



# THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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## *AI and ChatGPT in Higher Education*

BY MIA HOWARD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and tools like ChatGPT are transforming higher education by enhancing learning, improving accessibility, and smoothing out administrative tasks. ChatGPT provides valuable support to students and educators. It offers instant tutoring, personalized study assistance, and real-time feedback on assignments. Students can use AI to better understand complex topics, generate study materials, and refine their writing, making learning more efficient and engaging. For educators, AI helps with grading, content creation, and curriculum development, allowing them to focus more on student interactions. Additionally, AI-powered platforms provide adaptive learning experiences, adjusting content to match individual learning styles and needs. This personalized approach benefits students who may require additional support or have language barriers. AI also enhances academic research by quickly analyzing data, summarizing information, and identifying relevant sources, making it a powerful tool for scholars.

Beyond academics, universities are using AI to improve administrative efficiency. Chatbots assist with student inquiries, enrollment, and campus services. That way it reduces response times and improves student support. Institutions must establish guidelines to ensure AI is used responsibly while encouraging critical thinking and originality. Educators also need to adapt their teaching methods to incorporate AI effectively. According to Educational Technology, "it is imperative to address AI in education now to realize key opportunities, prevent and migrate emergent risks, and tackle unintended consequences".

While AI is a powerful tool, it is not a replacement for traditional education. Instead, it serves as a complement, enhancing learning outcomes and advance administrative concerns. As AI continues to evolve, institutions must find a balance between technology and human-driven education. By embracing AI responsibly, universities can equip students with the skills needed for an increasingly AI-driven world while maintaining the essential role of educators in fostering critical thinking and intellectual growth.

# *Meet the Publications Committee*

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**Wynnter Colston – Chair**  
**Neosho County Community College**

Hello KACRAO! I have been at NCCC for going on five years and have been apart of KACRAO almost four. I have and continue to participate on the Publications, Program, and CPC committees as well as the Apply Kansas team. Fun Facts about me: I have a sweet eight month old daughter, Wrynn, and recently got married in December! Formally Wynnter Snyder :)



**Courtney Carlton**  
**Kansas State University**

KACRAO family, hello! I have been at K-State in a variety of roles for 10 years now and have been an active participating member of KACRAO for three years. This will be my second year serving on the publication committee! Fun facts about me, I love my title of cat/dog mom and being “aunt Court” to my 5 nieces and nephews!



**Carrie Fink**  
**Kansas State University**

This is my 15th year at Kansas State University, with almost all of those, being in the Registrar's Office. Each day brings continuous opportunity to learn and reimagine processes and procedures, which keeps me coming back for more. This year is my first year on the publications committee and looking forward to meeting new people and getting involved in KAACRAO in a different way. Outside of work our family enjoys hiking throughout Kansas and trying new restaurants along the way.



**Mia Howard**  
**Labette Community College**

Hi KACRAO Members! I am the Admissions Recruiter at Labette Community College. This is my first year in KACRAO, and I'm excited to serve on the Publications Committee and connect with others in the organization. One of my goals is to join an additional committee to further my involvement. A fun fact about me: I'm a big fan of live music and look forward to seeing Post Malone, Treaty Oak Revival, and Nickelback this year!

# Meet the Publications Committee

cont.



**Lindsey McClain**

University of Kansas School of Nursing

I am excited to be joining KACRAO for my first year! I joined the Student Affairs team at the KU School of Nursing in July 2024 as an Admission Specialist. I have been in higher education and admissions for 5 years and look forward to learning more from y'all! Fun Fact: I have lived in 3 different states in 5 years (Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri), but I'm originally from Louisiana! Let me know if you want any Cajun recipes!



**Charles Peitsch**

Benedictine

Charles is the Registrar at Benedictine College since October 2022, transitioning from the Assistant Registrar. Previous to that, Charles worked for DST Systems/SSNC in downtown Kansas City, MO for over 20 years. Charles and his wife Sarah have six children, and he enjoys spending time with his family (obviously), reading, and watching good movies.



