

KACRAO

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



2026 KACRAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPT. 23-25 | HILTON GARDEN INN | MANHATTAN, KS



SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn

Manhattan, KS

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

KACRAO 2026



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm		Local Arrangements & Program Committees Meeting
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		Executive Council Meeting
7:15 pm – 10:00 pm		Informal Social (dinner, drinks & networking)



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

9:00 am – 4:30 pm		Registration & Info Booth
9:00 am – 11:30 am		Pre-Conference
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm		Opening Session – Welcome & Business Meeting
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm		Keynote Speaker
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm		Corporate Partner Fair and Snack Break
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm		Interest Sessions #1
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm		Corporate Partner Fair and Break
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm		Interest Sessions #2
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm		Dinner & Entertainment



Networking starts here!



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

8:30 am – 4:30 pm		Registration & Info Booth
8:30 am – 9:15 am		Interest Sessions #3
9:15 am – 9:45 am		Corporate Partner Fair and Snack Break
9:45 am – 10:30 am		Interest Sessions #4
10:30 am – 10:45 am		Corporate Partner Fair and Break
10:45 am – 11:30 am		Town Halls Round Tables with Topics
11:30 am – 1:15 pm		Lunch / Business Meeting
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm		Corporate Partner Fair and Break
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm		Interest Sessions #5
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm		Corporate Partner Fair and Break
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm		Interest Sessions #6
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm		Corporate Partner Fair and Snack Break
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm		Interest Sessions #7
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm		Past President Reception
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm		Dinner & Entertainment

★
**ENGAGE.
COLLABORATE.
INSPIRE.**



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

8:30 am – 12:00 pm		Registration & Info Booth	9:30 am – 10:20 am		Interest Sessions #9
8:30 am – 9:20 am		Interest Sessions #8	10:20 am – 10:30 am		Break
9:20 am – 9:30 am		Break	10:30 am – 11:30 am		Closing Speaker
			11:30 am – 12:00 pm		Business Meeting and Prizes

*Thank you for
being part of our
success!*



**BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS**



**GAIN
KNOWLEDGE**



**SHARE
IDEAS**



**MAKE AN
IMPACT**

Keynote Speakers

Opening Session Keynote Speaker: Dr. Justin Kastner



Justin Kastner is a professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology at K-State. He teaches courses on the global food system and trade policy, the history of public health, veterinary history, globalization and cross-border cooperation, environmental health, and multidisciplinary thinking and writing.

A Truman (1997), Fulbright (1998-1999), and Rotary (1999-2000) scholar with experience in local government (city commissioner, 1995-97, in Manhattan, Kansas) and global governance (World Trade Organization, Geneva, 2000), Dr. Kastner is committed to public service. He has superintended \$2.5M in STEM (e.g., U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Agriculture) and capacity-building (USDA Cochran program) training-grant programs for foreign governments (Egypt, Thailand, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Paraguay). The *Frontier* Field Trip (FFT) model, pioneered with Dr. Jason Ackleson (Virginia), is operationalized in these trainings and, most notably, in several student-centered excursions.

Dr. Kastner holds graduate degrees from the United Kingdom and Canada (PhD, University of Guelph; PgDip, University of Edinburgh; MSc, London South Bank University) and teaches and publishes in a range of domains.

Closing Speaker: Kevin Ingram



President Ingram graduated from Manhattan Christian College in 1986 with a degree in Bible Ministries and an emphasis in Church Music. He then served as youth minister at the Oakley Christian Church from 1986-1989 and as senior minister of Community Christian Church in Great Bend from 1989-1999.

Much of Kevin's career has been connected to higher education. From 1992-1998 Kevin served as a trustee of MCC. And, in 1999 Kevin moved back to Manhattan to go on staff at MCC as Director of Alumni and Church Relations. In 2003 he became the Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Kevin also served as President of Manhattan Christian College for 20 years. In July, Kevin began a new role as Director of Player Development for Kansas State football.

Kevin has always been actively involved in local organizations. During his time in Manhattan, he has served on a variety of local boards including the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice, the Manhattan Rotary Club, and the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

He and his wife, Lisa ('84), have been married since 1983 and have two children. Their daughter, Lauren ('09), and her husband, Nic, live in Manhattan, KS, with their daughters, Meyer and Maysen. Their son, Tyler ('11), and his wife, Ashley, live in Wichita, KS, with their daughter, Katelyn. Kevin enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf with friends, and relaxing at the beach.

Leadership

Eric Sanford: KACRAO President



Eric serves as University Registrar at Friends University in Wichita. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Bible/Educational Ministry and Bible/Family Ministry, with a minor in Youth Ministry, from Manhattan Christian College, and a Master of Arts in Leadership from Hope International University in Fullerton, California.

With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Eric has worked in Student Life and Registrar roles at Manhattan Christian College, Washburn University, and Friends University. His career also includes ministry and nonprofit work that has taken him to Arizona, California, Missouri, and Texas.

Eric became involved with KACRAO after attending the 2016 conference in Manhattan. Since then, he has served on multiple committees and on the board as Vice President for Association Services and Professional Development, where he started the KACRAO Kast. He has also presented at the AACRAO Annual Conference and currently serves with AACRAO's State & Regional Leadership group and is a member of Peer Mentoring.

Outside of work, Eric enjoys working out, baking, traveling, reading, and spending time with family and friends. He also shares his home with two lively miniature dachshunds who keep life noisy and fun.

Kyle Stacken: KACRAO President-Elect



Kyle serves as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Fort Hays State University, where he has spent the past nine years helping students navigate the college search process. A proud Tiger alum, he earned both his Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Science in Health and Human Performance from Fort Hays State.

Kyle is actively involved in KACRAO and currently serves as President-Elect, following a variety of executive and leadership roles within the organization. He is passionate about the admissions profession and values the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across the state and region to better serve students.

Before transitioning into admissions, Kyle spent eight seasons as a baseball coach at Fort Hays State. That experience not only fueled his love for the game but also shaped his approach to leadership—centered on relationships, accountability, and meeting students where they are (with occasional coaching analogies still making their way into daily conversations).

Kyle lives in Hays, Kansas, with his wife, Chrissy, and their two children, Wade and Evan. Outside of work, you can usually find him on the golf course, out fishing, or adding to a growing sports card collection with Wade.

Leadership

Dr. Hala Abou Arraj: AACRAO Board of Directors



Hala Abou Arraj is the Registrar at Idaho State University since June 2022 and the Vice President for International Educational at AACRAO since 2023. She accumulates an experience in higher education of 28 years. She is responsible for the daily operations of the Registrar's Office including supervision of staff, catalogue production, calendar production, maintenance of an automated record keeping system, and certifications.

Hala Abou Arraj received her PhD degree in Political Science from the Lebanese University in November 2017. She received her Master's degree and her Bachelor's degree from the American University of Beirut in 2000 and 1994 respectively. Her most recent contributions include a chapter in a book entitled: [*"A Resource for International Education Professionals"*](#), published in 2016 by the Library of Congress (ISBN:97815785811) as well as two articles published in international journals. Hala facilitates REG101 course since 2021. She served as a content coordinator for the Records and Academic Services Group in AACRAO in addition to serving on many committees including the Academic Progress and Graduation Committee at AACRAO, and the Steering Committee of the Ellucian European User Group Conference (2011-2014).



