



Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

December 2017

### Greetings & Happy Holidays!

I hope that you all have had a great Thanksgiving and are making great strides in your holiday plans. Whether you are simply getting your shopping done, planning travel or welcoming family and friends to your home please be safe and don't let the stresses of the season get to you and remember the reason we celebrate this time of year!

Speaking of stresses, my first couple of months as KACRAO President has had its own stresses but I'm happy to report that it's all going smoothly now and I am looking forward to a great year. With a couple of Executive Council, Coordinators and Chairs taking new jobs out of state I have had several positions to replace since our conference in September. But, I am happy to report that there is only one position to replace now. Please help

me in welcoming Michelle Ponce, our 2017-2018 President-Elect, replacing Mark Britton. Cassie Keefer has replaced Sean Pitzer as the Technology Coordinator, and Denelle Hopper has accepted the position of Scholarship Chair for Kathy Britton. At our next Executive Council meeting we will name a new person to finish Michelle's last year as the VP of Professional Development. I want to thank all of these ladies for stepping up to serve this year in positions they were not expecting but that I know will do a wonderful job in carrying out.

I am making plans to attend my first AACRAO Conference in Orlando this March, and I am looking forward to it. After attending the Leadership Conference last year it will be good to see how much has been done on the AACRAO Strategic Plan and how they are continuing to be our voice on a national level. I have also found a venue for the KACRAO Reception at the hotel complex; so, if you are going to AACRAO please make sure to join us at High Velocity on Tuesday evening.

We had our first Executive Council, Coordinators and Chairs meeting on Nov. 13 at Wichita State University. There were a lot of exciting things discussed at the meeting including changes to the way and how often the KACRAO Current will be distributed this year that I'm sure is being highlighted as you read this latest addition. But, beyond the KACRAO Current being a larger communication tool for our membership, Casey Wallace talked about the changes you will also see to Memberclicks. Please be watching for website upgrades to come later this month and bear with us as the changes are made. I think it will be very user-friendly and a lot of the confusion with where to send payments for various conferences, workshops for CPC's will become much clearer.

Again, please have a safe and happy holiday season! Thanks for all that you contribute to KACRAO!

Sincerely,

**Lynnette Hilty**  
KACRAO President

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# Around the State

## KBOR launches DegreeStats tool

The Kansas Board of Regents has launched [Kansas DegreeStats](#), an interactive online search tool that reviews program costs and program graduate earnings at all public Kansas colleges and universities. One can search by institution, degree title, and keyword. Students, parents, counselors and mentors can even compare similar programs by institution – providing a useful, data-driven resource for Kansas college searches. This is the only resource of its kind in the nation, according to the KBOR website. To use the tool, go to [http://www.ksdegreestats.org/program\\_search.jsp](http://www.ksdegreestats.org/program_search.jsp).

*Chris Neary, Admissions Representative at Highland Community College*

## Are you veteran-friendly or veteran-ready?

As the KACRAO Publications Committee, we decided to take a closer look into the lives of veterans and specifically their educational opportunities as well as what impacts their success throughout school and beyond.

I had heard from a friend once, who said, “there is a difference between being ‘veteran friendly’ and ‘veteran ready.’” This has echoed in my ears for months. Only when I, an admissions counselor at Baker University’s College of Arts and Sciences (made of mostly traditional, non-veterans) at the time, learned that I did not know how to address a single question from a veteran regarding his GI benefits, did I consider how helpless I was for veterans and service members. I questioned myself, thinking, “How can I be so inept in service to folks that served our nation and my personal freedom?” I made the easy referral to talk to our designated professional, which is often considered custom for colleges; however, I was still left with a few questions.

Personally, I wondered if I was alone. Was I the only one amongst us all that felt I hadn’t done enough for veterans? Could Kansas be considered a fine place for veterans to come to work and complete their education? So, I decided to learn and try to discover a few things that could help me honor the duty of another. My conquest is to determine what nuances and differences exist between colleges and universities in how they deliver service to the needs of veteran students. The goal is to consider how institutions, collectively, separate themselves and appear ‘veteran ready’, as opposed to those that are considered ‘veteran friendly’ (which are considered minimal requirements according to many veteran organizations). But, if we better understood the needs of veteran students, couldn’t we then serve veterans in a higher capacity? Could we then not only be considered ‘veteran friendly,’ but then go beyond that to ‘veteran ready’?

See *Veterans* on p. 3

## High school teachers scramble for dual-credit certification

As the demand for dual credit, or concurrent, enrollment increases, the Higher Learning Commission has stated that effective Sept. 1, 2017, “high school teachers in dual-credit courses, along with instructional college faculty, must have a master’s degree or 18 graduate-level credit hours in the specialty they’re teaching,” according to a Nov. 27, 2017, article in Inside Higher Ed.

*The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) reports that each Kansas institution is responsible for determining if and how its faculty meet HLC’s faculty qualifications.*

Sixty-five Kansas colleges and universities are institutional members of HLC, which comprises a total of 1,343 colleges and universities in 19 states.

As admissions representatives and registrars, you’ve probably heard from high school teachers and counselors on this topic. Your dual-credit/concurrent coordinator is your best resource for how your institution implements requirements.

KBOR lists several Kansas-based online graduate programs that allow faculty to meet HLC qualifications: [https://www.kansasregents.org/students/concurrent\\_enrollment/concurrent-enrollment-faculty-qualifications](https://www.kansasregents.org/students/concurrent_enrollment/concurrent-enrollment-faculty-qualifications).

