

KACRAO CURRENT



KACRAO Friends!

I can't believe as I write this letter today that the school year has come to a close. Many of us are either approaching or have already reached finals week. The school year, just like life, seems to be going faster and faster all of the time.

I want to first take a minute and thank the membership for allowing me to represent KACRAO at this year's AACRAO National Conference. As I have said several times, it was my first time attending the conference. I learned a lot. While there weren't a ton of sessions specific to admissions, I was able to find plenty of sessions to attend and learned more about social media recruitment than I knew going in. I also attended a few general sessions. If you ever want some really good inspiration on how to turn your ideas/dreams into reality, I would highly recommend doing a Google search for Kevin Carroll and the Big Red Ball. His life story, along with thoughts on combining work and play, are worth the read or the YouTube time.

There were about 15 to 20 KACRAO members in Orlando, and I think we all came away with a few more professional development ideas to help our respective schools and KACRAO grow. We also enjoyed a great reception hosted at the Orlando World Center Marriott's High Velocity Restaurant. We had some old KACRAO members stop by to join in conversation along with a couple of vendors. The night was enjoyed by all.

Finally, here are a few quick updates that Executive Council or other committees have been working on since our last newsletter. The program committee is hard at work finding sessions for a great KACRAO Conference in Garden Cit. The LAC is also working on speakers and events to make our time in southwest Kansas very enjoyable. Do you have a session you would like to see at this year's conference? Please contact Michelle Ponce at mponce4@butlercc.edu with your session ideas. The Program Committee is still looking to fill a few more spots. The Summer Drive-In Workshop Committee has picked a date, theme and location for this year's conference. Watch your email for that announcement and registration. Also, the CPC Committee has almost got the calendar put together. They are just waiting on a few school calendars to get approved so they can make sure the route works for all of the Road Warriors. The Kansas School Counselors Association has also reached out to us regarding partnership opportunities, so the CPC Chairs will be working with their contacts to make sure that the CPC Route and Guidelines are being communicated in a way that will hopefully drive up attendance at the fairs.

I hope everyone has a great summer! Our next Executive Committee will be held at Garden City Community College on Monday, June 11, 10:00am–1:00 pm, if any member would like to attend.

Thank you for all that you do for our organization!!

Lynnette Hilty, KACRAO President

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Member Announcements



Nominate your colleagues for awards, accolades

It is the time of the year when you have the opportunity to nominate individuals who have made an impact on KACRAO and our membership for an award. Awards up for nomination include:

- Laura Cross Distinguished Service Award (KACRAO's highest award)
- Beth Tedrow Outstanding New Professional Award
- Richard N. Elkins Special Service Award
- Ev Kohls Equal Opportunity Award
- Diane Barnes Mentor Award
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Honorary Member

You can find information about the awards and view past award winners by visiting www.kacrao.org/awards-and-accolades. Awards will be given at the 2018 KACRAO Conference, held at Garden City Community College in September. Please submit your nominations by May 31, by visiting www.kacrao.org/awards or emailing Casey Wallace at caseywallace@ku.edu.

SUMMER 2018 DRIVE-IN WORKSHOP



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

SAVE THE DATE — KACRAO 2018 CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2018



WE'RE MOVING

KACRAO Facebook Page

In an effort to centralize Facebook communication, we encourage all KACRAO members to join the ["KACRAO - Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers" Facebook page](#). We will phase out the KACRAO Road Warriors page.



Click icon to connect to KACRAO group



KBOR 'Get AHEAD' initiative to help adults finish college

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) announced an initiative May 8 that encourages Kansas adults to complete the college education they have yet to finish.

The Get AHEAD (Adult Higher Education Accessible Degrees) Initiative utilizes programs and funding at the state and institutional levels to give adults greater opportunities to complete a college degree. A \$50,000 technical assistance grant from the Lumina Foundation Strategy Labs supports the statewide initiative.

