

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Together with my Board colleagues, I wish you a happy and healthy 2020! We have a few new faces on the Board, as we welcome new Board members Miranda Pearson (Vice-President), Stephen Childs and Neil Chakraborty (members-at-large). I am excited to assume the role of President of the Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (2019-2021), and I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, Mike Krywy (Red River College), for his leadership and outstanding contributions to CIRPA during his presidency (2015-2019). We also say goodbye to Board members Randy Roller and Victoria Diaz (members-at-large), whose contributions will be missed.

The 2019 Conference in Montréal was a great success, with attendance at 243 delegates. A large majority of attenders (97% of post-conference survey respondents) indicated that they felt satisfied or very satisfied with the conference overall. The Cirque Éloïse social event, held in the beautiful former Dalhousie Train Station in the heart of Old Montreal, was especially memorable. We'd like to thank the outstanding conference planning team, led by Neil Chakraborty from the University of Toronto (program planning chair) and Cameron Tilson from Concordia University (local arrangements chair), along with all the wonderful volunteers. I'd also like to extend our appreciation to our generous Sponsors.

Congratulations to Mariam Aslam and Wei Xiong (University of Toronto – Scarborough), winners of the 2019 CIRPA Best Presentation Award for their presentation “Abracadabra: Tell us what the numbers mean? Unpacking retention and graduation students success research using the magician’s bag of tricks”! As part of the award, Mariam and Wei are invited to present their session at the Association for Institutional Research’s annual forum in New Orleans, Louisiana from May 25-29, 2020. The selection was made based on your feedback on the session evaluations and post-conference survey, along with a review by the Best Presentation Committee.

Our current CIRPA membership is the largest ever at 430 members; 267 regular and 163 limited members. Please invite your colleagues to consider becoming regular or limited members this year, if they aren't already. Those of you retiring this year, please consider submitting your application for emeritus membership status.

Conference planning for CIRPA 2020 in Vancouver BC is underway – please visit the CIRPA website and your membership accounts for updates, and watch for the call for proposals to be sent out in March. Many thanks to our 2020 conference co-chairs, Dorys Crespín-Mueller from Thompson Rivers University (program planning chair) and Zareen Naqvi from Simon Fraser University (local arrangements chair).

Keep your eyes open for more information about the 2020 conference in the coming months!

Warm regards,

Stephanie McKeown