2025-2026 Executive Council, Coordinators & Chairs

Executive Council

President

Eric Sanford, Friends University

President-Elect & Program Committee Chair

Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University

Past President, Awards and Accolades Committee Chair & Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center

Vice President for Association Services & Membership Coordinator

Melissa Conley, Wichita State University

Vice President for Outreach

Andy Bohn, Cowley College

Vice President for Professional Development & New KACRAO Workshop Chair

Terri Van Slyke, University of Kansas Medical Center

Secretary

Kendra Grizzle, Sterling College

Treasurer

Renee Olson, University of Kansas

Admissions Advocate-at-Large

Devan Flegler, Emporia State University

Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large

Brette Hankin, Colby Community College

Coordinators

Historian/Constitution Coordinator

Chad Steinkamp, Wichita State University

Technology Coordinator

Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas Medical Center

Corporate Liaison Coordinator

Tana Cooper, Barton County Community College

Planning for College Coordinator

Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University

Apply Kansas Liaison

Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College

Chairs

College Planning Conference Committee Chair

Amy Morris, Neosho County Community College
Joanna Lockwood, Fort Hays State University

Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs

Barb Wells & Eric Chace, Kansas State University

Publications Committee Chair

Krysti Yuen, Butler Community College

Scholarship Committee Chair

Emily Berry, Dodge City Community College

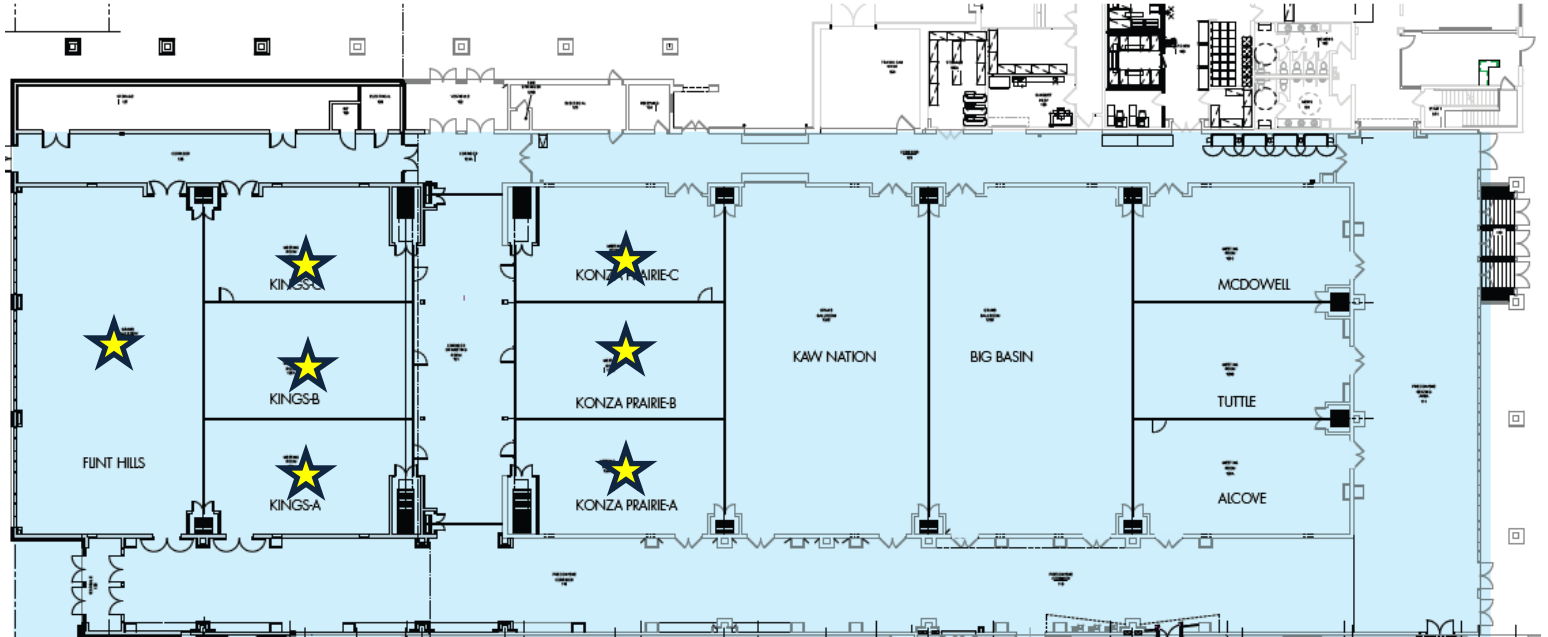
Summer Drive-In Workshop Committee Chair

Michele August, Central Christian College of Kansas

Audit Committee Chair

Melinda Roelfs, Pittsburg State University

Manhattan Conference Center Hilton Garden Inn



2026 Local Arrangements Committee

- **LAC Co-Chair - Barb Wells**, Kansas State University
- **LAC Co-Chair - Eric Chace**, Kansas State University
- **Teri Awbrey**, Manhattan Christian College
- **Kaylee Busick**, Kansas State University
- **Brenda Carmichael**, Flint Hills Technical College
- **Steve Davis**, Manhattan Area Technical College
- **Vicky Hanning**, Kansas State University
- **Brandee Harrison**, Barton Community College
- **Tyler Henry**, Kansas State University
- **Cherie Hoffpauir**, Kansas State University
- **Kylynn Keener**, Barton Community College
- **Sarah Kells**, Kansas State University
- **Jennifer Pfortmiller**, Kansas State University

Tuesday, September 22nd

5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Local Arrangements and Program Committee
Location: Hilton Garden Inn – Flint Hills Ballroom

6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Executive Council Meeting
Location: Hilton Garden Inn – Flint Hills Ballroom

7:00 p.m.

Join us at AJ's Pizzeria

301 Poyntz Ave. Manhattan, KS 66502

Members of the Executive Council will be meeting at AJ's Pizzeria following Tuesday's meetings. Please join us for food, networking and socializing.
(Food/Drinks not provided by KACRAO)

Wednesday, September 23rd

9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Registration and Information Booth
Location: Manhattan Conference Center – Hilton Garden Inn

9:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Session \$\$
How to Deal with Time Pressure
Presenter: Dr. Justin Kastner
Location: Kings A

1:00p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Opening Session

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

Call to Order of Annual Meeting Session One: President, Eric Sanford, Friends University

Welcome: President, Eric Sanford, Friends University

Presentation of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes: Secretary, Kendra Grizzle, Sterling College

Presentation of 2026-2027 Proposed Budget: Treasurer, Renee Olson, University of Kansas

Presentation of 2026-2027 Slate of Executive Council Officers: President, Eric Sanford, Friends University

Wednesday, September 23rd

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Opening Keynote Speaker

Connecting Global Perspectives Through Experiential Learning

Presenter: Dr. Justin Kastner, Kansas State University – Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Corporate Partner Fair, Member Mingle, and Break

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

New KACRAO Workshop

Presenters: New KACRAO Committee

Location: Kings A

Welcome to KACRAO! Intended for first year Registrar and Admissions professionals, this introductory session will give you an overview of KACRAO, its structure and member services, and our affiliation with AACRAO. Additionally, it's a great time to meet the other new professionals and take in some tips on how to be outstanding in your position.

Summer Drive-In Recap

Presenter: Michele August, Central Christian College

Facilitator: Michelle Mackeprang

Location: Kings B

Take a look back at the Summer Drive-In and revisit the people, ideas, and conversations that made the event possible. This session will recap the experience, highlight memorable moments and key takeaways, and give attendees a chance to reflect on the event and continue the conversation with fellow KACRAO members.

Designing the Right CRM for Your Institution

Presenter: Dr. Dennis King & Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University

Location: Kings C

Choosing and designing a CRM is about more than selecting a platform—it's about building a system that works for your institution, your staff, and your students. This session will explore the key questions to consider when evaluating CRM needs, from communication and recruitment workflows to data, reporting, automation, and staff usability. Participants will gain practical strategies for identifying what their institution truly needs, avoiding unnecessary complexity, and designing a CRM structure that supports their enrollment goals and day-to-day operations.

FERPA 101

Presenters: Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University & Casey Wallace, University of Kansas

Facilitator: Matt Skirven

Location: Konza A

FERPA gets complicated when it leaves the training module and meets campus reality. This interactive session moves beyond the basics to explore role-based access, vendor incidents, fraud, identity verification, and why employees should never access their own records or those of people they know. Through real-world near misses and a choose-your-own-FERPA-adventure, participants will test their judgment, compare campus practices, and identify practical ways to strengthen privacy before a close call becomes a breach.

