



THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

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2026 KACRAO Conference

September 23-25, 2026

**Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center
Manhattan, KS**

Registration and hotel information can
be found at:

<https://www.kacrao.org/kacrao-annual-conference>



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

Manhattanhappiness

KACRAO Kernel:

From KACRAO Connections to Family

BY TERRI VAN SLYKE

KACRAO Vice President for Professional Development



Welcome to August, KACRAO!

We are a little over a month away from the Annual Conference in Manhattan, and we look forward to seeing both familiar faces and new ones. One of the things I enjoyed most about the Annual Conference is the opportunity to connect and build relationships.

When I attended my first KACRAO Annual Conference in 2006, I was a young, bright-eyed admissions counselor eager to make a difference in students' lives and change the world. What I did not realize at the time was how much KACRAO would impact my life. Through this organization, I have met incredible individuals who have become trusted colleagues, mentors, and lifelong friends.

For those of you who are new to the organization, welcome to the KACRAO family. KACRAO can be whatever you choose to make it. It is a place where you can build meaningful connections and develop lifelong friendships. It is a place to grow professionally as an admissions officer or registrar. These are the people who show up when you need them most, celebrate your successes, and offer support during life's most challenging moments.

When I left Kansas for Penn State in 2011, I never imagined I would return eleven years later. Yet when I announced I was coming back, some of the very first people to reach out were my former KACRAO colleagues. They welcomed me home, offered help, and encouraged me to become involved again. Their kindness reminded me just how special this organization truly is.

Last year, during the Annual Conference, my mother passed away. While I was unable to be there with my father when she passed, I was surrounded by another kind of family. The support, compassion, and care I received from my KACRAO family during one of the most difficult moments of my life is something I will forever be grateful for.

Whether you are involved for one year, twenty-plus years, or step away and later return, KACRAO will continue to support you. Make the most of the opportunities to be involved this year. Network. Build relationships. Learn from one another. Grow both professionally and personally.

Challenge: At this year's Annual Conference, introduce yourself to three people you do not know. You never know which conversation might lead to a lifelong friendship, a professional opportunity, or a lasting impact on your life.

If you have a suggestion for a KACRAO Kernel, please contact Terri Van Slyke at professionaldevelopment@kacrao.org.

Back to School Memes!

When the student who ghosted you all summer and hasn't completed any of their checklist items shows up to orientation



When the slide goes from "Syllabus" to "Lecture Chapter 1" on the first day of classes



#KACRAO Voices

Got something to celebrate at your institution?
A win, a resource, or a wellness tip worth
sharing?

 Send it our way at kyuen@butlercc.edu and you
might see it featured in next month's newsletter!



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