Components of the initiative include:

- Seven of the 90 online bachelor's degree programs offered at Kansas public universities
- Reverse transfer option for students who attended a community or technical college and could earn an associate's degree
- Credit for prior learning and military training
- Financial aid sources



KBOR provides a helpful website, www.getaheadkansas.org, for any adult students interested in completing the degree they started. Many online degrees, in a wide range of subjects, and several scholarships and grants allow returning adult learners to complete affordable college degrees quicker than many may anticipate.

The initiative is backed by strong public-private partnership, including "representatives from universities, community colleges, technical colleges, workforce centers, chambers of commerce, media outlets, public libraries, and other organizations," according to the KBOR news release.

Read the full May 8 KBOR news release at www.kansasregents.org.

Kansas colleges see some restored state funding in FY19

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

Kansas legislators passed a budget bill, with bipartisan support, May 3 that will help restore funding cuts to Kansas colleges and universities, according to [an AP news release](#).

Unprecedented tax income has allowed the state to provide \$15 million is restored funding to Kansas public colleges and universities.

The news release noted that "the state's economy has improved, and tax collections have exceeded expectations for 11 consecutive months, with a \$66 million surplus in April alone."

[Read the entire AP news release here](#), including how the budget approval affects Kansas' K-12 system, pay raises for state workers, and funding of school security upgrades.

Consider how restored funding affects your institutional budgets. Will this improve your admissions and retention projects and roles? If so, how? Email your stories and comments to cneary@highlandcc.edu.



IS YOUR CAMPUS VETERAN-FRIENDLY?

By Russell Perkins
University Registrar
University of St. Mary

Before we begin this third installment of “Veteran-Ready vs. Veteran-Friendly,” I want to express my thanks to Brian Boyle, former Associate Director of Admissions at Baker University, who began this vital conversation within the pages of the KACRAO Current. It is my pleasure to receive that baton and carry the series forward.

The prior two parts of this series provided talking-points for transitioning from “Veteran-Friendly” (meeting minimum standards) and “Veteran-Ready” (providing outstanding service to military and veteran students). The assumption in this article series is that all our member institutions are compliant with the Principles of Excellence and other regulations and are, therefore, “Veteran-Friendly.” In this and future articles, we will begin to examine factors that, at a high level, can impact veteran students and pose questions that may reveal if we are truly “Veteran-Ready.”

A Whole New World – To an extent not shared by other aspects of life and career, the military, educational institutions, and the federal government are founded in bureaucracy. But bureaucracy is not a one-size-fits-all term. The Active Duty, Reserve, and Veteran student

is well versed in military bureaucracy through years-long continuous training and membership in a community set apart from civilian norms, styles, and even legal requirements. Being “Veteran-Ready” means being willing to see the educational institution as a bureaucratic entity and being sensitive to the fact that educational institutions tend not to train veteran students in organizational navigation. Having this mindset helps to reveal the gaps through which a veteran student may fall in attempting to navigate this new landscape without a compass or map. Do you have a “safety net”? Who is that person or office? Do they have a plan to educate veterans on how to navigate the school or do you rely on printed and verbal policy?



Are you leveraging your community strength?

The Community – Military recruitment is well known to inculcate a feeling of community, joining an elite group of like-minded people with skills, abilities, and aptitudes not found in the civilian world. It is a community set apart and the marketing is wildly successful

(remember “the few, the proud, the Marines”?). The incoming veteran student, without map or compass, navigating through the bureaucracy of education and government-provided educational benefits, is a student likely worried, stressed, and potentially at risk of academic underachievement. One real good way to mitigate some of this is not to rely solely on your “safety net” person or office noted above. Instead, recruit your experienced veterans (military veterans of high academic achievement and classification standing) into mentors in a dedicated veteran student space. An added benefit to this move is that the veteran student mentors can apply for Veteran Work Study benefits if needed.

Have you created a veteran mentorship community?

