



THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, It is my honor to serve as KACRAO President for the upcoming term, and I look forward to the opportunity to collectively lead our organization with our Executive Council, Coordinators, and Chairs. Together, we'll strive to work in accordance with our updated strategic plan and address the needs of our membership.

I'd like to recognize and thank those individuals that contributed to an impactful 2023-2024 term:

Past President: Brenda Carmichael, Flint Hills Technical College

VP for Association Services: Allie Hammack, Manhattan Christian College

VP for Outreach: Brandon Burke, Cowley College

VP for Professional Development: Eric Sanford, Friends University

Secretary: Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University

Treasurer: Casey Wallace, University of Kansas

Admissions Advocate-at-Large: Andy Bohn, Cowley College

Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large: Christina Long, Hutchinson Community College

Corporate Liaison Coordinator: Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas Medical Center

Historian/Constitution Coordinator: Kirsten Allen, Butler Community College

Planning for College Coordinator: Tyler Allen, Independence Community College

Technology Coordinator: Megan Chambers, Formerly of Kansas State University

CPC Committee Chair: Amy Morris, Neosho County Community College

LAC Co-Chairs: Emily Witherspoon and Michelle Richardson, Dodge City Community College

Publications Committee Chair: Melissa Farmer, Salina Area Technical College

Scholarship Committee Chair: Melissa Conley, Wichita State University

Summer Drive-In Committee Chairs: Denise Hoeffner, Salina Area Technical College

Audit Committee Chair: Tana Cooper, Barton Community College

Apply Kansas Committee Chair: Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University

Strategic Plan Committee Chair: Lynnette Hilty, Hutchinson Community College

Thank you again, to our leadership board, as well as, all those who served on committees and engaged with KACRAO in 2024. Here's to a productive year!

Brandi Brenner,
KACRAO President

KACRAO

2024-25 NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

President Elect: Eric Sanford, Friends University

Vice-President for Outreach: Andy Bohn, Cowley College

Vice-President for Professional Development: Pete Belk, Johnson County Community College

Treasurer Elect: Casey Fraites-Chapes, University of Kansas

Secretary: Marissa Nuss, Fort Hays State University

Admissions Advocate-at-Large: Kyle Stacken, Fort Hays State University

Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large: Sheila Markowitz, Emporia State University

COORDINATORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Apply Kansas Liaison Coordinator: Brandon Burke, Cowley College

Corporate Liaison Coordinator: Lynnette Hilty, Hutchinson Community College

Historian/Constitution Coordinator: Chad Steinkamp, Wichita State University

Planning for College Coordinator: Tyler Allen, Independence Community College

Technology Coordinator: Michelle Ponce, University of Kansas Medical Center

CPC Committee Chair: Amy Morris, Neosho County Community College

LAC Chair: Matt Skirven, University of Kansas

Publications Committee Chair: Wynnter Snyder, Neosho County Community College

Scholarship Committee Chair: Melissa Conley, Wichita State University

Summer Drive-In Committee Co-Chairs: Liz McLain, Southwestern College & Barb Wells, Kansas State University

Audit Committee Chair: Brette Hankin, Colby Community College

*Per the approved constitutional changes (voted upon at the annual conference):

The Apply Kansas Committee was dissolved and the chair role was redefined as a Coordinator/Liaison position. The KC Metro Committee was absorbed by the College Planning Conference Committee.

KACRAO CONFERENCE RECAP

1st time attendee:

“ KACRAO was an enriching and educational experience that provided valuable opportunities for professional growth. I had the privilege of meeting numerous individuals, creating connections that developed into strong friendships during my time on the road while recruiting. The conference presented key lessons that I continue to apply in my recruitment efforts and in building meaningful relationships with students, staff, and faculty on campus. Overall, it was a wonderful experience—truly a 10/10!

Mia Howard
Labette Community College

“ The KACRAO conference provided me with professional development opportunities that expanded my knowledge and network. Through the different sessions and insightful discussions, I was able to deepen my understanding of higher education and connect with like-minded professionals. It has helped push me to keep growing both personally and professionally.

Elizabeth Kitterman
Labette Community College



Presenter:

“ As a presenter at the 2024 KACRAO Annual Conference in Dodge City, I observed strong engagement and enthusiasm from the attendees. I contributed to the "Dating Game" session, where we provided concise overviews of each committee to encourage increased membership. Additionally, I led the "Road Warriors" session, where I presented an overview of the rules and regulations governing the College Planning Conference (CPC) circuit, along with an in-depth discussion of the travel routes for the six-week official travel season. I look forward to attending the 2025 KACRAO Annual Conference in Lawrence, where I will be hosting and assisting with several sessions.

Amy Morris
Neosho County Community College

Award Recipient:

“ Receiving the Richard M. Elkins Special Service Award was an incredible honor for me. It came as a huge surprise, and I was thrilled to accept it. Dick Elkins is a legendary figure in higher education, and being included among the esteemed recipients of this award is truly humbling. My admiration for the KACRAO organization has only deepened with this recognition.

Chad Steinkamp
Wichita State University





KACRAO CONFERENCE INFO



KACRAO 2025

IDEAS & INNOVATION: ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Mark your calendar!

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.

Visit the KACRAO Conference page for details and updates at kacrao.org/kacrao-annual-conference

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





*Thanks
for
reading!*



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