For the full Inside Higher Ed article, go to <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/11/27/institutions-grapple-accreditors-changes-dual-credit-instruction>.

*Chris Neary  
Admissions Representative  
Highland Community College*



## Veterans (cont'd)

In August 2017, U.S. congress passed the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act—great news for veterans whom are seeking or will be seeking to use the GI Bill to fund their education. The law includes several key highlights for veterans: 1) Removal of the 15-year time limit to use education benefits, 2) restoration of benefits to veterans who attended schools that unexpectedly closed, 3) dedication of counselors to support and assist veterans' education and employment goals, and 4) elimination of gaps in benefits that affect reservists. Schools that are considered 'veteran friendly' all participate in this program.

In the following monthly issues of our KACRAO Newsletter, I present a series on similarities and differences between a veteran-friendly college and a veteran-ready college. I invite your stories and perspectives on this issue. If you have anything to add please contact me at [brian.boyle@bakeru.edu](mailto:brian.boyle@bakeru.edu).

**Brian Boyle**  
Associate Director  
of Admissions  
Baker University

**KACRAO Road Warriors**



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## KACRAO 'Rise and Grind' 2017: It's a wrap!

"Rise and Grind to the 2017 KACRAO" was my first experience at a Kansas registrars and admissions conference. My previous experience was with the Texas chapter, Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO), so I thought I knew what to expect. I must say I was pleasantly surprised and left the conference feeling invigorated and satisfied that my time was spent wisely. There was a good balance of sessions that catered to both admissions and registrars. Many sessions supported new admissions officers, as a team of seasoned "road warriors" guided them.



The combination of experience from admissions officers and registrars were key to informational conference sessions offered. A professional new to the organization could simply listen and gain knowledge and insight into our admissions world.

Strong speakers like Jacquelyn Elliott, who brought her vast expertise of academic affairs, institutional advancement, and enrollment management, were greatly received with rooms maxed out in attendance.



Opening Speaker J.B. Bauersfeld started the "Kac-Row" (as in "ouch") trend, which speakers extended throughout sessions. His hilarious games of words and reactions reminded us to engage and communicate with others face to face—beyond any electronic means that seem standard today.

Despite one's experience level in education, a conference attendee could find sessions in everything from strategic enrollment management, public speaking, new product lines for our industry, student panels, ice breakers, new policies and procedures, dealing with difficult co-workers, diversity, leadership and so much more.

Closing Speaker Latoya Green delivered a thoughtful, innovative, emotional interpretation of "life on the road." As professionals, we must be reminded of who we are and how we fit into the "traffic" of life.

To those employed in this industry for an extended period of time, we often think we have learned everything and no longer need conferences such as KACRAO. It's at that point in our careers we need to reassess where we are and what we can do to make a difference. We need to send our workers to KACRAO to network, build new relationships, and become excited with new ideas for their positions. KACRAO has numerous committees. There is a need for the new and energetic worker, but also a need for workers with accomplished careers who can add their insights to improving our industry. I challenge you to join a committee and help make KACRAO 2018 the best conference yet.

**Charlotte Garrett**  
Associate Director of Admissions for Nursing, Graduate, and Online Studies  
Kansas Wesleyan University



# 'Apply Kansas' boosts KS college potential

October 2017 marked the third year of the Apply Kansas: College Application Month initiative. This effort is part of a nationwide effort sponsored by the American College Application Campaign through the American Council on Education. It is geared toward helping students navigate the complex college application process with a special emphasis on first-generation and low-income students. The overall goal is to help support the Kansas Board of Regents and Kansas' goal of achieving 60 percent of all Kansas inhabitants having some type of postsecondary college degree or credential by 2020.

Be sure to follow Apply Kansas to share in the excitement on Twitter ([@ApplyKS](#)) and [Facebook](#).



## 2017-2018 KACRAO Leadership

**President:** Lynnette Hilty, Hutchinson Community College

**President-Elect:** Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College

**Past President:** Casey Wallace, University of Kansas

**Vice President for Association Services:** Lori Crowther, Barton Community College

**Vice President for Outreach:** Tammy Tabor, Garden City Community College

**Vice President for Professional Development:** Open

**Secretary:** Ricki Ellison, Wichita State University

**Treasurer:** Christina Long, Hutchinson Community College

**Admissions Advocate-At-Large:** Rebecca Bilderback, Allen Community College

**Records/Registration Advocate-At-Large:** Steve Grenus, Washburn University

## Contact Us

### Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO)

Email us to give KACRAO News story topics or to contribute general ideas for KACRAO.

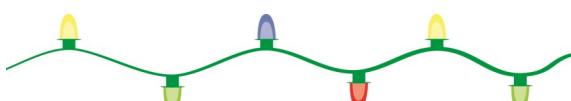
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President-Elect & Program Chair Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College, [program@kacrao.org](mailto:program@kacrao.org)

Publications Committee Chair Chris Neary, Highland Community College, [cneary@highlandcc.edu](mailto:cneary@highlandcc.edu)

A complete list of the Executive Council, Coordinators, and Committee Chairs is found at [www.kacrao.org/executive-council](http://www.kacrao.org/executive-council).

Visit us on the web at [www.kacrao.org](http://www.kacrao.org) and [log in to Member Clicks](#).



*Best Wishes to You and Yours!*