

Position: Institutional Board Member
Name: Brian Burns, J.D.
Institution: Wentworth Institute of Technology
Title: Director of Compliance and Risk Management



Biography:

Brian, a lifelong Bostonian, is a graduate of Northeastern University and Suffolk University Law School. Beginning his career working for the Vice President of Business as a student at Northeastern, Brian has been working in higher education for over 30 years. His experience spans business, real estate, auxiliary services, audit, compliance, and risk management. Before assuming his current role at Wentworth, Brian was the Director of Institutional Audit, Compliance and Risk Services at Northeastern University. Brian is active in his community where he is an elected Town Meeting member, coached youth sports, and Athletic Director for the local parish.

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

I began in Risk Management in 2003 as Northeastern University's first Risk Manager. My formal risk management training was my 20 years in higher-education administration, and my law degree. I first got involved in URMIA in 2004. My first annual conference was Charleston. I have presented at several annual conferences including Denver, Washington, Providence and Boston. I have presented at the Northeast Regional. I served on the compliance committee, the ERM committee, and a committee that was once in place to foster collaborations with other higher-ed professional associations. I am a regular contributor to the URMIA Network communities, and recently participated in an URMIA podcast.

What leadership skills and talents make you a good candidate?

I believe I am collaborative, responsive and a trusted colleague. I am a strategic thinker and problem solver. I leverage my networks well. I always seek improvement and never believe the finished product is truly finished. I have a knack of being able to work with parties at opposite ends of the spectrum to identify a mutually agreeable solution. My breadth of experience provides me insights into more than just one perspective. I am accessible and affable. I am above all, always willing to concede that I may not be right.

How would you get the membership more active in URMIA?

I think to engage membership you need to demonstrate value and make them look forward to each interaction. URMIA has tremendous value to offer and people look forward to what is most likely to help them, or to a personal connection. I think URMIA needs to focus on developing the personal connection and highlight the value proposition.

Briefly outline your vision for continuing to move URMIA forward.

In this time of coronavirus, there are opportunities to develop personal, interest groups or regional "connection networks" (like we have in Boston and Massachusetts) within the virtual meeting technologies, that later can be used to help promote the value and enhance the community's desire to engage in more URMIA activities.