



## Member At-Large Nominee

**Dr. Yolanda Norman**, Regional Director of Corporate Partnerships, Vanderbilt University



In this newly-created position, I play a pivotal role in forging and nurturing dynamic relationships between the university and leading corporations within the Greater-Houston region. With a keen strategic vision and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, I facilitate radical collaborations that drive innovation, research, and engagement across various industries. I am responsible for identifying, cultivating, and managing strategic partnerships that advance the university's mission and goals, facilitating joint research initiatives, and developing projects that connect students with industry leaders. Additionally, I spearhead consultative efforts with

Houston corporate partners, gaining deep insights into their needs and strategically aligning them with the university's extensive resources. This approach ensures mutually beneficial collaborations that enhance the growth and success of both the university and its partners.

With over 22 years of experience in higher education, I bring a wealth of expertise to my role in Houston. Before joining Vanderbilt University, I held key positions at the University of Texas at Austin, The University of Houston, and the University of St. Thomas, where I successfully developed and managed high-impact partnerships that engaged faculty, staff, and students with corporate and community organizations.

Since 2023, I have been an active member of NACRO and served as the chair and co-chair of the New Members Subcommittee since joining the organization. In this role, I have been instrumental in collaboratively creating welcoming and onboarding strategies for new members alongside the subcommittee and have championed initiatives to enhance the overall member experience.

With this exciting opportunity to serve as the Member At-Large on the NACRO board, I hope this role will allow me to further contribute to the strategic direction of the organization. I believe my experience in developing & implementing strategic frameworks, combined with my corporate partnership knowledge, will be a value-add in helping NACRO evolve its strategic plan and ensure it stamps its place as the premier thought leader in the corporate-university partnerships space.

I hold a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. I also hold a doctorate from the University of St. Thomas-Houston. I am enthusiastic about creating mutually beneficial partnerships that leverage the strengths of both academia and industry and would be honored to join NACRO's board as Member At-Large.