Parchment Does That Too? Streamlining Admin Workflows from Admissions to Credentials

Presenters: Kara Speer & Jarrod Powell, Instructure

Facilitator: Dan Arbuckle

Location: Konza B

Tired of juggling disconnected tools and outdated processes? In this session, explore how forward-thinking institutions are using Parchment by Instructure beyond transcripts. From streamlining staff workflows to supporting learner mobility, see how one comprehensive platform and trusted partner can help you connect your Admissions, Registrar, and professional learning initiatives in more efficient, learner-centered ways, including; Expanding learner success with alternative credentials and Comprehensive Learner Records (CLRs); Supporting learners with workforce-aligned skills communications through certificates, and digital transcripts and diplomas; Automating transcript processing for admissions and transfer with Receive Premium + Data Automation

Wednesday, September 23rd

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**The Strategic Enrollment Management-Advising Equation:
From Big Ideas to Collaborative Student Success Strategies**

Presenters: Dr. Brett Petersen-Bruner, Wichita State University

Facilitator: Kirsten Allen

Location: Konza C

This session will explore how strategic enrollment management and academic advising intersect to support holistic student success outcomes on college campuses.

Inspired by the recent call from AACRAO (Gonzalez Utley, 2025) that institutions need stronger partnerships between these two functional areas to shape the next decade of student success, this session will explore innovative practices and collaborative strategies that foster care, connection, and community.

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Corporate Partner Fair and Break

2025-2026 KACRAO Program Committee

- Kyle Stacken – Fort Hays State University – Chair
- Eric Chace - Kansas State University – LAC Co-Chair
- Barb Wells – Kansas State University – LAC Co-Chair
- Michele August - Central Christian College of Kansas
- Dan Arbuckle - University of Kansas Medical Center
- Emily Berry - Dodge City Community College
- Andy Bohn - Cowley College
- Brandi Brenner - University of Kansas Medical Center
- Brenda Carmichael - Flint Hills Technical College
- Randoulph Castor - University of Saint Mary
- Wynnter Colston - Neosho County Community College
- Jasmin Dauner - Kansas Wesleyan University
- Devan Flegler - Emporia State University
- Brette Hankin - Colby Community College
- Marissa Nuss - Fort Hays State University
- Bill Rinkenbaugh - Butler Community College
- Morgan Singletary - Pittsburg State University
- Breanna Smith - Central Christian College
- Terri Van Slyke - University of Kansas Medical Center
- Krysti Yuen - Butler Community College

Wednesday, September 23rd

3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

New Counselor Workshop

Presenters: New KACRAO Committee

Location: Kings A

Welcome to KACRAO! Intended for newer or first year admissions professionals, this session is about life in the admissions office. Meet other new admissions professionals, learn good practices for recruitment, discuss questions you may encounter and how to handle them.

New Registrar Workshop

Presenter: New KACRAO Committee

Location: Kings B

Welcome to KACRAO! Intended for newer professionals in the registrar's office, this introductory session will give you an overview of KACRAO. You will learn about various topics and issues within the registrar's office.

Planning for College Certification

Presenter: Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University

Location: Kings C

Become a certified presenter for the KACRAO Planning for College workshop. The Planning for College presentation is a FREE opportunity for students to gain valuable information on how to plan for college!

**Must have one year of recruitment experience to attend.*

What Leaders are REALLY Looking For: Preparing for Career Growth & Deepening Your Impact

Presenter: Leslie Quinn & Shelli Allen, Johnson

County Community College

Facilitator: Wynnter Colston

Location: Konza C

Ready to grow in your career but unsure what leaders are actually looking for when they hire or promote? Happy in your current role but want to expand your impact or evolve your leadership skills? In this session, we'll talk honestly about the qualities and behaviors that set high-potential, effective professionals apart. Doing your job well matters but advancement and impact often depend on more than competence alone. Leaders look for strategic thinking, ownership, sound judgment, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and the ability to move work forward in complex environments. We'll also discuss common habits and assumptions that can unintentionally hold strong performers back. You'll leave with practical strategies to strengthen your leadership presence, increase your visibility, and intentionally prepare for future opportunities.

Dual Credit Success: A Structured Support Model

Presenter: Ashleigh Taylor & Jena Roth, WSU Tech

Facilitator: Chad Steinkamp

Location: Konza A

Concurrent and dual enrollment programs often focus heavily on course quality and faculty oversight, but many still lack a clear, consistent structure for orienting students, preparing schools, and intervening when students begin to struggle. This session shares a practical, replicable model used by WSU Tech to streamline pre-registration, strengthen communication with partner schools, and embed student supports throughout the academic cycle. Participants will learn how WSU Tech structures its advising and orientation process for dual credit students, including the materials, messaging, and delivery methods used to introduce expectations, college policies, financial aid implications, and academic planning. The session will also outline the annual pre-registration timeline, communication protocols with counselors and teachers, and the high-touch processes that keep schools informed and aligned with enrollment requirements. In addition, we will share the student intervention system built into WSU Tech's concurrent enrollment programs including progress monitoring, check-in cycles, escalation points, and collaborative responses between the college and partner schools. Attendees will leave with templates, timelines, communication samples, and intervention tools that can be adapted to improve readiness and support student success.

Title IX

Presenter: Justin Frederick, Kansas State University

Facilitator: Courtney Metcalf

Location: Konza B

Fall 2024 is the formal launch of the Systemwide General Education model in Kansas. This session will be a discussion of what has happened to get these into practice, the good and the bad, as well as where systemwide general education is going in the next few years. This session will provide information but will also depend upon participation from the audience to make this the most robust session it can be.

Wednesday, September 23rd

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Social Hour

Location: Liquid Art Winery & Restaurant – 1745 Wildcat Creek Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503

6:00 p.m.

Dinner

Location: Liquid Art Winery & Restaurant – 1745 Wildcat Creek Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Drinks, Entertainment and Fun

Liquid Art Winery & Restaurant – 1745 Wildcat Creek Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503

Shuttles will travel from the Hilton Garden Inn to/from the Winery

Join a KACRAO Committee

Sign up at registration table, scan the QR code, or visit

<https://kacrao.memberclicks.net/committeesignup>



Thursday, September 24th

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration and Information Booth

Location: Manhattan Conference Center – Hilton Garden Inn

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

When Everything is a Priority

Presenter: Brea Turner, Hutchinson Community College

Facilitator: Dan Arbuckle

Location: Kings A

Designed to empower middle managers (Assistant Directors, Senior Admissions Counselors, longtime employees, etc.) with the skills and strategies necessary to drive organizational success from their pivotal position. We will explore the unique challenges and opportunities faced by middle managers and provide practical insights into how they can influence and enhance their team's performance.

A Campus-Wide Approach to Outreach and Recruitment: The Work of the OCT Committee

Presenter: Martecia Cooper, Butler Community College

Facilitator: Krysti Yuen

Location: Kings B

This session will provide an overview of Butler Community College's Outreach Connection Team (OCT), a committee focused on increasing outreach, recruitment, retention, and student success among underserved student populations. Attendees will learn about the history and evolution of the committee, including outreach initiatives, community partnerships, scholarship opportunities, recruitment events, counselor engagement, and culturally responsive support efforts designed to strengthen student access and success. This session is ideal for admissions professionals, recruiters, counselors, student support staff, and anyone interested in developing collaborative, campus-wide outreach efforts that support underserved student populations.

What the Boss Wants: Aligning Expectations Across Leadership Levels

Presenter: Dr. Joey Linn, Dr. Dennis King & Jon

Armstrong, Fort Hays State University

Facilitator: Kyle Stacken

Location: Kings C

What does leadership really expect from you in higher education? This session explores how priorities, communication, accountability, and decision-making can look different at various levels of a college or university. Presenters will share their perspectives and experiences on what they value in their teams, what makes employees stand out, and how staff can better understand the bigger picture behind institutional decisions. Attendees will leave with practical insight into what higher education leaders are looking for and how to better align their work with those expectations.

Running on Empty? Who Takes Care of You? - Refueling the People Who Keep the Campus Moving

Presenter: Melissa Owen

Facilitator: Brenda Carmichael

Location: Konza A

Students depend on you. Your colleagues count on you. Deadlines never stop. Whether you're in admissions, student affairs, advising, counseling, financial aid, faculty, or out on the road, it's easy to spend so much time caring for others that you forget to care for yourself.

Take a well-deserved pit stop with us! This fun, energetic, and interactive session will help you recognize the signs of burnout, discover realistic self-care strategies that fit your busy schedule, and learn how to support a struggling co-worker.

Expect laughter, audience participation, fun giveaways, awesome swag, and practical resources you can use the very next day.

