

## Hello KACRAO!



And Hello February! You have to love a Midwest winter when its 68 degrees in my little piece of the State one day only to drive through a sleet storm the next day. (Okay, anyone who knows me, and my horrific winter driving, knows that I waited the sleet out at home, and then drove to work!)

I just wanted to share a couple items from the Executive Council, Coordinators & Chairs.

We are very excited to announce that we have approved the budget for a KACRAO App! The app is a product of MemberClicks and will be able to integrate with our website! We will be able to use the app for all of our events, the Summer Drive-In, Annual Conference & CPC's!

Save The Date! KACRAO and KBOR are partnering with The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) to provide a free training event! KACRAO's training day will be held on April 25, 2019 at Butler Community College. Watch your email or check the KACRAO website for further details! Discussion will include the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), student privacy issues and student data security.

I am looking forward to seeing those of you attending the AACRAO Annual Meeting. The KACRAO Reception will be held on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Lucky Strike, LA Live for those able to join us.

The Glenn Lygrisse/KACRAO Scholarship application will close on March 15, 2019! You can find further details and the application at [kacrao.org](http://kacrao.org).

Lynnette Hilty and I will be working to promote the use of [counselorcommunity.com](http://counselorcommunity.com) to the high school counselors. This allows the high school to set up an online schedule of available times for colleges to visit, and colleges to schedule through! We hope this will save time for all parties involved. The best part of it all is that it is a free service. Watch for more details!

Our next Executive Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the campus of Barton Community College. All members are welcome to attend!

The Executive Council, Coordinators & Chairs have some exciting opportunities for our members in the works and I am so very grateful that I get to work alongside them! We will keep you posted!

*Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College  
KACRAO President*

A large, white, stylized letter 'K' is positioned on the left side of the page, set against a dark red background. Below the 'K', the word 'KACRAO' is written in a white, serif, all-caps font.



## Accuplacer

Between two-year and four-year institutions there is a noticeable difference in test score requirements. As a two-year, open enrollment institution, Seward County Community College is one of the many institutions across Kansas that offers the ACCUPLACER test to its students for placement into college courses. According to [accuplacer.collegeboard.org](http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org), over 8.5 million tests are given to students in secondary and post-secondary institutions.

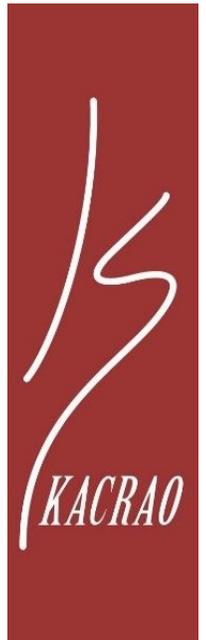
If a student has not yet taken an ACT or SAT, they can take the ACCUPLACER test if the institution that they will be attending offers it. There is no fee to take the ACCUPLACER the first time and it is also not timed, unlike sitting down to take an ACT (American College Testing) or SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). The ACCUPLACER tests students on their reading, writing, and math skills. Students can elect to take all three sections of the ACCUPLACER at the same time, or they can also take it a section at a time at their own pace. On an average, students take about one hour and a half to two hours to complete the full ACCUPLACER test. This is one of the bigger differences of the ACCUPLACER compared to the ACT or SAT.

Although the ACCUPLACER is offered for free for first-time takers, a change in administering the ACTs has made it easier for students to acquire their test scores as well, without having to ever take the ACCUPLACER. Seward County's Testing Center Facilitator, Stephanie Heger, shared that the state of Kansas has recently offered the ACT for all high school juniors, state-wide, at no cost. This is an immense opportunity that students of past years were not given and should be taken advantage of. Students may also schedule the test times at their own leisure.

Additionally, open-enrollment institutions have no test score requirement to be accepted, whether its ACT scores or the ACCUPLACER. Some four-year universities, however, do have ACT test score requirements as well as grade-point average requirements and sometimes essay entries. On the other hand, Seward County Community College has no test score requirement for the ACCUPLACER, the ACT or SAT to be accepted. The ACCUPLACER has also undergone a new change for students and how adaptive the test will be for them.

