



THE CURRENT

KACRAO'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY APRIL COZINE

The importance of professional development, involvement, and networking has been on my mind recently, and I'm excited to see so many KACRAO activities and plans coming together after such a long time of planning amid uncertainty. In light of this and the upcoming opportunities, I wanted to share my top 5 reasons for getting involved with KACRAO and other professional associations:

1. Expand your knowledge. (It's great to hear how other schools may be tackling a similar challenge)
2. Professional development boosts confidence and credibility.
3. Networking Opportunities
4. Keeping current on industry trends
5. Opens doors (Future career changes, goals)
 - a. Hireability & increases earning potential. (As a hiring manager, we are looking for staff that engages in these type of activities!)

KACRAO opportunities looking ahead.

- Summer Drive -In Virtual Workshop- Diversity and Inclusion -July 22, 2021
 - <https://www.kacrao.org/summer-drive-in-workshop>
- KACRAO Annual Conference in Colby Registration - September 22-24, 2021
 - <https://www.kacrao.org/kacrao-annual-conference>
- Volunteer - We will be looking to fill vacancies and fill out committees for the new year soon! This is the best way to engage with others and help make organizational improvements.
 - <https://www.kacrao.org/committees>

As we look forward to the beginning of a new academic year and recruitment season, take some time for some rest, relaxation, BBQs, and some summer fun! I can't wait to see as many of you as possible in September at our annual conference in Colby! I expect it to be filled with comradery as we've missed gathering for such a long time.

April Cozine
KACRAO President
#KACRAOSpirit

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COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT



SUMMER DRIVE-IN COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR, BRYAN CROUCH

Bryan Crouch is an admission representative at Flint Hills Technical College and spent 14 years as a faculty member teaching in their Graphic Arts Program! For the past 4 years, Crouch has been working in the admissions office along with being a member of KACRAO. "I have been with FHTC for 18 years and I can't imagine working anywhere else. This place is my second family and the relationships that I have built here are priceless."

Q: Why did you choose to be a committee chair?

A: This is a humorous answer because I got chosen to be on this committee by default. I originally signed up to serve on the CPC committee my first year. I never received any emails or communication from the committee chair and I really had a desire to serve. Another member who was the current Summer Drive-In Committee Chair said don't worry about it and just join us we would be happy to have you. So I jumped at the opportunity to join the Summer Drive-In Committee. I have served on this committee for 3 years and this year I was asked by April if I would step up and be the committee chair. It has been an interesting year, but at the same time a very rewarding group of people that I have served with. I would encourage all members to find away to serve on a committee and work your way up to a chair position as you get more comfortable.

Q: What does the Drive-In Workshop Committee do?

A: The Summer Drive-In Committee is in charge of organizing and planning the summer workshop. It takes time to get a speaker and all of the details needed to host an event, but overall it is not that huge of a commitment. This is only a one day event so that does make the planning a little easier. We were able to do all of our meeting via Zoom and in the past we only meet in person the day before the event to decorate or do last minute planning.

Q: Share something fun/interesting about yourself.

A: I have been married to my wife Shannon for 5 years. We have 3 wonderful children all are teenagers. I enjoy doing landscaping, home improvement projects, playing golf and being outdoors. We enjoy traveling and seeing new things. This year we are headed to Wisconsin Dells and Lake Michigan in July. I am a member of Flint Hills Bible Church, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Emporia Chamber of Commerce, and I am currently a SOS Strong Ambassador.

Register
for the
Summer
Drive-In!



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COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT



NEW KACRAO WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR, HUGO PEREZ

When it comes to learning the tips and tricks of recruiting, KACRAO veteran, Hugo Perez, knows what it takes to help others become successful professionals. Perez is completing his 20th year with our organization and is currently the Assistant Director of Admissions at Fort Hays State University. During his time in admissions, he has also worked at Garden City Community College, Dodge City Community College and Hutchinson Community College.

Throughout his time in KACRAO, Perez has held several positions on the Executive Board including: Publication Chair, College Planning Conference Chair, Local Arrangements Co-Chair and currently serves as the Vice President for Professional Development. As the VP for Professional Development, he is responsible for the new KACRAO workshop at the KACRAO Annual Conference. Previously serving on the committee was one of the deciding factors for him becoming a committee chair and explains why this workshop is so important for new members joining our organization.

"The new KACRAO workshop will provide information about the organization to new members attending the conference.

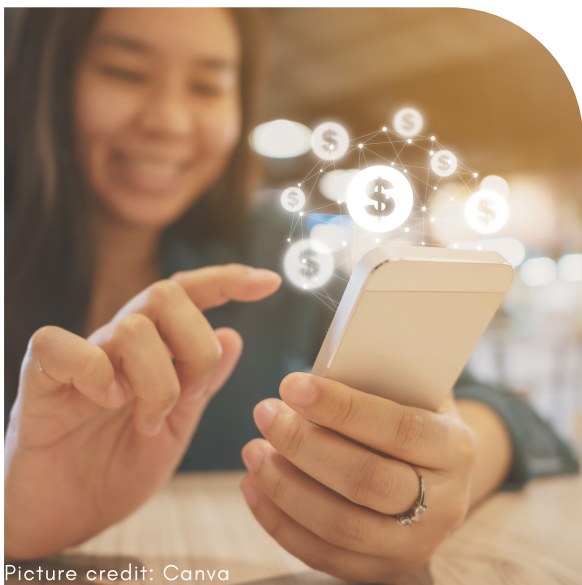
Information on professional development, engagement & networking opportunities that we provide will be covered. Also a new counselor workshop will be available to new admissions professionals during the conference, where "best practices" information in the realm of admissions and recruiting will be provided. A new registrars workshop will be available for new professionals in the Registrars world to share the best practices amongst records professionals."

