



## National Council of University Research Administrators

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Dear Mark:

If I ever get on a game show and the question is "Who can bring an audience back from the brink of disaster and then turn the evening into an unforgettable event?", I'll win big because I know the answer; it's Paul Mecurio! Paul was the entertainer at our 48th Annual Meeting kick-off banquet and gave us, without question, one of the most enjoyable evenings our members have experienced in the 48 years we've been gathering.

Beyond the wonderful entertainment he provided, Paul also saved the night for us from what could have been a horrible beginning to our meeting. We had just been served dessert when an event planner's worst nightmare happened...the fire alarm went off and we had to evacuate 1,400 people from the hotel ballroom. After receiving the "all clear" we brought everyone back inside – most of them still very anxious from the incident. Paul began the show by tying an industry joke to the evacuation and the hilarity of it was such, that it had our members laughing so hard they were wiping their eyes. This set the tone for the rest of the evening and put the whole meeting on a higher plateau. Needless to say -- he was brilliant!

Paul Mecurio's comedy is hip, intelligent, and blended with a large portion of humanity. His humor reminds us that we're all in this together and don't take yourself too seriously because life is too short -- just like his show!! Fabulous night! Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Larmett  
Executive Director