Recently, the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER placement test has been introduced as 'available with redesigned reading, writing, and math content,' according to [accuplacer.collegeboard.org](http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org). The new test is set to help institutions with more accurate course placement, as well as provide the same content as the SAT, and equally importantly, "reflect the changing landscape of higher education with math sequences aligned to clear pathways. Students will still be given the option to take the original placement test, but can not take both at the same time.

*Diana Chavira, Seward County Community College*



Friendly reminder of the warmer weather to come :)

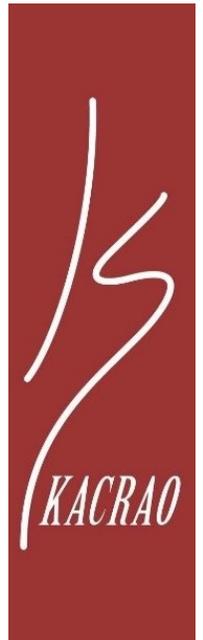


## Conflict in the Workplace

Unfortunately, we cannot avoid it. No matter what we do or where we go, we will have conflict with someone. Especially in the workplace, when you are spending at least 40 hours a week with the same people. It's unavoidable. BUT there are ways to help you overcome the conflict and find resolutions. An opinion [article](#) found at Insider Higher Ed talks about this subject specifically.

Conflict in the workplace usually stems from a misunderstanding. If there is confusion, this article's author said, "you should ask if you are actually being misunderstood or if the other person's read of the situation is warranted." What was said may make sense to me (the person who said it), but it may not make sense to the other person. "Your goal should be to pursue clarity, not just be correct." Sometimes people get frustrated at misunderstandings and conflict ensues. Everyone makes mistakes, though. So we should all be generous and quick to come to an understanding.

*Maggie Schmeiser, Colby Community College*



### From eCampusNews ... Interested in Improving Student Retention? The answer is Glyphs!

In the January 4, 2019 issue of eCampusNews, there was an article by Steven Mauro, Ph.D. titled "How Our University Improved Student Retention by 5 Percent". Dr. Mauro is the VP of Academic Administration at Gannon University in Pennsylvania. In his article, Dr. Mauro states that "retention metrics are important" and "data is key" in determining the reasons students stay or leave a university. However, there are multiple factors that affect retention, including the student's engagement, academic record and financial status. In order to visualize these factors and how they influence retention, Gannon University developed "a predictive model using a pioneering technology known as glyphs". They were able to use these glyphs to visualize all available information on students such as financial aid, admissions, academics, and extracurricular activities "within a single multi-dimensional, interactive view. A combination of color-coded shapes, of varying sizes gives us a full picture so we can clearly see retention risks and discover new insights."

The results they were able to glean from these glyphs confirmed that three main things affect student retention: student engagement, financial aid, and academics. Of course, the institution cannot use data that it does not have. Therefore, Gannon University found a way to better track these factors. For example, they began to use swipe cards at events in order to help track who attended which events (since this indicates student engagement). That helped them to know which types of activities or events were the most well-received/well-attended.

The bottom line, for Gannon University, was a 5% increase in student retention in just one year. For Gannon, this translates to an additional \$2,000,000 in tuition revenue over four years.

Want to read the full article? Click here: <https://www.ecampusnews.com/2019/01/04/how-our-university-improved-student-retention-by-5-percent/2/>

# THE JOURNEY

*Denise Hoeffner, Salina Tech*



PROSPECTIVE STUDENT



CURRENT STUDENT



ALUMNI

How I feel when an application asks me about my skills:

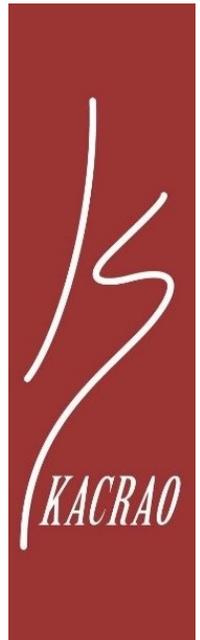
Teamwork Skillzz



Employers only want employees with good teamwork skills.

