2018–2019 NACUBO Fellows Program
Nancy Antunes is the Associate Vice President for Finance at Bentley University. As the Associate Vice President, Antunes is responsible for Financial Operations, Budget and Planning, Treasury, Risk Management, Tax Reporting, Student Financials Services and Financial Systems. She received her B.S. in Accounting in 1987 from Bentley College and joined Grant Thornton, LLP earning her C.P.A. in 1990. While serving as a Divisional Finance Manager at Avery Dennison, Antunes returned part-time to Bentley and earned an MBA, with a concentration in Management. Shortly after earning her Master’s degree, she began working as an Internal Auditor at Bentley. For nearly 20 years, she has held positions within the finance division of Bentley University with increasing responsibilities including serving as Acting Chief Financial Officer in 2012. Recently, Antunes acted as the lead project manager overseeing the implementation of Workday Financials which went live on December 1, 2017.

Dedric A. Carter serves as Vice Chancellor for Operations and Technology Transfer and Professor of Engineering Practice at Washington University in St. Louis. In this role, Carter is the senior executive officer for operations functions including dining and food services, campus card services, parking and transportation, summer programs and conferences, procurement and resource management, environmental health and safety, and the Office of Technology Management. Carter teaches courses in systems applications to technical, business, and policy issues. He has served as both associate provost and associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship at Washington University in St. Louis and associate dean of engineering. Previously, he served as the senior advisor for strategic initiatives in the Office of the Director at the U.S. National Science Foundation, and as the executive secretary to the U.S. National Science Board executive committee, where he launched and oversaw the NSF Innovation Corps program. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Carter served as assistant dean of engineering and senior principal consultant in IT strategy and management. Carter has an undergraduate and graduate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT, an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management, and a PhD in Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University. He also studied as a senior executive fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Carter is a board member of Venture Café STL, Academy of Sciences St. Louis, MIT School of Engineering Dean’s Advisory Board, and Junior Achievement of St. Louis.
Mary Deneen is the Assistant Vice President for Finance and University Controller at Old Dominion University, where she has worked since 2013. She leads a team of 57 staff members who are responsible for financial reporting and general accounting, payroll, accounts receivable, treasury, Banner Finance data control and university internal controls. Deneen came to Old Dominion University from the Norfolk Public School district where she served as the Senior Director of Accounting (Controller) with responsibility for general financial management, accounting and reporting, grant financial management, accounts receivable, treasury, and accounts payable. Prior to her role at Norfolk Public Schools, she was the Assistant Controller at Norfolk State University for over four years where she rebuilt the accounting office and streamlined financial reporting to ensure the continued fiscal integrity of the University.

She came to her career in education after retiring from the United States Navy as a Lieutenant Commander with twenty years on active duty in a broad range of positions, including pay and personnel services, plans and policy, manpower and anti-submarine warfare. Deneen, who is a certified public accountant, certified government financial manager, and certified global management accountant, earned a bachelor’s degree from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, a Master of Science in accounting from Old Dominion University and a Master of Public Administration, also from Old Dominion University.

David Franklin has more than 20 years of financial and project management experience within public and private sectors, including his current role at the University of the District of Columbia as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of Finance. Franklin’s previous experience includes the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Officer; New York City Department of Education, Sr. Budget Analyst; Deloitte Consulting, Project Controller; PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Business Analyst; and KPMG, Litigations Services Consultant. He is a results-focused leader with proven ability to turn around financially troubled organizations, and has a talent for proactively identifying and resolving problem-controlling costs, maximizing productivity, and delivering multi-million-dollar balanced budgets.

