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2010-11 KACRAO Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Electronic Transcripts
(2)

Through the eyes of a
student: early
graduation(2)

NAIA clearinghouse
(3)

Recruitment
Strategies for Parents
(4)

Working with middle
schoolers (4)

A Letter from the President

It seems everywhere we look these days there is change. Change in global politics. Change in recruiting practices. Change in Enterprise Resource Planning systems. Change. Change. Change. How are we supposed to adjust to all this change and move forward into the future?

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” Alan Kay

I love this quote! KACRAO is creating a new future through change, not only change, but change with purpose. Change for the sake of change is empty. Making decisions and creating the future requires purpose. Here are a couple of examples (we don't have space to list them all) of how our executive council is creating the future for our organization:

- Pete Belk, Vice President of Outreach, is meeting with members of KASSP, KCA, and other organizations to re-visit how we approach CPC's in the future. We are reaching out to other organizations to see what purpose they see in CPC's and if we need to adjust the way we look at CPC's.
- Ben Schears, Past-President, and Rocky Restivo, Technology Chair, just implemented a much-needed [new website](#) that is more user-friendly and adaptable to future needs.
- Julie Katz, ad-hoc committee chair, is leading a task force to update our strategic plan. Our current plan, with a few exceptions, has been implemented but times change so we saw the need to update our plan and acted on it.
- Kirsten Allen, ad-hoc committee chair, is leading a group to update [KACRAO's Statement of Good Practices](#). This is another group that will have a partnership with KCA. They approve of our current statement. Are changes needed? The committee is going to find out

Nothing we are doing right now is without purpose. It is exciting to be part of an organization that looks forward and is willing to face the future head on. It is exciting to know we are laying the foundation for the future. My challenge to our members is to take a minute and ask what you are doing to create the future where you work. Are you creating change with purpose?

Moving forward,

Aaron Hamilton
KACRAO President



Aaron Hamilton
KACRAO President
Assistant Director of
Admissions
Wichita State University

Are electronic transcripts the new movement of the future?

Gone are the days when a document printed on safety paper with a Registrar's signature and an embossed seal was the only thing we would accept as an official transcript. We now have the luxury of sending and receiving transcripts electronically but along with that luxury is a responsibility to safeguard the security of what we consider an official transcript.

An electronic transcript is either a PDF or a stream of data that is sent in a secure, encrypted manner and that requires the receiver to go to a secure mailbox or to a URL and retrieve the document with a password. An electronically delivered transcript is not official if it

*comes from anywhere other than the six companies listed below

*arrives as part of an email or an attachment to an email

*is not retrieved via the URL provided in an email from one of the six companies listed below .

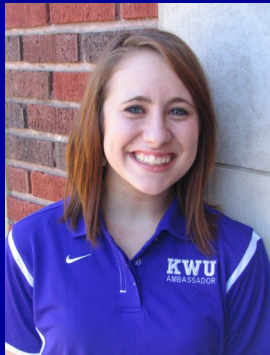
At this time, it is not possible for us to deliver electronic transcripts on our own. A school must partner with one of six companies who currently provide this service. The six are National Student Clearinghouse, Docufiled, Escript Safe, Avow, Credentials Inc. and National Transcript Center. It is important to understand that we do not need to be partnered with any of these companies to receive an electronic transcript. We do need to work with one of these companies if we want to send electronic transcripts.

**Information from 2010 KACRAO annual meeting.*



By Mary Pat Dutton
Registrar
University of Saint Mary

Through the eyes of a student: trends in early graduation



By Lindsey Kepka
Admissions Intern/
Student Ambassador
Kansas Wesleyan University

It is no secret that graduating early is becoming more and more appealing to college students. Why is this trend on such a rise?

Many factors aid in a student's decision to finish prior to their expected graduation date. With college tuition prices constantly rising, finishing in three and a half years or less can be extremely beneficial for students wishing to save big bucks. Early commencement can also give students a jump start on the job market or graduate school.

In several cases, students bring in numerous college credits taken in high school to add to their college transcripts. Kaitlyn Bressie, a senior at Kansas Wesleyan University, has only attended college two years and will graduate in December. Bressie explains, "I took lots of classes in high school, so I came in as a sophomore." With these additional credits, there is often no need to stay an entire four years.

But how can registrars and staff help students in their graduation goals? Admissions officers should consider introducing the idea of early graduation to prospective students. If the student wants to take an early graduation path, this may provide them with valuable information. This also may in turn factor into the student's college decision.

Although many students individually keep track of their degree audits and their projected graduation date, the task of doing this can be quite tedious. Any assistance from registrars or academic advisors would help these students immensely in accomplishing their goals of early graduation. Zac Ludwig, an early KWU graduate says, "(Registrars) should tell them that it is possible and how to go about it. Also, maybe have a designation for those who want to (graduate early) so their advisors can help them." According to Christina Bohl, a senior at KWU who has only attended three years, "They could help keep the students informed about how many hours they have and how many they still need."

Whether the student chooses a community, public, or private college, it is important that the student believes they will have the tools to successfully complete their degree or prepare them to move on to their next step in their career.

NAIA adopts official clearinghouse for student athlete eligibility

New changes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, also known as the NAIA, will be affecting numerous private colleges in Kansas this upcoming year. The NAIA will now require new student athletes to go through the process of a clearinghouse for eligibility to participate in athletics at a NAIA institution starting this fall.

