



MARCH 2021

THE CURRENT

KACRAO's Monthly Newsletter



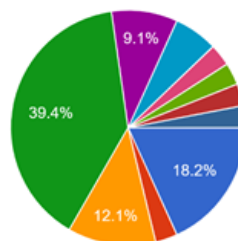
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY APRIL COZINE

Spring is finally here, and I hope that it has been treating everyone well! I'm super excited for tulips to bloom and the spark of color that returns to the world after the winter season, and hope that you too have something to look forward to that brings a smile to your face during this season.

In a recent informal survey with some of our membership it's clear that professional development and the relationships that we develop with one another are key values within our organization and community, and I would encourage you all to get involved professionally and to take advantage of the opportunities that are provided within the KACRAO organization.

What do you wish to gain from a professional organization such as KACRAO?
33 responses



- Networking Connections
- Mentor/Mentee Relationship
- Friendship/Support
- Professional Development
- All of the above!
- All of the above
- All of the above!!!
- All the above

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

In this spirit, and with the end of March approaching we have several upcoming professional development and networking opportunities available:

- AACRAO Annual Meeting 3/29/21-4/1/21. I will be attending to represent the KACRAO membership during the state and regional association meetings.

- Not involved with AACRAO? Did you know AACRAO (www.aacrao.org) is the national association for the admissions and registrar communities, and tons of information is available on their website even if you are not a member.

- KACRAO Virtual Reception 3/30/2021 from 5:30-7:00pm. [Zoom link open to all members!](#) Those that RSVP'd in advance will be receiving a conference/reception box loaded with treats, conversation starters, and some conference related goodies.

- Our next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021 at Ft. Hays, and I'm very optimistic to be able to meet in person for the first time during my presidential tenure! A zoom link will still be available and any of our membership is invited to attend.

- Save the Date: Summer Drive-In Workshop 7/22/2021 with a focus on diversity and inclusion related topics.

I'm really proud of our membership and impressed with those stepping up and out in our organization to make sure our association activities continue to the best of our abilities, including enhanced publications, virtual CPCs, conference and event planning with all of the uncertainty that surrounds each decision ..just to name a few.

We truly are a remarkable group of professionals, and one that I am grateful to be a member of!

Keep it up KACRAO!

April Cozine
#KACRAO President
#KACRAOSpirit

CURRENT EVENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

EDUCATORS WORRY DECREASE IN FAFSA APPLICATIONS MEANS FEWER LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS CONSIDERING COLLEGE

BY AARON HAMILTON

The Philadelphia Inquirer (2/28, Snyder, Graham) reports that high school and college counselors and financial-aid officials are worried “that fewer students from lower-income families may pursue college this fall.” FAFSA “is the form that state and federal agencies and colleges use to determine students’ eligibility for financial aid.” In a regular year, 18 million to 19 million students “use it, both rising seniors and students already in college, with deadlines that vary from state to state.” Nationwide, FAFSA applications “from first-time filers are down by 140,000 – or more than 9% – than at the same point last year.” It’s an improvement “from November, when the gap was 17%, but still cause for concern, said MorraLee Keller, director of technical assistance for the National College Attainment Network.” Filing a FAFSA is “one of the highest predictors of whether students will enroll, she said.”



SENATE CONFIRMS CARDONA AS EDUCATION SECRETARY ON 64-33 VOTE

BY AARON HAMILTON

The Washington Post (3/1, Meckler, Douglas-Gabriel) reports the Senate in a 64-33 vote **“confirmed Miguel Cardona to serve as education secretary Monday, vaulting the little-known Connecticut educator into the center of the national debate over how to reopen schools for face-to-face classes.”** The Post adds that the bipartisan vote came after Cardona’s nomination “moved through the chamber without any significant controversy – in contrast with the confirmation his immediate predecessor, Betsy DeVos, who needed the tiebreaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence to win confirmation.”

Picture credit: Associated Press

KACRAO COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT

COLLEGE PLANNING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR, KYLE STACKEN

My name is Kyle Stacken and I am an Admissions Counselor at Fort Hays State University. I have now worked in Admissions and been a KACRAO member for 3 years.

I was a CPC committee member my first two year as a KACRAO member. I was approached this last year about becoming the CPC Chair and I thought it sounded like a great opportunity to further my involvement with KACRAO. I also work with two heavily involved KACRAO members in our Admissions Director, Jon Armstrong and our Assistant Director of Admissions, Hugo Perez. They have both served in numerous roles throughout their years with the organization and it is easy to see what a positive impact it has had on their careers.

The CPC committee is responsible for planning and implementing all KACRAO sanctioned college fairs. This includes our spring virtual fairs and the full fall CPC circuit. Throughout the spring, we will utilize the committee to help schedule and confirm dates, host sites, and other various details.

I have lived in Hays as either a student or faculty member since the fall of 2007. I received both my undergraduate and Master's degree from Fort Hays State and played baseball for the Tigers from 2007-2011. My wife also graduated from FHSU and we have a 3 year old son, Wade.



SEE WHAT OTHER COMMITTEES KACRAO HAS TO OFFER:

1. Executive Council
2. Awards and Accolades Committee
3. College Planning Conference Committee
4. Local Arrangements Committee
5. Nominations and Elections Committee
6. Program Committee
7. Publications Committee
8. Scholarship Committee
9. Summer Drive-In Workshop Committee
10. New KACRAO Workshop Committee
11. Apply Kansas Committee
12. Kansas City (KC) Metro College Fair Committee

KACRAO COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT



APPLY KANSAS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR, AMY MORRIS

My name is Amy Morris & I'm the Director of Admissions at Neosho County Community College. I'm based on our main campus in Chanute & have been with NCCC since July 2013. I've been a KACRAO member since 2015, but have been an active member since 2018. In the past, I've served on the New KACRAO Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Publications Committee & the Apply Kansas Committee. Currently I'm serving as Chairperson for the Apply Kansas Committee & am a member of the New KACRAO Committee, the Program Committee & the Executive Council. Education is a passion of mine & getting students excited about continuing their education after HS is the best job I've ever had.