Franklin graduated cum laude from Binghamton University with a dual bachelor’s degree in economics and sociology as well as a master’s in business administration. As part of his undergraduate studies, he participated in the foreign exchange studies program at Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester England. Passionate about education reform, travel, the “great outdoors,” and sports, Franklin has a strong desire to meet and surpass the expectation of others both personally and professionally.
Ginny Gomez-Leon currently serves as Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She began her career as an external auditor serving mostly not-for-profit clients and governmental entities. Gomez-Leon migrated to higher education when she joined UT Health San Antonio and soon after assumed the role of Interim Director of Internal Audit. Gomez-Leon has expanded her operational responsibilities over the past 18 years at UT Health and has become integral in shaping fiscal policies and practices, formulating and administering its near $1 billion budget, and is key to strategic investment and capital planning initiatives. In the last three years, she helped secure nearly $450 million in external funding for capital projects. In 2012, she led an initiative that changed the institution’s financial culture, resulting in new fiscal discipline, reporting, and accountability practices that have enabled the institution to surpass its budgeted operating margin for the past five years. She served as the functional lead in the development and implementation of the institution’s centralized budgeting and financial performance monitoring system, and developed an investment accountability model that aligns investments with strategic goals. Gomez-Leon represents UT Health San Antonio on the Texas Association of State Senior College & University Business Officers (TASSCUBO) Budget Committee, advising on matters of interest to health-related institutions. Gomez-Leon is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Diana Heeren is the Associate Vice President for Finance at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She assumed this role in April 2017 and is responsible for the university’s $140 million budget and long-range financial planning. She provides leadership to various departments, including Business Office, Financial Services Center, Payroll, Budget, Business Operations, Dining Services, Bookstore, and Conferences & Special Programs. Heeren was recently asked to form and lead a Policy Group, a task force created by the President to strengthen the policy review and approval process at Trinity. She was previously the Assistant Vice President for Finance at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, where her primary responsibilities included managing the university’s budget, maintaining the multi-year financial plan, and overseeing the university’s insurance and risk management program. In addition, she was a team member for several Middle States reviews of other colleges and universities. She was also a two-time recipient of Susquehanna’s Whatever It Takes award. Heeren received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Elizabethtown College in 1996, and served as Controller at her alma mater until 2004. She is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Information Technology Professional, and a Chartered Global Management Accountant. Heeren served as treasurer for Snyder County Libraries from 2013 until she moved to Texas. She continues to serve on the board of the EIIA Student Trust. Heeren has been an active member of PICPA (Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants) and NACUBO.
Kurt A. Kissinger serves as Associate Vice President for Finance and Business at Pennsylvania State University. Kissinger serves as chief of staff for the Office of Finance and Business, which includes 14 units and 2,800 full-time employees across the university. Kissinger leads initiatives to enhance finance and business operations across the university units and Penn State’s 24 Commonwealth Campuses, and coordinates the development and implementation of the finance and business strategic plan and annual budgeting process. Kissinger also serves as the administrative liaison to the Finance, Business, and Capital Planning Committee and the Real Estate Task Force of the Board of Trustees. He is vice president of the Research Park Management Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation for Penn State, and chairs the Property Steering Committee. Kissinger joined Penn State in 2011 as Director of Operations at the College of Medicine. Previously, he held positions at Delta Development Group, Inc., Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Kissinger has been a volunteer and participant with the Association of University Real Estate Officials, University Economic Development Association, Pennsylvania Economic Developers Association, the United Way of Central Susquehanna Valley, Leadership Susquehanna Valley, Youth for Understanding USA, and Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of the board of directors of The Village at Penn State. Kissinger earned a bachelor’s degree in German and international studies from Dickinson College and a master’s in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh.

F. Ward Logan is the Controller and Director of Financial Services at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. In his role, Logan is responsible for the college’s financial reporting, student financial services, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash management/treasury, payroll, fixed assets and The Citadel Trust endowment accounting. He also works directly with senior leadership on budget development, long range financial planning and creating the college’s new six-year Strategic Plan. Prior to his current role, Logan served The Citadel as Treasurer. He joined the institution in 1998 and has served in the Treasurer’s Office and Financial Aid. Before coming to The Citadel, Logan worked at Erskine College. Logan received an M.B.A from The Citadel and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Economics from Erskine College. In addition, he is a Certified Government Financial Manager.
David Nakabayashi resides in Santa Monica, California and joined Soka University of America in 2010 where he manages the Finance Office which comprises of eight employees. In his role as Controller and Assistant Treasurer, Nakabayashi is responsible for student accounts, accounts payable, tax and compliance, financial accounting and reporting, internal controls and treasury management. Before joining Soka University of America, Nakabayashi worked in public accounting at Ernst & Young and Kakimoto & Nagashima. He is a Certified Public Accountant. Nakabayashi enjoys volunteering, and has served on WACUBO’s Future Leaders Forum Committee and is currently on the Board of his condominium association and the university’s retirement plan committee. For recreation he enjoys tennis, swimming and almost any sport, but professes to be a master of none.

Brandi Renton serves as Associate Vice President for Administrative Services for the University of North Texas, leading a team that focuses on business process analysis, training, communications and policy making. In February 2018, she was also appointed concurrently as Acting Chief Human Capital Officer for UNT System Human Resources, leading the human resources teams for the Denton, Dallas and Fort Worth campuses in the UNT System. Renton served three years as the Human Resources director at the UNT campus in Denton. She started in UNT’s Human Resources department in January 2009. Renton previously worked in environmental health and safety in the auto industry and in human resources in the healthcare industry. She was chosen to participate in the 2018-19 National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) Fellows Program, a one-year leadership development program. Renton has a B.S. in Industrial Health and Safety from Oakland University, and an M.B.A. from Lawrence Technological University.
Caroline Wilhelm is the Treasurer of Loyola Marymount University (LMU), a private Jesuit-Catholic University based in Los Angeles, California. She has worked in a treasury capacity at LMU for over ten years and her experience includes cash management, payment processing, municipal debt issuance, short term investment management, and endowment portfolio management. Wilhelm also manages the university’s faculty housing program, and is a member of the Endowment Committee of the Board of Trustees. Prior to joining LMU, she worked in the for-profit industry as an associate analyst for the Capital Group Companies, and as a sell-side analyst for Prudential Securities. Wilhelm holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCLA and a Master’s in Business Administration from the USC Marshall School of Business.