



THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



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KACRAO @ AACRAO

BY ERIC SANFORD

KACRAO President, Registrar, Friends University

Attending the 2026 AACRAO Annual Meeting in New Orleans was, once again, a valuable opportunity for networking, learning, and expanding my knowledge of higher education. AACRAO is always an energizing experience, and I would encourage anyone to attend the annual conference at least once.

One of the highlights is connecting with colleagues from across the country, and even around the world. It's reassuring (and sometimes amusing) to realize that, regardless of institution or location, many of us share similar challenges and successes. As registrars and admissions officers, we often find ourselves commiserating over SIS and LMS systems, administrative hurdles, and faculty processes. At the same time, these conversations provide meaningful insights into how other institutions approach their work, giving us ideas to bring back to our campuses, whether that's implementing new practices or simplifying existing ones.

This year's sessions covered several timely and important topics, including the growing use of artificial intelligence, transfer and articulation, evolving government regulations, and leadership within the registrar and admission offices. Each provided practical takeaways and fresh perspectives.

I also had the opportunity to co-lead a pre-conference session with colleagues from State and Regional (S&R) associations on conference planning. The session was well attended and sparked great discussion, as participants shared ideas on how their associations operate and support their members. Additionally, our own Brandi Brenner co-led a session on increasing engagement, combating burnout, and building leadership within S&Rs. She did an outstanding job.

Finally, it was wonderful to see a strong KACRAO presence at our Tuesday evening reception. Eighteen attendees gathered at *Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar & Restaurant* to enjoy great New Orleans cuisine and even better company. It was a memorable evening reconnecting with colleagues and enjoying the vibrant atmosphere of the city.

I encourage anyone interested to consider attending the next AACRAO Annual Meeting, which will be held in Long Beach, California, April 4-7, 2027.

KACRAO Kernel: Servant Leadership

BY TERRI VAN SLYKE

KACRAO Vice President for Professional Development



KACRAO Kernel is a monthly professional development column designed to provide members with important leadership tips to plant, grow, cultivate, and use in your professional and personal life.

During our most recent Executive Council meeting, KACRAO President Eric Sanford asked us to name a leader we most admire and would consider our leadership hero. For me, the answer was simple. My leadership hero is Jesus. The values that guide my leadership are rooted in His teachings and the principles of love, humility, service, and selflessness. Treating others with respect, leading with compassion, modeling humility and sacrifice, and viewing people (not the outcome) as the mission forms the blueprint of leadership that I continually strive to emulate. This is why I describe my leadership style as servant leadership.

Servant leadership has become a widely embraced leadership philosophy. The modern term gained popularity in the 1970s after Robert K. Greenleaf published the essay, “The Servant as Leader.” Since then, countless books, presentations, and training programs have promised to teach the essential skills needed to become a servant leader.

However, the term servant leadership has, at times, lost its authenticity, becoming more of a buzzword than a lived practice. This realization prompted me to pause and reflect: Who am I truly serving? Am I serving others, or am I serving myself? Am I leading with humility, placing others before my own interests, and genuinely seeing those entrusted to my care?