Come refuel, recharge, and reconnect, because a healthier campus starts with the people who make it thrive. You can't pour from an empty cup... or drive very far on an empty tank!

International Student Compliance & Resources

Presenter: Jeff Hashman, Pittsburg State University

Facilitator: TBD

Location: Konza B

This session will cover key aspects of international student compliance regarding admission, enrollment, and employment. We will review required documents for international student admission, enrollment requirements, and employment limitations. In the session, we'll contrast F-1 international student requirements with other common types of international students.

From Data to Decisions: Intelligence and Automation for Smarter Academic Operations

Presenter: Lindsey Ohls, Coursedog

Facilitator: Sarah Kells

Location: Konza C

Academic operations have long existed in silos, leaving valuable data across scheduling, curriculum, and assessment untapped. Today, embedded intelligence is changing that. Discover how Coursedog's unified platform combines cross-functional data with AI-powered reporting, automated workflows, and contextual recommendations to help institutions anticipate challenges, act with confidence, and create the conditions for student retention and long-term financial health.

Thursday, September 24th

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Corporate Partner Fair, Member Mingle, and Snack Break

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Never Have I Ever: Work-Life Balance Edition

Presenter: Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas Medical Center

Facilitator: Terri Van Slyke

Location: Kings A

We have all heard about the importance of work-life balance but how well are you balancing it all? A simple game where the more balanced you are, the higher the score, but you are not competing against others, only yourself and your mental health. Dare to play?

Better Together: How Schools Maximize the Bridge Between TES, Transferology, and uAchieve to Increase Student Success and Staff Efficiencies.

Presenter: Aleta Carlberg, CollegeSource

Facilitator: Estefany Ruano

Location: Kings B

Many schools have found success in utilizing the functionality of all three products together: TES, uAchieve, and Transferology. TES allows staff an efficient way to view catalog information in one place that is needed to make equivalency decisions or communicate with those making equivalency decisions. uAchieve allows staff the ability to store transfer articulation rules and create degree programs for your curriculum. Anyone interested in viewing your school's transfer rules and learning how their courses apply to your degree programs can do so from within Transferology.

The Comeback Student: A Playbook for Adult Learners

Presenter: Chad Steinkamp, Wichita State University & Krysti Yuen, Butler Community College

Facilitator: Kirsten Allen

Location: Kings C

Every successful team relies on a strong game plan, and supporting adult learners is no different. Adult students bring determination, experience, and clear goals to the classroom, but they also face unique challenges as they balance work, family, and education. In this session, we'll explore some strategies that Wichita State and Butler use for engaging adult learners throughout their educational journey. This will be an interactive session where we will look at recruitment, communication, and support techniques designed to help adult learners stay in the game.

Turning Parents into Partners: Making Them Part of the Journey

Presenters: Dana Blubaugh, Pittsburg State University & Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center

Location: Konza A

As admission counselors, we see firsthand how important—and sometimes complicated—the parent role can be during the college search. Parents want to help their students make the right decision, but knowing when to step in, when to step back, and how to support their student's individual goals can be challenging. In this session, our panel will share insights and practical strategies for helping parents become effective partners in the college selection process. We'll explore how families can navigate competing expectations, financial considerations, emotional stress, and the pressure to find the "right" college while keeping the student at the center of the decision.

Careers & Opportunities in Higher Education

Presenters: Bill Rinkenbaugh, Butler Community College & Casey Wallace, University of Kansas

Facilitator: Wynnter Colston

Location: Konza B

Ever wonder who makes a university actually work? Higher education careers go far beyond the classroom. From admissions and registration to enrollment management, student services, communications, and more, there are countless ways to build a career while making a difference for students. Join us for a candid and fun look at careers in higher education, how people find their way into the profession, and why so many choose to stay. We'll talk about career paths, transferable skills, opportunities to grow and lead, and the unexpected variety that comes with working on a college campus. If you're looking for meaningful work where no two days are quite the same, higher ed might be the career you didn't know you were looking for.

Thursday, September 24th

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

From Click to Campus: The FHSU Visit Experience

Presenters: Jon Armstrong, Fort Hays State University

Facilitator: Brette Hankin

Location: Konza C

What happens between the moment a prospective student schedules a campus visit and the moment they leave campus? At Fort Hays State University, we believe every detail matters. Take an inside look at our campus visit experience—from online scheduling and personalized agendas to student ambassador training, individual admissions appointments, academic visits, and the personal touches that make each guest feel welcome. This session will provide a practical overview of how FHSU brings all the pieces together to create a seamless, personalized campus visit.

Conference Service Project — Flint Hills Breadbasket

This year's conference service project supports the **Flint Hills Breadbasket**. Attendees are encouraged to bring **nonperishable food items and/or hygiene items** to donate during the conference.



Thursday, September 24th

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Corporate Partner Fair and Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Town Hall Meetings

Participate in an open forum discussion with other professionals from all institutions.
Bring your questions, concerns or issues.

Admission Town Hall

Moderator: Devan Flegler, Emporia State University

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

Registrar Town Hall

Moderator: Brette Hankin, Colby Community College

Location: Kings B

Enrollment Management Town Hall

Moderator: Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College

Location: Kings C

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

Call to Order of Annual Meeting, Session Two: President, Eric Sanford, Friends University

Corporate Partner Recognition: Corporate Liaison(s), Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas Medical Center & Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College

Corporate Sponsor Presentations

AACRAO Update: Dr. Hala Abou Arraj – AACRAO Vice President for International Education – Board of Directors

2026 Awards & Accolades: Past President, Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center

Introduction of 2026-2027 Coordinators & Chairs: President Elect, Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University

1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Corporate Partner Fair and Break

We want your feedback!
Complete a session evaluation using the QR code or through the app



Thursday, September 24th

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Heat Happens: Lessons from the Coffee Bean

Presenter: Terri Van Slyke, University of Kansas

Medical Center

Facilitator: Brandi Brenner

Location: Kings A

Every Higher Education professional, team, and leader eventually faces pressure – deadlines tighten, expectations rise, and the “water” around us starts to boil. The question isn’t if the heat will come. It’s who we become when it does. This session uses the Coffee Bean analogy to explore how individuals can influence team culture, respond to challenges with purpose, and create positive change from the inside out. Participants will leave with practical strategies for staying grounded, resilient, and impactful when the heat turns up.

Motivational Interviewing - Conversations for Change and Building Rapport

Presenter: Tyler Pacholski, WSU Tech

Facilitator: Krysti Yuen

Location: Kings B

When understood properly and put into practice intentionally, motivational interviewing has the power to positively impact change and foster connection with the students we meet across our profession. Learn how to develop this skill and apply its potential with others.

Unlocking StriveScan: Tips, Data, and What’s Next

Presenter: Kylie Tutko, StriveScan

Facilitator: Joanna Lockwood

Location: Kings C

College fairs are evolving, and StriveScan is here to help you navigate the process. Join us as we share best practices for using and implementing StriveScan, and data from fairs across the region. This session offers space for discussion about what’s working, and what isn’t, in today’s fairs. Whether you’re hosting or attending your first or fifteenth fair, you’ll leave with practical ideas to make your events more streamlined and effective.

Serving the "Hard to Serve": How Do We Reach Students Who Don't Fit the Box

Presenter: Stacey Jones, Highland Community College

Facilitator: Wynnter Colston

Location: Konza A

Not all students are built for traditional systems, and yet, our admissions and registrar processes often expect them to be. This session focuses on the students who are often labeled “hard to serve”: those with non-linear academic paths, life responsibilities, skill-based career goals, or past struggles in traditional education settings. Participants will explore how institutional processes can unintentionally create barriers for these students and how small, strategic shifts can lead to stronger access, persistence, and success. Drawing from real-world experience in technical education, this session will blend practical examples, data-informed insights, and guided reflection to help professionals rethink how systems can better serve all learners.

Kansas Board of Regents Updates

Presenter: Natalie Barlett & Samantha Christy-Dangemond, KBOR

Facilitator: Brenda Carmichael

Location: Konza B

At this session, you will hear updates from the Kansas Board of Regents on Apply Kansas, Kansas Core Outcomes Group (KCOG) Conference, Reduced Credit Bachelor’s Degrees, and Systemwide Associate Degrees (SWADs). Sam and Natalie will also go over the timeline for submitting changes to the Systemwide General Education Master Course Lists. They will try to allow time at the end of the session to answer any questions you may have.