These changes will require all students interested in playing sports at a NAIA college for the first time in the 2011-12 academic year or any year after to complete the eligibility process. This applies to high school seniors and transfer students from both two-year and four-year colleges. It also applies to current NAIA students that have not previously competed. The new clearinghouse is very similar to the requirements of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). However, these are two separate associations with different eligibility and recruiting rules. Students looking at colleges in both associations will need to register at each eligibility center.



By Terri Van Slyke

*Asst. Director of Admissions
Kansas Wesleyan University*

Student athletes will still continue to complete the clearance process through the institution by the services of the Faculty Athletics Representative. The student-athlete must be eligible according to the institution's standards for intercollegiate competition. The student-athlete must meet NAIA rules and standards, but also must be eligible according to the affiliated conference standards.

If a student is interested in playing athletics at the NAIA level, the student will need to register online at playnaia.org. The prospect must pay a nonrefundable one-time registration fee of \$60 for U.S. residents or \$85 for international students, submit official high school transcripts and ACT or SAT test scores or official college

transcripts. High school students that have completed their junior year can apply for early eligibility if they have a 3.0 GPA and a minimum ACT composite score of an 18 or an SAT combined mathematics and critical reading score of an 860. Registration fee waivers are available for students that have demonstrated need through the ACT or SAT fee waivers or the reduced-cost lunch program. Those students will need to have the high school counselor contact the NAIA Eligibility Center directly. Transfer students that have qualified for a minimum Pell grant of \$4,500 may also be eligible for registration fee waivers.

It is important for Admissions Officers and Registrars to be aware of this new process. Familiarity of these new standards will be beneficial for all NAIA college representatives in relaying information to prospective students and assisting coaches in the recruitment process. For more information about the changes in NAIA eligibility, visit playnaia.org.

**Information gathered from playnaia.org and kwucoyotes.com.*



The new NAIA Eligibility Center will require future student-athletes to complete the eligibility process through a new clearinghouse. (Photo courtesy of KWU Student Tanner Colvin)



***Are you on the KACRAO List Serve?
Sign up today at www.kacrao.org***

Lifelines for Parents:

Helping parents survive freshman year

During every Pittsburg State University freshman orientation, Director of First Year Programs, Heather Eckstein and Senior Admission Counselor, Penny Cook, begin preparing parents for the sometimes challenging process of “letting go.” The parent program, which includes a resource guide for all things Pittsburg State, is designed to help parents know what to expect during freshman year. It familiarizes parents with academic terminology, services offered on campus, and offers general tips for “surviving” freshman year.

In addition to the parent guide distributed during freshman orientation, Pittsburg State’s Office of First Year Programs gives parents the opportunity to sign up to receive newsletters during their student’s freshman year. These newsletters, which are sent three times each semester, include information on upcoming events, academic dates and deadlines, a note from the Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, and a list of relevant questions to ask their student. Each issue has articles relevant to the time of year and the things happening on campus.

Eckstein believes it is important to keep parents informed because it makes the college transition easier for both parents and students. “We try to cover the basics with our newsletter. Often parents and students have a difficult time communicating, or knowing what to communicate, during the freshman year. It’s a transitional stage, parents are trying to learn to let go, students are trying to learn to be self-reliant. We work to make the transition smoother by keeping the parents informed about what’s happening on campus while offering suggestions of things that can they can discuss with their student.”



By Terra Higgins
Admission Counselor
Pittsburg State University

Your College Education Starts Today:

The importance of working with middle schoolers

As Pittsburg State University’s Assistant Director of Multicultural Programs and Recruitment, Tony Fuentez has worked with a very diverse population of prospective students. This past fall, Fuentez broadened Pittsburg State’s recruiting boundaries even further when he began working with the school’s newest target population, middle schoolers. While Fuentez would love to sway the students into becoming Gorillas, the new program isn’t exclusively about Pittsburg State. The program is designed to help kids understand the impact their high school years will have on their ability to be accepted into and pay for college.

Fuentez says, “It’s important to work with middle schoolers because often they don’t realize how fundamental high school is for establishing a solid GPA and preparing for the ACT. These are typically the two biggest factors for determining scholarships. It’s good to get them thinking about the importance of college now rather than the final semester of their senior year when it’s too late to change their study habits and academic resume.”

The program advocates that students set high college expectations for themselves and begin taking steps to ensure they can meet these expectations. These steps include taking college preparatory curriculum, establishing good study habits, discussing college plans with parents, teachers and counselors, and keeping track of their academic achievements and extra curricular activities. “The main thing for the students to realize is their education should be important to them. It doesn’t matter what school they choose, what matters is that they go to college. Once they have earned that degree, it is something that no one can take away from them. It is something they will have for the rest of the life and they need to start preparing for it today.”

A Note to All Parents:

Your student will experience a lot of change and make a lot of adjustments during their freshman year.

The differences between high school and college:

Teacher/student contact

Grades and homework

Status and identity

Self-reliance

Freedom and distractions

Value judgments

The Freshman Calendar

Early summer anticipation

Midsummer anxiety

Late summer panic

The honeymoon

The reality check

The grass is always greener...

You can’t go home again

Coping behavior

Realization

Putting it all together

FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Prohibits colleges and universities from disclosing or discussing a student’s academic records with any third party without the student’s express written consent...

INCLUDING PARENTS