



Katrina Soriano

Director of Administration and Finance
Department of Nutrition

Background

Katrina currently lives in Norfolk, MA with her husband (also a Harvard employee – on the other side of the river from SPH!) and her two children – Hannah (4 years old) and Harry (1 years old). Her commute from Norfolk to work is over an hour, which someone wouldn't endure if they didn't love their job as much as Katrina does!

Katrina currently serves as the Director of Administration and Finance within the Department of Nutrition at SPH. She has moved her way up in the Department over the years, and has done so because she is both passionate about their mission and invested in their growth. Prior to starting her career at Harvard though, Katrina worked in corporate finance for a few years. She soon realized that she wanted to work for a more mission-driven institution, and therefore moved over to Boston University's School of Medicine (BU) and Boston Medical Center (BMC) -- where she worked as a Grant Administrator. Katrina soon-realized that supporting a mission and research was a passion of hers, driving her to continue to work in higher education and truly sparked her interest in research administration and finance.

Due to the above, Katrina decided to make the move from BMC/BU to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2009, where she started off as a Grants Manager in the Department of Nutrition. In this role her duties included supporting the grants of Dr. Frank Hu, who is now the Department's Chair. She truly enjoyed her role as a Grants Manager, and came to realize how much she loved working at SPH. The support of her team members, and the School as a whole, confirmed for her that transitioning to SPH was the right career move. Once settled at SPH, Katrina began working towards her Master's Degree in Management at the, Harvard Extension School, with a focus on non-profit management.

After about 2 years in her role as Grants Manager, Katrina was promoted into the Department's Associate Director of Finance (ADF) position, where she managed the research administration team and oversaw all financial and funding actions of the Department. Her role as the ADF was challenging but rewarding, and allowed her to manage, mentor and guide others – which was particularly special to her about this move and this new role. With her experience in this new role, and with the amazing environment and support of both her Department and SPH, Katrina felt like she was always growing. She took advantage of all the great resources that the School and University offers -- such as trainings at CWD, participating on committees, networking, and more. To further her community and School engagement, Katrina also participated in Harvard University's Administrative Fellowship Program– a 12-month management program that seeks to promote leadership opportunities and careers in higher education. Katrina focused on diversity and inclusion throughout her program year – with a goal of making institutions stronger and more inclusive. Katrina is also heavily involved in mentoring those both internal and external to the institution – including colleagues at SPH and Veterans in the community. This is something that she truly enjoys, and encourages everyone to get involved throughout the various facets of Harvard University.

Around the time that Administrative Fellowship Program came to an end, Katrina made her next career move into her current position – Director of Administration and Finance within the Department of Nutrition at SPH. This role oversees all of the administrative and finance functions of the Department, and aligns perfectly with Katrina's past experiences, passion for the Department of Nutrition and its

programs/people, and where she sees herself long-term. Katrina has had the chance to truly grow within the Department, and to see it develop into what it is today. She feels supported by the School, the Department, and her team members, and believes that, “what is nice about this role in particular is that no day is the same, and that we have a wonderful team of people – which makes all the difference.” She is excited and grateful to support the Department as it further grows and develops into the future.

Recommendations for Staff

Katrina advises staff to take advantage of all the training and mentoring opportunities that both SPH and the University offers. She says, “Don’t be afraid to ask people for guidance and mentorship. They will likely help you or introduce you to someone else who can. Getting to know people and making those connections are what makes all the difference. Also, make sure that your next move is something that you really like, enjoy, and want to develop in – don’t simply take a job because it is a higher grade. Building relationships and enjoying what you do are essential.”

What do you like most about working at SPH?

Katrina says, “The environment and the mission of the School. Working in an environment where everyone is so passionate about what they’re doing is very motivating, and working in such an inclusive environment makes me excited about coming to work every day.”

Resource to You

Interested in learning more about Katrina and her work, or getting one-on-one advice from Katrina herself? Contact her directly via email at kwright@hsph.harvard.edu!

How about You?

Interested in telling us your success story? Let us know by sending an email to slongo@hsph.harvard.edu.