Enhancing Student-Centric Services in Higher Education

Presenter: Dr. Hala Abou Arraj, AACRAO

Facilitator: TBD

Location: Konza C

This session's focus is on how higher education institutions and specifically enrollment managers can better listen to and advocate for student needs in the areas of advising, registration, transparency of policies, clarity of procedures, and communication channels. This session is designed to benefit registrars and enrollment managers, helping you to better serve our students.

Thursday, September 24th

2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Corporate Partner Fair and Break

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Executive Council, Coordinators, & Chairs Transition

Presenter: Eric Sanford, Friends University
Location: Kings A

Executive Council, Coordinators, and Chairs, current and incoming will meet to discuss upcoming meetings, reports for the consent agenda, and transition into and out of KACRAO leadership roles.

What the Pros Know: Real Talk from Veteran Admissions Counselors

Presenter: Ryan Grasser, Fort Hays State University, Wynnter Colson, Neosho County Community College, & Emily Berry, Dodge City Community College
Location: Kings B

What have experienced admissions counselors learned over the years that can't be found in a training manual? Join a panel of seasoned admissions counselors as they share the real-world knowledge they've gained throughout their careers in higher education. From recruiting strategies and building relationships to handling challenges, staying motivated, and navigating the ever-changing admissions landscape, panelists will offer candid perspectives, practical advice, and lessons learned along the way.

Practical Applications of AI in Enrollment Management: Turning Possibility into Practice

Presenter: Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
Facilitator: Wyatt Trombley
Location: Kings C

Practical Applications of AI in Enrollment Management: Turning Possibility into Practice Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping enrollment management, but what does that mean for admissions, registrar, financial aid, advising, and student services teams today? This session explores practical, real-world applications of AI that can improve efficiency, enhance student communication, support decision-making, and streamline routine processes. Through higher education examples and demonstrations, participants will learn where AI can provide immediate value, what challenges to consider, and how to begin implementing AI responsibly. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas and strategies for leveraging this evolving technology to better serve students and support institutional goals.

Mentorship and Meaningful Connections: Empowering Personal and Professional Growth

Presenter: Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center

Facilitator: Renee Olson

Location: Konza A

Admissions, recruitment, and registrar professionals thrive when supported by strong collegial relationships and meaningful professional connections. This session highlights the value of mentorship, collaboration, and peer support in fostering personal and professional growth. Participants will explore strategies for identifying effective mentors, building mutually beneficial relationships, and creating professional networks that encourage connection, growth, and long-term success throughout one's career journey.

The Importance of Accurate Data

Presenter: Michele August, Central Christian College & Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College

Facilitator: TBD

Location: Konza B

In the world of enrollment management, data isn't just numbers—it tells your institution's story. But what happens when that story has a few typos? In this session, registrars and admissions counselors will take a closer look at how accurate (and inaccurate) data shapes key reporting processes, including IPEDS submissions, National Student Clearinghouse reporting, and other federal and state reports.

Clearinghouse Connections: Key Updates on Sentinel 360, ETX, FVT/GE, and EAM Contact Management

Presenter: Andi Liner, National Student Clearinghouse

Facilitator: Kelley Brundage

Location: Konza C

Stay up to date on important National Student Clearinghouse services and initiatives. This session will provide brief updates on Sentinel 360, Electronic Transcript Exchange (ETX), Financial Value Transparency/Gainful Employment (FVT/GE), and Account Management. Attendees will learn about recent enhancements, available resources, and best practices for maintaining accurate contact information to ensure they receive critical communications, compliance updates, and service notifications. This session is ideal for higher education professionals looking to maximize the value of their Clearinghouse services while staying informed of key operational and regulatory updates.

Thursday, September 24th

3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Corporate Partner Fair and Break

3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Stretching the Egg: Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone to See, Think, and Work Differently

Presenters: Jon Armstrong, Fort Hays State University

Facilitator: Marissa Nuss

Location: Kings A

We all have natural ways of learning, thinking, solving problems, and getting things done—but what happens when we are asked to approach a challenge in a way that doesn't come naturally? In this interactive and engaging session, participants will explore their individual learning and working styles before putting those differences to the test through the “Stretching the Egg” activity. Discover how different perspectives can strengthen collaboration, spark creativity, and help teams approach challenges in new ways.

Building Stronger Transfer Pipelines in Kansas

Presenter: Deven Flegler, Emporia State University

Facilitator: Kittie O'Donnell

Location: Kings B

Transfer students are no longer a secondary enrollment strategy — they are a critical piece of the future of higher education. In this session, we will dive into innovative and practical approaches to recruiting transfer students in an increasingly competitive landscape. From building impactful community college partnerships to creating personalized outreach and reducing transfer barriers, attendees will explore strategies that move students from “considering” to “committed.”

Fraud on the Front Line: Lessons Learned in Proactive Fraud Prevention

Presenters: Sherri Hanysz, Ann Nordyke, Leslie Quinn, Johnson County Community College

Facilitator: Brette Hankin

Location: Kings C

Fraud in higher education continues to evolve, becoming more sophisticated, technology-enabled, and financially impactful. From fraudulent admission applications to financial aid identity theft schemes, institutions must move from reactive response to proactive prevention. This session shares the lessons learned at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) through our institution's efforts to combat fraud across the enrollment lifecycle. identified.

Ambassador Advisor Empower Hour!

Presenter: Terri Van Slyke, University of Kansas Medical Center

Location: Konza B

Join us for this Empower Hour as we dive into ways to effectively engage student ambassadors within your program. The Ambassador Advisor Empower Hour is designed to give Ambassador Advisors/Supervisors a chance to share challenges, celebrate wins, exchange best practices and campus tour strategies, and build meaningful connections within our KACRAO community. Whether you currently work with Student Ambassadors, are considering implementing a program, or want to start working with student ambassadors, this discussion will offer valuable insights.

Data-Driven Decisions: Exploring Workday Student Analytics and AI

Presenters: Jeff Rapp & Tracey Gaggioli, Workday

Facilitator: Ryan Grasser

Location: Konza C

Join Workday to discover how Workday Student transforms the higher education experience for registrars, admissions teams, enrollment leaders, and advisors. In this session, we will showcase intuitive dashboards, robust reporting tools, and advanced analytics designed to drive student success. You will also explore how embedded AI capabilities streamline administrative workflows, personalize academic advising, and optimize enrollment strategies. See firsthand how actionable insights can empower your institution to make proactive decisions.

Thursday, September 24th

Evening Activities

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Campus Tours - Kansas State University

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Past Presidents' Reception - Hilton Garden Inn, President's Suite

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Dinner and Entertainment - Explore the Little Apple

We want your feedback!

Complete a session evaluation using the QR code or through the app



Friday, September 25th

8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Road Warriors

Presenter: Joanna Lockwood, Fort Hays State University

Facilitator: Estefany Ruano

Location: Kings A

Welcome to Life on the Road! Intended for first year or newer Admissions Road Warriors, this session is about life outside of the Admissions Office. Discuss the upcoming CPC routes, how to handle high school visits and learn travel tips and tricks from those who have been on the road awhile.

Public College/University Registrar Roundtable

Moderator: Matt Skirven, University of Kansas

Location: Kings B

Private College/University Registrar Roundtable

Moderator: Michele August, Central Christian College

Location: Kings C

Enrollment Management & Senior Leadership Roundtable

Moderator: Bill Rinkenbaugh, Butler

Community College

Location: Konza A

Community & Technical College Registrar Roundtable

Moderator: Brette Hankin, Colby Community College

Location: Konza B

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Break

9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

Public University Admissions Roundtable

Moderator: Devan Flegler, Emporia State University

Location: Kings A

Private University Admissions Roundtable

Moderator: TBD

Location: Kings B

Community & Technical College Admissions Roundtable

Moderator: Michelle Mackeprang, Manhattan Area

Technical College

Location: O.K. Corral/Ballroom

Friday, September 25th

10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Break and Hotel Check-Out

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Closing Speaker

Presenter: Kevin Ingram

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closing Business Meeting

Location: Flint Hills Ballroom

Call to Order of Annual Meeting, Session Three

Call for Old Business: President, Eric Sanford, Friends University

Call for New Business: President, Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University

KACRAO Conference 2027 Invitation: Emporia State University & Flint Hills Technical College

Door Prizes: LAC Co-Chairs, Barb Wells & Eric Chace, Kansas State University

Conference Service Project — Flint Hills Breadbasket

This year's conference service project supports the **Flint Hills Breadbasket**. Attendees are encouraged to bring **nonperishable food items and/or hygiene items** to donate during the conference.



