

Position: Institutional Board Member
Name: Juan M. Azcarate III, CRM
Institution: Texas Wesleyan University
Title: Risk Manager



Biography: Juan Azcarate is the Risk Manager at Texas Wesleyan University. His major responsibilities include management of the property and casualty insurance programs, emergency management, facilitation of risk management due diligence initiatives across campus and development of new risk mitigation policies.

Before coming to Texas Wesleyan University, Juan was the Associate Director of Risk Management at Southern Methodist University. In 2006, Juan earned the Certified Risk Manager designation.

Juan served in the US Army Reserve and completed a deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom before being honorably discharged with the rank of Major in 2006.

Juan earned a bachelor of arts in political science and a master's in public administration from UT El Paso.

Please describe your past Risk Management experience and previous involvement with URMIA.

I have over thirty years of claims and risk management experience with the past seven years having spent them in higher education risk management. Presently, I am the Risk Manager at Texas Wesleyan University and previously served as the Associate Director of Risk Management for Southern Methodist University. I am responsible for the claims management program, insurance procurement and renewal process, emergency management, contract review, environmental health and safety issues, risk assessment process and risk management due diligence initiatives.

Prior to working in higher education risk management, I worked in the Risk Management Department's for the City of Dallas, the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and the El Paso Electric Company.

During my time in higher education risk management I have served in URMIA's Professional Development Committee as a member and co-chair of the committee. I served as the chairman of the North Texas URMIA Commuter Conference that was held on the SMU campus in 2016. I have served on an URMIA task force and also on two regional conference committee's and assisted in moderating several panel discussions at the URMIA regional and annual conferences.

What leadership skills and talents make you a good candidate?

I believe that my experience as a US Army officer and my commitment to serving URMIA in various ways have demonstrated my leadership skills and ability to step up and serve the organization where help is needed. I also firmly believe my ability to collaborate with others, partner with them to find a solution and show empathy is an asset that distinguishes me from others.

How would you get the membership more active in URMIA?

I am of the mindset that in order for URMIA to continue to thrive we must reach out to those professions such as procurement and audit that have become responsible for the risk management function and identify ways to address their educational needs. I also strongly believe partnering and networking with organizations such as NACUBO will provide URMIA the opportunity to market our brand and provide an opportunity for these professionals to network with us. URMIA should be willing and able to provide some of this education through webinars and conference presentations. Secondly, URMIA must get our senior risk management professionals re-engaged by continuing to identify methods to tap into their risk management knowledge so this can be shared with our new, incoming risk management professionals.

Briefly outline your vision for continuing to move URMIA forward.

My vision for URMIA involves engaging other professional organizations that share the core responsibility of risk management. To establish a program that reaches out and engages our next generation of risk professionals at our higher education institutions by creating scholarships and a mentorship and internship program. Finally, it will be imperative for URMIA to continue to evaluate their core competency model that will not only retain our current membership but engage others that will find benefit from the model. The process would provide the appropriate educational resources via webinars, white papers and presentations at the regional and annual conferences based on where the risk management professional is situated in their career.