic initiatives for the Chancellor. The Chief of Staff represents the Chancellor to vice chancellors, campus officials, and critical external constituents. Luanna also oversees Human Resources, Risk Services and the Ombuds Office.

Prior to joining UC Merced, Luanna served as the Executive Director of Ethics and Compliance in the UC Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services where she provided systemwide compliance oversight in research areas including contracts and grants, protection of human and animal research subjects, clinical research billing, research integrity, conflict of interest and export control. In this role, Luanna also provided systemwide compliance oversight in health sciences areas including billing and coding and privacy. Luanna began her UC career as an Intellectual Property Officer at UC Davis InnovationAccess where she was responsible for managing inventions related to medical therapeutics, devices and diagnostics in the School of Medicine.

While a graduate student at UC Davis in the School of Medicine, and subsequent NIH postdoctoral fellow at UC San Francisco in the School of Dentistry, Luanna was responsible for the design and conduct of complex research projects investigating the functions of specific plasma membrane ion transporter proteins. During this time, Luanna was responsible for managing compliance issues related to animal protocols, use of human tissue in research, and radiation use.