



THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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KACRAO UPDATES

BY MELISSA FARMER

KACRAO has two AMAZING events happening and they are currently open for registration. Don't miss your opportunity to mingle with colleagues and friends! These are perfect professional development opportunities for both seasoned and newbies in the higher education world.

- Summer Drive-In's guest speaker, Dr. Provines, will be discussing *Suspenders4Hope: Promoting Mental Wellness in the Workplace*. This year's fundraiser is for the WSU Shocker Locker. They are asking individuals to donate food and hygiene products. These items provide essentials for students at WSU in their time of need. If you are unable to attend, reach out to the Summer Drive-In Chair, Denise Hoeffner, she will be happy to provide you with information about sending items directly to the WSU; denise.hoeffner@salinatech.edu. Registration closes July 11th.
- Annual Conference will be held in Dodge City, KS at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center. The Annual Conference takes place September 25-27. Check out the conference website for more information - <https://www.kacrao.org/kacrao-annual-conference>



TRANSFER STUDENTS

“In seven states, more than 20% of the students who started in two-year public institutions completed at a four-year institution within six years, with Kansas having the highest rate at 26%.” - National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

How does the state define a transfer student?

- New Transfer Student - includes students who are enrolled for the first time at a university with transfer hours at undergraduate levels.
- Continuing Transfer Students - includes all eligible students who were enrolled at a university from 2005-2022 with transfer hours at undergraduate levels.
- Reverse Transfer Student - includes students who receive their associate degree from their most recent Kansas community college or technical college by combining the credits they earned there and the credits they earned after transferring to a Kansas public university.

The below table represents information compiled from Kansas Higher Education Data System. Make note, first-time freshmen are limited to those earning at least 9 credits in their first year. This information includes students who are first-time freshmen in 2008-2011. Transfer students are those transferring with 54 or more credits.

Transferring Institution	Number of firsttime freshmen	Transfers to four-year institutions	Transfers to four-year, 54 or more credits	% of freshmen transferring, 54 or more credits	% transfers graduating within 6 years
Labette Community College	1050	145	88	8.4%	62.5%
Dodge City Community College	1337	219	138	10.3%	61.6%
Independence Community College	912	88	62	6.8%	61.3%
Pratt Community College	987	196	152	15.4%	58.6%
Johnson County Community College	8678	1076	586	6.8%	58.5%
Barton Community College	2714	317	214	7.9%	57.9%
Hutchinson Community College	4076	718	522	12.8%	55.7%
Colby Community College	925	191	146	15.8%	55.5%
Highland Community College	1981	294	177	8.9%	54.2%
Fort Scott Community College	2113	235	137	6.5%	53.3%
Cowley Community College	3928	583	424	10.8%	51.4%
Butler Community College	7467	1397	943	12.6%	51.3%
Seward County Community College	1101	107	82	7.4%	51.2%
Coffeyville Community College	1488	226	177	11.9%	49.2%
Cloud County Community College	1198	143	74	6.2%	48.6%
Neosho County Community College	1125	134	91	8.1%	48.4%
Garden City Community College	1439	254	173	12.0%	47.4%
Allen Community College	1965	324	202	10.3%	43.6%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	4089	218	116	2.8%	42.2%
Technical Colleges	5209	98	42	0.8%	14.3%

Transfer students with 54 or more credits earning bachelor's degree within 6 years, by transferring 2-year school.

NEW FRESHMEN

Being a new freshman at any institution can bring a rollercoaster of emotions. As defined, a new freshman is a student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. This includes those who attended the prior summer before starting their first fall semester.

There are numerous things institutions can do to support incoming freshmen. Below are some helpful tips for helping incoming freshmen at your institution!

- Encourage them to get involved in the different clubs and events that happen on your campus. Even those who reside off campus.
- Provide care packages. This not only shows that you care but can brighten their day.
- Be available when they have questions or concerns.
- Remind them, mistakes happen. It is what we learn from our mistakes that's important.
- Connect the new freshmen with supportive resources. Make sure these resources are known before they even step foot on campus! Not all students entering college for the first time have a support team behind them.
- Be clear on end goals and how to reach them. Give helpful feedback early on and continue to do so throughout their first year.
- Offer first-year experience programs and seminars.
- Train campus faculty and staff who deal directly with new freshmen. Make sure they understand and are supportive of new freshman.
- Empower them! Award new freshmen when they complete important tasks. This is a new environment and can cause some uncertainty on their ability to succeed.

Since 2013 to 2023, the new freshmen headcount, overall, has dropped 30.9%. (KHEDS Fall Census Collection). Even though we are seeing an increase in enrollments in general, Kansas, along with other states, struggle to bring in first year students.

What's Next?

Have exciting news about your institution or a KACRAO member employed at your institution? Maybe you have a wellness tip for your fellow KACRAO members?

You can be in the next issue of *The Current* by submitting a brief summary to melissa.farmer@salinatech.edu!

Let's stay engaged! I can't wait to hear from you!



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