2026 Glenn Lygrisse KACRAO

Scholarship Recipients

Community College

Blair Bradford, Dodge City Community College

My name is Blair Bradford, and I recently graduated from Hodgeman County High School. This fall, I will attend Dodge City Community College to get my associate's degree in health science. After, I will continue my education to receive my Doctorate in Chiropractic. Throughout my life, I participated in many sports and received lots of chiropractic care to help me recover from injuries. I saw the difference it made in my life, and I knew I wanted to care for others in this same way someday. My goal is to help people become the best version of themselves they can be! Thank you, KACRAO, for awarding me this scholarship and for aiding me in achieving my goal with more financial stability.

Technical College

Shelby Dorzweiler, Fort Hays Tech North Central

My name is Shelby Dorzweiler, and I am graduating from Victoria High School on May 10, 2026. I plan to attend Fort Hays Tech North Central in the Business Office Management program this fall. I am involved in numerous activities and have held many leadership positions throughout high school. I have developed organization and teamwork skills by balancing schoolwork, activities, and part-time jobs, which will help me be successful in my future career. I am extremely grateful and appreciative of KACRAO for supporting me in my education and future goals!

Public University

Sydney Taylor, Kansas State University

My name is Sydney Taylor, and I am a recent graduate of Kiowa County High School in Greensburg, Ks. In the fall, I will be attending Kansas State University where I will be majoring in Music Education. My goal is to provide instrumental music education to underserved, small town communities whose fine arts programs require inspiration and new life, so that every child has access to a creative outlet. When children are given the opportunity and resources to experiment and express themselves, a spark is ignited that fuels a lifelong passion. Thank you, KACRAO for awarding me this scholarship and investing in the future of fine arts in small towns.

Private University

Makayla Halferty, Kansas Wesleyan University

My name is Makayla Halferty, and I am graduating from Salina South High School. Throughout my high school career, I have been involved in bowling, golf, soccer, swim, and captain of the dance team, as well as a competitive dancer at Della's Dance Studio. I will be attending Kansas Wesleyan University in the fall to major in psychology with hopes of becoming a mental health occupational therapist. I recently signed with the Coyote Dance and Bowling teams to continue my passions.

When being involved in sports, mental health should be a top priority. As a mental health occupational therapist, I will be able to help people cope with stressful situations. KACRAO, thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship and giving me support in my next chapter of life!

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Awards & Accolades

Laura Cross Distinguished Service Award

KACRAO's highest award is presented to the individual who has served in the Admissions, Records, Registrar, or Enrollment Management profession for a substantial portion of their career and made significant contributions to KACRAO.

1987	Hazel Schelper, Bethany College	2004	Neil Hoelting, Wichita State University
1987	Joe LeCluyse, Johnson County Community College	2005	Jim Shortt, Manhattan Area Technical College
1988	Dr. Lee Dodson, Washburn University	2006	Diane Barnes, Wichita State University
1988	Marge Blank, Kansas City Kansas Community College	2007	Joey Linn, Fort Hays State University
1989	Deborah Castrop, Colby Community College	2008	Glenn Lygrisse, Butler Community College
1990	Ralph Decker, Southwestern College	2009	Bill Wynne, Wichita State University
1990	Walter Gehlback, KU Medical Center	2010	Dr. Cindy Derritt, University of Kansas
1991	Dick Elkins, Kansas State University	2011	Rodney Frey, Bethel College
1991	James Parker, Pittsburg State University	2012	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University
1991	John Triggs, Washburn University	2013	Nikki Geier, Garden City Community College
1992	Don Stump, Kansas City Kansas Community College	2014	Melinda Roelfs, Pittsburg State University
1992	Ev Kohls, Butler Community College	2015	Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University
1992	Russ Wentworth (Ret.), Wichita State University	2016	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College
1993	Laura Cross, Wichita State University	2017	Kirsten Allen, Butler Community College
1994	Rosalie Pennington, Barton Community College	2018	Nancy Unruh, Garden City Community College
1996	Dick Elkins, Kansas State University	2019	Lori Crowther, Barton Community College
1997	Beth Tedrow, Garden City Community College	2020	Casey Wallace, University of Kansas
1998	Gary Royse, Butler Community College	2021	Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
1999	Gunile DeVault, Kansas State University	2022	Pete Belk, Johnson County Community College
2000	Lee Christensen, Pittsburg State University	2023	Tammy Tabor, Garden City Community College
2000	Pat Long, Johnson County Community College	2024	Jon Armstrong, Fort Hays State University
2000	Pat Mahon, Fort Hays State University	2025	Bill Rinkenbaugh, Butler Community College
2001	Ev Kohls, Butler Community College		
2002	Don Foster, Kansas State University		
2003	Paul Kyle, Butler Community College		

Beth Tedrow Outstanding New Professional Award

This award is presented to an individual who has been in the Admissions, Records, Registrar or Enrollment Management profession for less than six years and is an active KACRAO member having served on at least one association committee.

The recipient must also be involved in one or more campus committees. This award recognizes new professionals for achievements, involvement and potential in admissions and registration.

1999	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University	2013	Dr. Brent Yoder, Hesston College
2000	Chris Meiers, University of Kansas Medical Center	2014	Maggie Harris, Barton Community College
2001	Jon Armstrong, Seward County Community College	2015	Mandy Tetrick, Butler Community College
2002	Chad Steinkamp, Butler Community College	2016	Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College
2003	Gina Helget, Johnson County Community College	2017	April Cozine, Wichita State University
2004	Todd Moore, Hutchinson Community College	2018	Chris Neary, Highland Community College
2005	Ben Schears, Cowley College	2019	Megan Chambers, Butler Community College
2006	Sherri Conard, Butler Community College	2020	Rachel Cronn, Fort Hays State University
2007	Kala Steffen, Barton Community College	2021	Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University
2008	Jayre Lee, Garden City Community College	2022	Bryan Crouch, Flint Hills Technical College
2009	Mysti Byrd, Pittsburg State University	2023	Brandi Brenner, Pittsburg State University
2010	Tony Fuentez, Pittsburg State University	2024	Andy Bohn, Cowley College
2011	Amy Jo Troyer, Emporia State University	2025	Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University
2012	Tana Cooper, Barton County Community College		

Awards & Accolades

Richard N. Elkins Special Service Award

This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and special dedication to KACRAO by recognizing active members who have made, or are continuing to make, significant contributions to KACRAO.

1988	Dick Elkins, Kansas State University	2008	Carla Rausch, Washburn University
1992	Gunile DeVault, Kansas State University	2009	Shirley Rueb, Newman University
1994	Louise Cummings-Simmons, Bethany College	2010	Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University
1995	Don Foster, Kansas State University	2011	Ev Kohls, Butler Community College
1995	Rich Morrell, University of Kansas	2012	Dr. Lee Furbeck, University of Kansas
1996	Jerry Hedrick, Seward County Community College	2013	Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
1997	Richard N. Elkins, Kansas State University	2014	Nancy Unruh, Garden City Community College
1998	Hoyt Sunderland, Wichita West High School	2015	Lori Crowther, Barton Community College
1998	Mel Schremmer, Phillipsburg High School	2016	Pete Belk, Johnson County Community College
1999	Glenn Lygrisse, Tabor College	2017	Tammy Tabor, Garden City Community College
2000	Joyce Reger, Wichita Public Schools	2018	Bobby Gandu, Wichita State University
2001	Don Foster, Kansas State University	2019	Casey Wallace, University of Kansas
2002	Ange Peterson, Pittsburg State University	2020	Maggie Harris, Barton Community College
2003	Bill Wynne, Wichita State University	2021	April Cozine, Wichita State University
2004	Melinda Roelfs, Pittsburg State University	2022	Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas School of Medicine
2005	Diane Barnes, Wichita State University	2023	Tana Cooper, Barton Community College
2005	Rich Morrell, University of Kansas	2024	Chad Steinkamp, Wichita State University
2006	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University	2025	Andy Bohn, Cowley College
2006	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College		
2007	Beth Tedrow, Garden City Community College		

Ev Kohls Equal Opportunity Award

This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to ensuring access to higher education for underrepresented student populations.