I chose to become a chair because I felt the time was right for me to step up & offer more - not just right within the KACRAO organization, but in my personal & professional life as well. Being a director of a department requires leadership skills that constantly need honed, and being a committee chair is a great way to keep those skills sharp.

The purpose of the committee is to plan & promote the Apply Kansas activities which include helping students around Kansas apply for post-secondary education. We've recently joined forces with the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and work side-by-side with them as a part of the Apply Kansas Steering Committee.

Take a look at the Apply Kansas 2020 Annual Report on the next page!

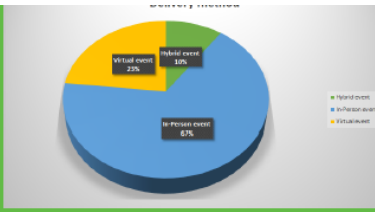


Pictured above, Amy and her graduating NCCC "Kindergarteners".

"Prior to working at NCCC, I spent 15yrs teaching at my HS alma mater Altoona-Midway. I've taught Kindergarten, Elementary Music/Elementary Library Skills (grades K-5), Middle School English Language Arts (grades 6-8), acted as Pre-K through 12 District Librarian & coached HS Cheer/Dance/Volleyball & MS Track/Cheer. When I came to NCCC 2013, my 3rd class of Kindergarteners (who I also had in elementary music & library) at A-M had just graduated HS & several enrolled at NCCC. In 2015 I took the role of Registrar on campus, which included planning/directing the NCCC Graduation ceremonies. That year I had 5 of my kindergarteners graduate from NCCC & I realized I'd been with them for 15 consecutive years of 1st/last days of school - it hit me in the "feels" pretty hard. Three of the five walked at graduation that night & agreed to take a picture with their overly emotional Kindergarten teacher & still call me Mrs. Morris to this day."

APPLY KANSAS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Apply Kansas 2020 Annual Report



Apply Kansas in a pandemic?

2020 brought new challenges to our Apply Kansas campaign. With high schools doing virtual, hybrid & in-person learning modes, and buildings restricting outside visitors, counselors used a variety of strategies to make college accessible for the class of 2021

2020 Impact

	2017	2018	2019	2020
↑ 30% Site Participation	Schools 40	65	83	108
↓ 3% Student Participation	Students 3,948	4,080	5,035	4,897
↓ 2% Application Submission	Apps 5,622	5,286	6,041	5,910

Despite the challenges of 2020, student participation & applications held steady thanks to the increase in high school participation.

108
Schools



THE NUMBERS

4897
Students



5910
Applications

151
Schools
(registered)



3605
Kansas Public
Applications

On the Map

Over 150 high schools registered to host an Apply Kansas event in 2020. While we cover all parts of Kansas, we haven't reached every high school. We'd love to include your school this fall!



Register today:
<https://www.kansasregents.org/students/apply-kansas>

October 2020 College Application Month

Apply Kansas gives high school seniors time & space during the school day to work on their post high school plans. With help and guidance from school staff, community & postsecondary partners, seniors submit college applications & supplemental forms.



Social Media:

@applyks



@applyks



#APPLYKS

@applyks



To find out more information or how you can become involved for Fall 2021, contact Tara Lebar at APPLYKS@ksbor.org or 785-430-4279

VISIT THE APPLY KANSAS WEBSITE



FAVORITE KACRAO MEMORIES

LET'S PLAY A GAME! MATCH THE KACRAO MEMORY TO THE MEMBER IT CORRESPONDS TO. THERE ARE NO PRIZES FOR WINNING. JUST THE FUZZY FEELING OF HAPPINESS INSIDE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT KACRAO!

1 BRETTE HANKIN
COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A "From long ago when I worked at JCCC - I loved, loved the conferences and am looking forward to a day when we can be in person again!"

2 BRANDI BENNER
PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

B I especially loved my first conference in 2010 - just meeting registrars from all over the state and making some long-lasting friends/relationships.

3 MARGARET HERRON
OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

C The people, traveling, getting lost b/t Hutch & Great Bend with a whole caravan of schools

ANSWER KEY: 1B, 2C, 3A

KACRAO MONTHLY FAVORITES

PODCASTS

SCHOOLIN' LIFE
POP CULTURE HAPPY HOUR
THE MORNING TOAST
ADMIT IT
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

BOOKS

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
MAMA BY TERRI MCMILLAN
IF IT BLEEDS
OUTLANDER
HARRY POTTER

FAVORITE SERIES

ALL-AMERICAN
LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE
THE MANDALORIAN
LETTERKENNY
FIREFLY LANE
YELLOWSTONE
FLACK
COBRA KAI
THE CLOSER
HOMELAND
THE OFFICE
THE CROWN

FAVORITE MUSIC

JAZMIN SULLIVAN
FOO FIGHTERS
THE WEEKEND
HAMILTON
TAYLOR SWIFT

RANDOM FAVORITES

RICE CRISPY TREATS W/
PEANUT BUTTER
JOSE PEPPER
TEDSCHI TRUCKS BAND
CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
SOCCER

TUNE IN NEXT MONTH FOR MORE FAVORITES!



*Thanks
for
reading!*



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@KACRAO.KS



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.KACRAO.ORG