Something you may not know about Perez, is his passion for coaching. Early on in his career, he would split his workday between being an admissions representative and athletics as the head cheerleading and dance coach!

*Register
for the
Annual
Conference!*



KACRAO CURRENT EVENTS



Picture credit: Canva

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

Whether you're still working from home or finally back in the office, one thing we can all look forward to this fall is the 2021 Annual Conference in Colby! To celebrate, KACRAO is offering two scholarships for members to attend in-person.

"It has been a difficult year for most with COVID and changes to institutional budgets. As an organization, we know the value of the annual conference to each of us as professionals. Because of that, Executive Council voted to offer two scholarships to the conference this year which will cover the conference registration as well as the 2-night hotel stay. Scholarship winners are only responsible for their travel to the conference and food outside of what is provided during the conference." explained Maggie Harris, Program Committee Chair.

Harris also encourages members to attend the conference and get the opportunity to reconnect with their fellow admissions and registrars officers after a long year of virtual conferences, meetings, and college fairs!

"The annual conference provides a lot of value to us as professionals. The knowledge we gain from sessions presented as well as the connections we are able to make with other professionals across the state makes such an impact on what we do. We work together to brainstorm new ideas and discuss best practices as professionals. So many of us face the same challenges and this allows us talk through them and take what we learn back to our home institutions. Whether members have been to a conference before or this will be their first one, we don't want the cost to attend to be the reason someone isn't able to come."

Aside from getting the opportunity to attend the conference, scholarship recipients are also required to participate in a KACRAO committee for the 2021-2022 year. Harris explains why this requirement is so important for scholarship recipients to experience.

“

KACRAO IS A STRONG ORGANIZATION, BUT THE FUTURE HEALTH OF OUR ORGANIZATION RELIES ON MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER. ALL OF OUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, COORDINATORS, AND CHAIRS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO KACRAO - AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WOULD TELL YOU THAT IT ADDED VALUE TO THEIR LIFE. MANY COMMITTEES REQUIRE VERY LITTLE OF A MEMBER'S TIME, BUT THEY MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON WHAT WE DO AS AN ORGANIZATION.

The Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee will be reviewing the applications to determine two winners. Those selected will be notified via-email by Friday, July 16, 2021.

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CURRENT EVENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

RECENT SURVEY SHOWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CHANGE OF COLLEGE PLANS DUE TO PANDEMIC



Picture credit: Canva

Inside Higher Education (6/28, Jaschik, Scott) reports that a survey done by the America's Promise Alliance shows that "Approximately four out of five (78 percent) 11th and 12th graders reported that COVID-19 has impacted their plans after high school at least a little bit, with almost one in five reporting their plans were impacted a great deal." The survey, which was conducted in March and April 2021, showed that **"most commonly, students reported changes to where they plan to attend college. For example, one-third (34 percent) of young people report changing their plans to attend college closer to home and one-quarter (24 percent) plan to attend a two-year instead of a four-year institution."** As a new academic year approaches, institutions will need to focus on how they can adjust to these changes as the effects of the pandemic continue to make an impact on students postsecondary education choices.

KANSAS PROMISE ACT HELPS ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PAY FOR COLLEGE



The Kansas Promise Scholarship is a \$10 million program that was passed by the Kansas Legislature and signed by Governor Laura Kelly in April of 2021. According to the Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas promise Act Scholarship was created "to assist students attending Kansas community colleges, technical colleges, Washburn Institute of Technology and certain private postsecondary educational institutions and enrolled in specified programs of student." Over thirty Kansas institutions will be offering this unique scholarship in the fall for eligible students studying "specified programs of study". The scholarship "may be used toward tuition, required fees, books, and required program materials" that are not already covered by other scholarships and grants. Students who sign the scholarship will have to "live and work in the State of Kansas for two consecutive years following the successful completion of their program of study."

For more information about the Kansas Promise Act Scholarship visit the Kansas Board of Regents website at www.kansasregents.org.

KACRAO FAVORITE MEMORIES

Let's play a game! Match the KACRAO memory to the member it corresponds to. There are no prizes for winning, just the fuzzy feeling of happiness inside when you think about KACRAO!

A. So many! My favorite is probably my first KACRAO which was in Pittsburg. There was just an energetic vibe and we had a great time. The bar in Frontenac ended up staying open until 3:30 because we were having so much fun.

B. Receiving the Beth Tedrow Outstanding New Professional Award in Wichita. Loved that my dad was able to be there and I could share that memory with him.

C. My first KACRAO in GCCC and doing the chicken dance with the sisters.

1. Megan Chambers
Butler Community College

2. Lori Crowther
Barton Community College

3. Aaron Hamilton
Wichita State University

KACRAO SUMMER FAVORITES

We asked, you responded! Here are some of our KACRAO member's favorites for the summer!

HOBBY/ACTIVITY

1. Swimming
2. Watching baseball games
3. Reading
4. Gardening
5. Golf

ROAD TRIP TUNES

1. 90's Music
2. Country
3. Classic Rock
4. Podcasts
5. The Beatles

MOVIE/SHOW

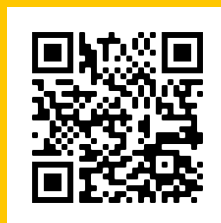
1. Yellowstone
2. A Quiet Place 2
3. Croods 2
4. The Office
5. L.A.'s Finest

VACATION SPOT

1. Colorado (Pagosa Springs and Colorado Springs)
2. Beach (Huntington and Folly Beach South Carolina)
3. Florida (Destin and Niceville)
4. Washington DC

ANSWER KEY: 3A, 1B, 2C

Nominate a
KACRAO member
to be featured on
our Facebook
page!




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*Thanks
for
reading!*



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