1988	Marshall Jackson, University of Kansas	2007	Mary Collins, Pittsburg State University
1989	Mary Navarro, Wichita Public Schools	2008	Itzel Rodriguez, Garden City Community College
1990	Lydia Gonzales, Garden City Community College	2009	Alicia Martinez Newell, Wichita State University
1991	Lavonna Spencer, Wichita State University	2010	Precious Porras, University of Kansas
1992	Rudy Ortiz, Dodge City Community College	2011	Dr. Christie Brungardt, Fort Hays State University
1993	Alice Brummell-Jenkins, Sumner Academy	2012	Eric Wilkinson, Kauffman Foundation
1994	John Augusto, Washburn/Garden City Community College	2013	Maria Hernandez, Dodge City High School
1994	Patrice Olysas, Newton High School	2014	Cara McNorton, Kennedy Elementary
1995	Ed Franklin, Johnson County Community College	2015	Kaye Monk-Morgan, Wichita State University
1996	Dwight Jones, Wichita High School South	2016	Baudillo Hernandez, Barton Community College
1997	Reverend Walter, Simpson Minister	2017	Alicia Sanchez, Wichita State University
1998	Dr. Placido Hoernike, Fort Hays State University	2018	Hector Martinez, Garden City Community College
1999	Alice Jenkins, Sumner Academy	2019	Kyle Ellison, Real Men, Real Heroes, Inc.
2000	Grady Landrum, Wichita State University	2021	Brandon Gay, Colby Community College
2002	Debbie Lloyd, Dodge City High School	2022	Dr. Tankersley-Bankhead, KC Scholars
2003	Holly Dressler, Johnson County Community College	2023	Dr. Alan Bearman, Washburn University
2004	Melinda Lewis, El Centro, Inc.	2024	Dr. Eric Roberts, Dodge City Community College
2005	Darryl Neighbor, Wichita State University	2025	Dr. Melissa Peterson, University of Kansas
2006	Kim Starks, Hutchinson Community College		

Awards & Accolades

Diane Barnes Mentor Award

This award is presented to an individual who has served as a dedicated and inspiring mentor to Admissions and Registration professionals.

2010	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University
2011	Nikki Geier, Garden City Community College
2012	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College
2013	Kirsten Allen, Butler Community College
2014	Dr. Joey Linn, Fort Hays State University
2015	Debbie Greve, Pittsburg State University
2016	Hugo Perez, Hutchinson Community College
2017	Corbin Strobel, Hutchinson Community College

2018	Chad Steinkamp, Wichita State University
2019	Tammy Tabor, Garden City Community College
2020	Leslie Quinn, Johnson County Community College
2021	Jon Armstrong, Fort Hays State University
2022	Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University
2023	Lori Crowther, Barton Community College
2024	Christina Long, Hutchinson Community College
2025	Nancy Unruh, Garden City Community College

Legacy Award

This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant impact to KACRAO and higher education and is now retiring from the profession.

2022	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College
2023	Corbin Strobel, Hutchinson Community College

2024	Neal Hoelting, Wichita State University
2025	Lori Crowther, Barton Community College



Awards & Accolades

Certificate of Appreciation

The Certificate of Appreciation is presented to an individual who has demonstrated significant support of the Association's activities and mission.

1984	Bill Smith, Salina High School	2004	Cheryl Bowen, Parsons High School
1984	John Ewert, Tabor College	2004	Chris Meiers, University of Missouri
1984	Rich Davis, Wichita State University	2004	Gary Murphy, Cherryvale High School
1985	Hugh Haire, Allen County Community College	2004	Larry Hill, Chanute High School
1985	Ray McKinney, Pratt Community College	2004	Melba Chagan, Altoona-Midway High School
1985	Russell Graham (posthumous), Coffeyville Comm. College	2004	Susan Cooper, Kansas State University
1986	Irene Feak, Wichita State University	2005	Brad Young, Bluestem High School
1986	William C. Cummins, Butler Community College	2005	Ken Valentine, Douglass High School
1986	Zelma Farr, Fort Hays State University	2005	Pam Lloyd, Riverton High School
1987	Bill Scott (posthumous), Cowley Community College	2007	Ann Koch, Maize High School
1987	Dr. C. Ray Baird, Pittsburg State University	2007	Debi Hudson, St. Teresa's Academy
1987	Jerry Snyder, Scott City High School	2007	Karen Kreutzer, Campus High School
1988	Jim Warren, Derby High School	2008	Lynn Perez, Pratt Community College
1988	Lyle Welch, Holton High School	2008	Ryan Ruda, Garden City Community College
1989	Cheryl Thalheim, McPherson High School	2010	Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
1989	Keith Rickner, McPherson High School	2010	Chris Meiers, University of Kansas Medical Center
1990	Bob Blackman, Olathe High School	2010	Fonda Briles, University of Kansas Medical Center
1990	Bob Ingel, Leavenworth High School	2010	Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University
1990	Stanley Henderson, AACRAO Representative	2010	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University
1991	Horton Flaming, Augusta High School	2010	Joy Mildfelt,
1991	Mary Chubb, Baldwin City High School	2010	LeRoy Rooker, AACRAO
1992	Dr. Ed King, Shawnee Mission East High School	2010	Melinda Roelfs, Pittsburg State University
1993	Larry Fowler, Garden City Community College	2010	Penny Cook, Pittsburg State University
1993	Randy Burwell, Iola High School	2011	Cheryl Semmel, USA/Kansas
1994	John Burgardt, Topeka High School	2011	Jim Flax, Wichita Public Schools
1995	Helen Anderson, Chanute High School	2011	Teresa Maly, Emporia High School
1995	Mark Bandre', Tabor College	2013	Casey Wallace, Johnson County Community College
1996	Joyce Reger, Wichita Public Schools	2013	Mert Barrows, Fort Scott Community College
1997	Susan Johnson, Oswego High School	2014	Brian McDow, University of Kansas
1998	Don Foster, Kansas State University	2014	Casey Wallace, University of Kansas
1998	Jody Schlup, Kansas State University	2014	Dr. Dennis Day, Johnson County Community College
1998	Joy Moeckel, Fort Hays State University	2014	Dr. Edward Berger, Hutchinson Community College
1998	Marco Rivera, Kansas State University	2014	Dr. Edward Hammond, Fort Hays State University
1999	Allen Fitzgerald, Sacred Heart High School (Salina)	2014	Dr. Lee Furbeck, University of Kansas
1999	John Wilkerson, Flint Hills High School	2014	Randy Myers, Hutchinson Community College
1999	Johnny Roy, Labette County High School	2016	April Cozine, Wichita State University
1999	Kay Dunning, Erie High School	2017	Benjamin Herron, MyMajors
1999	Marvel Castor, Russell High School	2017	Elaine Henrie, Emporia State University
1999	Pat Atkins, Hugoton High School	2017	Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College
2000	Barbara Schountz, Pittsburg State University	2017	Rachel Cronn, Fort Hays State University
2000	Brenda Selman, University of Kansas	2018	Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
2000	Lisa Pinamonti, University of Kansas	2018	Barbara Nagel, Kansas State University
2000	Lynnette Brummett, Kansas State University	2019	Lai-L Daugherty, Butler Community College
2000	Marylinn Peaslee, KSCA	2023	Lori Gibbon, Newman University
2000	Pat Flynn, Fort Scott Community College	2023	Steve Luoma, Washburn University
2000	Tom Green, Newman University	2024	Bill Rinkenbaugh, Butler Community College
2000	Victoria Jackson, Wichita NE Magnet High School	2025	Ben Schears, Fort Hays State University
2001	Karl Kandt, Emporia State University		
2001	Melinda Fiken, Colby Community College		
2002	Dave Zachman, Russell High School		
2002	Don Foster, Kansas State University		
2002	Don Wedel, Flint Hills High School		
2002	Patt Hess, University of Kansas Medical Center		
2002	Sharon Mangels, El Dorado High School		
2003	Lanny Carpenter, Riley County High School		

Awards & Accolades

Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership is awarded to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association as an active member, but is no longer eligible for institutional membership. Examples of those who might be most strongly considered for honorary membership would be individuals who have left the profession, including recent retirees.