Teamwork may not be the only skill an employer may be looking for in a potential employee, but it is a key component to a cohesive workplace. An article found at Inside Higher Ed, is focused toward graduate and postdoctoral students about

[teamwork skills](#), but can be easily related to anyone looking to improve in this area. Teamwork is a noun defined as "the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient," according to the dictionary search through Google. This article says, "members must be able to work with each other collaboratively and *bring out the best in each other.*" *Sometimes teams just work to reach a common goal, but I appreciate how the author is also encouraging us to compliment our team members.*



The key skills to be a successful team member include: good communication, emotional intelligence, motivational abilities, and relationship management. A team could easily reach their goal if everyone was willing to work with these skills. "As a team member, you should also always have a clear understanding of what is expected of you." If a team member is not clear on his role, it would be a good idea to communicate amongst the group to clarify those roles. The article is wrapped up with these couple of sentences, "Ultimately, being a good team player is just as important as being a leader. Building the required skills will greatly contribute to your career satisfaction and success."

*Maggie Schmeiser, Colby Community College*



Current Job Openings

Pittsburg State University  
Registrar

University Of Saint Mary  
Health Care Recruiter

University of Saint Mary  
Admissions Counselor

Fort Hays State University  
Director of Admissions

Dodge City Community College  
Enrollment Management Assistant

Hutchinson Community College  
Coordinator of Enrollment Management

Emporia State University  
Admissions Counselor

Find these postings and more at  
[kacrao.memberclicks.net/job-opportunities](http://kacrao.memberclicks.net/job-opportunities)



## KACRAO Member Spotlight

Michelle Ponce – Butler Community College

What is your position at your institution? Admissions Counselor

How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? 6.5 years same time at both : current position in KACRAO-President

What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? The comradery

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Mint chocolate chip

What is your favorite type of coffee drink? Caramel macchiato

Any parting words? "Get involved!"

Aaron Hamilton – Wichita State University

What is your position at your institution? Sr. Associate Director of Admissions

How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? I've been with both for 20 years, since 1997 (it should be 22 years but I left for a couple years)

What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? The people! I have met, and continue to meet so many people committed to providing a high-level student experience. The young professionals bring so much energy. They keep me feeling young.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? I can't eat it :(

What is your favorite type of coffee drink? I drink unsweetened iced tea!

Any parting words? We have a responsibility to help students make the best decision for them. While I want all of them at WSU it's more important to get them where they can thrive and realize their potential. Higher ed isn't a job, it's a way of life and we owe it to our students, our institutions, and ourselves to do our best to make college a place where students can unlock their potential.

Lynette Hilty – Hutchinson Community College

What is your position at your institution? Admissions Counselor

How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? I've been with both for 10 years.

What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? Absolutely the people I have had a chance to meet. The relationships and networking with these fellow colleagues have been the best tool for work growth I've ever had.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Not sure - I can eat almost any kind. But, if I had to choose, the DQ Salted Caramel Truffle Blizzard (but that doesn't fit in the diet plan, lol).

What is your favorite type of coffee drink? .....no coffee here. I drink unsweetened iced tea pretty much every morning.

Any parting words? This job is about the students - we can't put our own agenda or our administrations agenda first. All of us are tasked with growing our own school's enrollment, but, if we get caught up in putting that goal first then we are doing a disservice to the students we are trying to help. All we can do is showcase what we have to offer and hope that it meets up with the student's needs/wants for a college experience. The students are our priority and we should never lose sight of that!

If you are interested in writing an article or contributing towards the monthly newsletter in any way, please let me know! We would be happy to feature you in our growing publication!

Please submit your articles to [maggie.schmeiser@colbycc.edu](mailto:maggie.schmeiser@colbycc.edu) at any time.

## Mascots of Community Colleges

J Y P U P V E T W R U A E B A  
I N D G Y J D D F C H G R K P  
D C N X D C T E P J X E C P L  
I R S N E V A R C B T O I N R  
N P A T K V L E X S N O N E U  
N S Y G H L H U U Q N C W C K  
J I A S O J C B U E E S P C M  
W H I I T N C I E V W S S A Y  
B Q R X N N S R D V E R H R V  
E M R E O T S I F V E E A D G  
A X X R A V S P G H T G S I N  
V F B D D W J K T C L I O N S  
E S O Y G P K N X C Y T W A K  
R R M L N G A G Q I V X F L S  
S H O X D P S L D W H V W S D

DRAGONS  
PIONEERS  
RED  
RAVENS  
CONQUISTADORS  
BRONCBUSTER  
TIGERS  
SAINTS  
PANTHERS  
BEAVERS  
CARDINALS

*"We must ensure our system of higher education offers world-class quality for a world-class economy"*

*-Bob Taft*