**Nevada Acheson**

Fort Hays State University



**Elizabeth Kitterman**

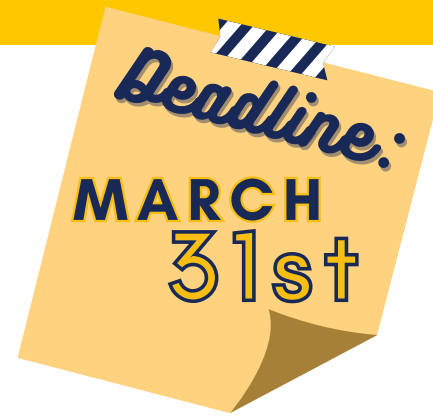
Labette Community College



**Kendra Morgan**

Pratt Community College

# *Nominations for 25-26 Executive Council*



Nominations for the 2025-2026 KACRAO Executive Council are now open. Nominations available for the following positions:

- President Elect
- Vice President for Association Services/Membership Coordinator
- Secretary
- Admissions Advocate-At-Large
- Records/Registration Advocate-At-Large

A full description of the position duties can be found in the KACRAO Constitution. The Nomination form can be found under the Member Center of the [www.kacrao.org](http://www.kacrao.org) website.

## *Legislative Updates*

BY WYNNTER COLSTON

As of February 6, 2025, several legislative developments in Kansas are impacting higher education institutions:

### **Legislative Committees and Bills**

The House Committee on Higher Education Budget, chaired by Rep. Steven K. Howe, is actively reviewing several bills:

- **HB2375:** Proposes the establishment of temporary candidacy baccalaureate and master's social work licenses, detailing requirements and associated fees.
- **HB2460:** Introduced by the Committee on Higher Education Budget, this bill seeks to prohibit postsecondary educational institutions from certain actions related to diversity, equity, or inclusion in admissions, employment, and faculty matters. It includes provisions for civil remedies, penalties, and mandates reporting to the legislature.
- **HB2514:** Revises school district open enrollment procedures to prioritize Kansas residents.
- **SB438:** Establishes the Kansas education opportunity scholarship program.

These bills are under consideration and may influence policies and operations within higher education institutions across the state.

### **Kansas Board of Regents Reports**

The Kansas Board of Regents has released annual reports on the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, detailing the program's impact and financial allocations. These reports are essential for understanding the state's investment in higher education and the effectiveness of scholarship programs in promoting access and affordability.

These legislative updates reflect Kansas' ongoing efforts to enhance higher education funding, policy, and infrastructure, aiming to improve educational outcomes and support economic growth.

# *Updates from Executive Council*

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On the frozen Kansas prairie, nature joins the rest of us for the movement towards Spring. Similarly, the KACRAO Executive Council waits to see how the seeds planted in previous actions bear fruit for all members in 2025. As they reconvene on February 25th, the current Executive Council seeks to enhance engagement, connectedness, and organizational transparency; while staying current with developments and opportunities in higher education.

Here are some things we can look forward to as a result:

The Executive Council is launching what Brandi Brenner, President, referred to as “Leadership Ladder or Leadership Learning” sessions. In March and April, these virtual meetings are meant to share information about KACRAO service opportunities and insight into the leadership structure. If you want to know how to get more involved in the organization, or if you think serving in a leadership position is your calling, you won’t want to miss these sessions.

What’s more, Brenner said the Council intends to host a virtual meeting in late summer to preview the KACRAO Annual Conference, held in Lawrence this year. This inaugural meeting is designed to set expectations and generate excitement for the Annual Conference, which is the one time a year when we all get together in person.

In another strategic move to be transparent and foster engagement, the Admissions and Registrar Advocates-At-Large are preparing to host bi-monthly or quarterly virtual meetings for their respective colleagues. These meetings are designed to foster conversations about KACRAO actions and industry developments, answer questions, and provide network opportunities.

For those of you who just want to digest data and information but don’t have the flexibility to attend virtual events, you can still catch up on what’s happening at KACRAO on the website. There you can see the KACRAO Strategic Plan, review meeting minutes, and examine the budget to see how KACRAO is using its funds to make the organization better and provide great opportunities to the membership.

With all these developments, it sounds like 2025 is shaping up to be a productive year for KACRAO—one that will foster growth, connection, and engagement among its members.

# Upcoming in 2025

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February 14th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

## Executive Council

February 25th

April 29th

June 17th

September 23rd



## KACRAO 2025

**IDEAS & INNOVATION: ADAPTING TO CHANGE**

**Mark your calendar NOW!**

DoubleTree Convention Center in Lawrence, KS.

Hotel Information will be posted in May/June.

Registration opens in June.

Register before September 6th to avoid a late fee.



**SUBMIT**  
*a session proposal*  
You don't have to present. Just  
share a topic you'd like to learn  
more about



# What's Next?

In the next issue of The Current you  
can look forward to reading about:

TLDR emails and how to summarize for  
those with short attention spans

# #KACRAO ShoutOuts

Have something going on at your institution you would like to share? Maybe a wellness tip or advice you think your fellow KACRAO members might benefit from? Please share it with us by emailing [wcolston@neoshu.edu](mailto:wcolston@neoshu.edu).



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