1984	Chuck Gavin, CEEB	2002	Don Foster, Kansas State University
1984	Don Davis, ACT	2004	Chris Meiers, University of Missouri
1985	Leon Burch, Bethany College	2005	Ange Peterson, Pittsburg State University
1992	Don Stump, Kansas City Kansas Community College	2005	Pat Robinson, Emporia State University
1992	Dr. Lee Dodson, Washburn University	2005	Roger Schieferecke, Fort Hays State University
1992	Ev Kohls, Butler Community College	2007	Forest Smith, Cowley College
1992	Russ Wentworth (Ret.), Wichita State University	2007	Lee Christensen, Pittsburg State University
1994	Jan Jantzen, Emporia State University	2008	Beth Tedrow, Garden City Community College
1995	Bill Schulte, Emporia State University	2008	Betty Kruse, Colby Community College
1995	James Kellerman, Fort Hays State University	2010	Dr. Pat Long, Baker University
1995	Ken Snow, Baker University	2010	Gunile DeVault, Kansas State University
1995	Sister Dorothy, Saint Mary College	2011	Glenn Lygrisse, Butler Community College
1995	Wally Carlson, Cloud County Community College	2011	Julie Katz, Kansas State University
1996	Deborah Boulware, University of Kansas	2011	William E. Wynne, Wichita State University
1996	Louise Cummings-Simmons, Bethany College/Baker University	2013	Nikki Geier, Garden City Community College
1997	Richard N. Elkins, Kansas State University	2014	Deanne Duerksen, Tabor College
1997	Theron Johnson, Colby Community College	2014	Dr. Carla Rasch, Washburn University
1999	Barbara Dawes, Kansas State University	2016	Jayre (Lee) Zimmerman, Garden City Community College
2000	Barbara Schountz, Pittsburg State University	2020	Paul Kyle, Johnson County Community College
2000	Brenda Selman, University of Kansas	2021	Larry Moeder, Kansas State University
2000	Pat Flynn, Fort Scott Community College	2022	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College
2000	Pat Mahon, Fort Hays State University	2024	Megan Chambers, Kansas State University
2000	Peggy Hoytal, Donnelly College	2025	Marcia Miller, Bethel College
2000	Tom Green, Newman University	2025	Rodney Worsham, Southwestern College
2001	Joel Keller, Hutchinson Community College		

Conference Hosts & Presidents

Past Conference Hosts & Presidents

<u>Year</u>	<u>Conference Host</u>	<u>President</u>
1960	University of Wichita	Thelma Book, Wesleyan University
1961	Kansas Wesleyan University	Evelyn Clark, Friends University
1962	University of Kansas	Worth Fletcher, University of Wichita
1963	McPherson College	C.E. Taylor, Hutchinson Junior College
1964	Kansas State College of Pittsburg	Margaret Bloomquist, Bethany College
1965	Emporia State University	James J. Lewis, Kansas State University
1966	Sterling College	Carl Fahrback, Wichita State University
1967	Southwestern College	William Kelly, University of Kansas
1968	Washburn University	E. Douglas Norton, Kansas State College of Pittsburg Murrel
1969	Hutchinson Junior College	Snyder, Southwestern College
1970	Fort Hays State University	Clint Weber, Emporia State University
1971	Sacred Heart College	Sister Anastasia Jilg, Sacred Heart College
1972	Bethel College	Robert L. Boring, Kansas City Community College
1973	Emporia State University	Laura M. Cross, Wichita State University
1974	Johnson County Community College	V. James Sherer, Dodge City Community College
1975	Wichita State University	Lee Christensen, Kansas State College of Pittsburg
1976	Kansas State College of Pittsburg	Vernell Waltner, Bethel College
1977	Kansas State University	Dennis Michaelis, Colby Community College
1978	Kansas City Kansas Community College	Jerry Dallam, Kansas State University
1979	Dodge City Community College	James Parker, Pittsburg State University
1980	Washburn University	Beth Tedrow, Garden City Community College
1981	Wichita State University	Russell Wentworth, Wichita State University
1982	University of Kansas	Richard Elkins, Kansas State University
1983	Hutchinson Community College	John Triggs, Washburn University
1984	Fort Hays State University	Don Foster, Kansas State University
1985	Johnson County Community College	Everett Kohls, Butler County Community College
1986	Kansas State University	Debbie (Castrop) Boulware, Hutchinson Community College
1987	Dodge City Community College	Jan Jantzen, Emporia State University
1988	Wichita State University	Carla Rausch, Washburn University
1989	Pittsburg State University	Don Stump, Kansas City Kansas Community College
1990	KCTI and Kansas Wesleyan	Bill Rinkenbaugh, University of Kansas Medical School Barbara
1991	Emporia State University	Dawes, Kansas State University
1992	Garden City Community College	Patricia Long, Johnson County Community College
1993	Hutchinson Community College	Bill Wynne, Wichita State University
1994	Barton County Community College	Louise Cummings-Simmons, Bethany College
1995	University of Kansas	Glenn Lygrisse, Tabor College
1996	Wichita State University	Paul Kyle, Butler County Community College
1997	Pittsburg State University	Pat Mahon, Fort Hays State University
1998	Fort Hays State University	Ange Peterson, Pittsburg State University
1999	Johnson County Community College	Joel Keller, Hutchinson Community College
2000	McPherson College	Diane Barnes, Wichita State University
2001	Kansas State University	Joey Linn, Fort Hays State University
2002	Dodge City Community College	Lisa Miller, Pratt Community College
2003	Emporia State University	Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University
2004	University of Kansas	MargE Shelley, Johnson County Community College
2005	Butler County Community College	Rich Morrell, University of Kansas
2006	Hutchinson Community College	Jon Armstrong, Seward County Community College
2007	Pittsburg State University	Gina Crabtree, Wichita State University
2008	Garden City Community College	Melinda Roelfs, Pittsburg State University

Conference Hosts & Presidents

Past Conference Hosts & Presidents

<u>Year</u>	<u>Conference Host</u>	<u>President</u>
2009	Wichita State University	Chris Meiers, University of Kansas Medical Center
2010	Washburn University	Ben Shears, Cowley Community College
2011	Fort Hays State University	Aaron Hamilton, Wichita State University
2012	Johnson County Community College	Nancy Unruh, Garden City Community College
2013	Dodge City Community College	Pete Belk, Johnson County Community College
2014	University of Kansas	Kirsten Allen, Butler Community College
2015	Bethany College, Bethel College, Hesston College, Central Christian College of Kansas, Kansas Wesleyan University, McPherson College, Sterling College, Tabor College	Kirsten Allen, Butler Community College
2016	Kansas State University	Maggie Harris, Barton Community College
2017	Emporia State University	Casey Wallace, University of Kansas
2018	Garden City Community College	Lynnette Hilty, Hutchinson Community College
2019	Wichita State University	Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College
2020	Virtual	Tana Cooper, Barton Community College
2021	Colby Community College	April Cozine, Wichita State University
2022	Johnson County Community College	Megan Chambers, Kansas State University
2023	Washburn University	Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College
2024	Dodge City Community College	Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center
2025	University of Kansas	Brandi Brenner, University of Kansas Medical Center
2026	Kansas State University	Eric Sanford, Friends University

Future Conference Hosts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Conference Host</u>
2027	Emporia State University
2028	Colby Community College
2029	Private Colleges (Wichita)

Conference Service Project — Flint Hills Breadbasket

This year's conference service project supports the **Flint Hills Breadbasket**. Attendees are encouraged to bring **nonperishable food items and/or hygiene items** to donate during the conference.



Save The Date!



Join us for KACRAO 2027!



This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features 20 evenly spaced, horizontal blue lines running across the entire width of the page. The lines are thin and consistent in color, providing a guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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