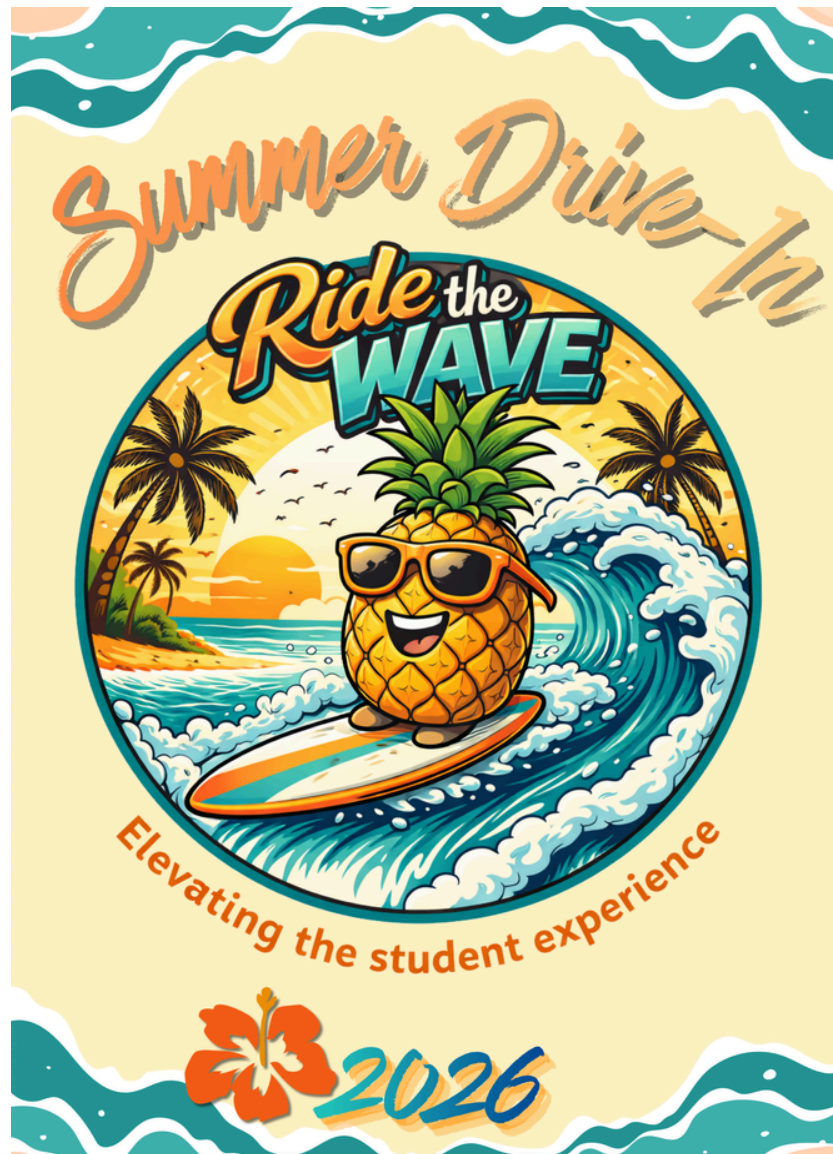
Ultimately, servant leadership is not about a title, a philosophy, or a label. Servant leadership is about our daily choices as a leader. It is revealed in how we show up for others, how we listen, how we lead when no one is watching, and how we place people at the center of our work. For me, this ongoing reflection serves as both a reminder and a challenge.

Reflection: Who is your leadership hero? Why?

Challenge: Check your heart posture behind your leadership. Ask yourself the following questions: who are you serving — others or self? Are your decisions and actions reflecting this?

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

KACRAO Summer Drive-In Workshop



Join us at the 2026 KACRAO Summer Drive-In Workshop, "Ride the Wave: Elevating the Student Experience", on July 14, 2026 at Hutchinson Community College, Stringer Fine Arts Center.

More information and link to register:

<https://www.kacrao.org/summer-drive-in-workshop>

KACRAO Awards Nominations



Nominations are still open for KACRAO's Annual Awards and Accolades
Let's celebrate the incredible people who make our community shine!

Do you know someone who consistently goes above and beyond - for KACRAO, their students or their institution? Someone whose dedication, passion, and hard work truly inspire those around them - whether it's a mentor who's guided you, a colleague who motivates you, or a member who always goes the extra mile. Now is your chance to highlight their impact and show your appreciation.

Submitting a nomination is quick and easy - visit our website and share why your nominee deserves to be honored. Deadline for submissions is Friday, June 12th.

For more information about our awards or see past recipients, explore our Awards and Accolades page.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to bbrenner2@kumc.edu.

Let's recognize and celebrate those who help build KACRAO and its members!

Brandi Brenner
2026 KACRAO Past President
Awards and Accolades Chair



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

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Graduation Fun!

IDENTIFY THE KANSAS CELEBRITY



Shawnee Misson West
Class of 1994



Leavenworth High
School Class of 1979



Wichita Southeast Class
of 1969

Olathe North Class of
2001

Russell High Class of 1941



Answers: Jason Sudeikis, Melissa Etheridge, Darren Sproles, Kirstie Alley, Bob Dole

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

Please review your membership roster

Changes to your institution's membership?
Log into the KACRAO site and visit the Member Center
to submit additions or removals for your institution

KACRAO.ORG

x x x

Questions?
membership@kacrao.org



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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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