...And the Divide – Institutions of higher education are, like the military, a reflection of the greater culture it serves. In the modern era, that reflection also comes with a “gap.” In education, the gap is between the “haves and have-nots”—those with education and those without—and is expressed in the difference between average income earned over the lifetime between the two groups. It is also a central cornerstone on which educational institutions express and justify their costs. In the military, both as a result of the community it creates and the attributes of successful members of that community, the gap is based on values. Do the values held by veterans, broadly speaking, match those of the educational institution? Does the educational institution understand the values inculcated in students through their military service? These questions point to a larger social responsibility of educational institutions affirming military values while demonstrating their own values throughout the institution. In every case, institutions ensure students of every type live and uphold those values. It’s a weighty challenge and comes down to: Can you explain your institutional values in a way that veterans understand, appreciate, and can clearly model?

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Are you bridging the “Civilian-Military Divide” on your campus?

Since each institution has its own veteran population, services scaled to the number of veterans, and their own unique strengths and weaknesses in serving these students, providing specific guidance for a wide number of member institutions may not be particularly helpful. Instead, we must examine our veteran services, in the light of simple compliance (“Veteran-Friendly”) versus superior veteran services (“Veteran-Ready”), through the lens of the larger issues that face both the veteran community and the educational landscape. That requires a continuous strategy. The issues and questions posed here should begin to provide a framework for answering larger strategic questions such as “Are we doing enough for our veterans,” “How do we grow and maintain our veteran population,” and “Are we Veteran-Ready?”

Let us know your ideas and thoughts at kacrao@kacrao.org ■

See admissions officers as caseworkers, not just gatekeepers

By Maggie Schneider
Admissions Counselor
Colby Community College

Admissions officers play a big role in getting students on campus and enrolling in classes. But what about after that? [Brennan Barnard at Forbes magazine wrote](#) that admissions officers play a big role in the student’s journey from admission to completion. Multiple schools pave their own way with this trend by making the whole college experience more enjoyable for the student. This process is nothing more than trial and error, as there is no specific route mapped out yet. For example, Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., has taken the approach of admissions and educators collaborating and becoming more knowledgeable about everything on campus.

What if admission officers were not gatekeepers at all but rather student success coaches from the onset? Consider the relationships admissions officers establish with students, especially with those unfamiliar with the college environment i.e. first-generation college students. Admissions representatives at colleges like Highland Community College in Highland, Kan., also teach freshman College Success courses, which continues an institution’s efforts in guiding students success, like transfer and graduation.

How do admissions officers at your college guide student success beyond recruitment? Let us know by emailing kacrao@kacrao.org.

Confessions of a Community College Dean: Financial aid rules drive academic decisions

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

Matthew Reed, vice president for learning at Brookdale Community College (Lincroft, N.J.) and the persona behind the Inside Higher Ed blog “Confessions of a Community College Dean,” often discusses issues that college administrators face in practice. [In a May 22 blog entry](#), Reed talks about the control financial aid rules have over academic decisions students make, and how indecision can cause financial headaches.

Through guided career pathways and other similar models, counselors and advisors assist students in their career decisions and, consequently, their degree tracks. Federal financial aid rules follow this efficiency practice, as “degree-seeking” students are only eligible for this aid. Applying financial aid to a fixed career pathway, in principle, ensures students pay only for the credits that count, which is one resolution to serious issues like rising higher education costs, and ballooning student loan debt.

Reed argues that “actual students don’t always know from the first day of classes what they want to study.” He uses the Business degree example: if a student is initially on a business-degree track then changes majors mid-semester, courses from the Business degree may not transfer to the new degree track. By the end of the semester, the student may have wasted aid on classes that don’t help them complete their degree.

College advisors may prevent this practice by encouraging students to take core education classes at first, which likely transfer well to any Bachelor’s degree program. Reed suggests a call-to-action to administrators track these course gaps better so students can complete their degrees as efficiently as possible.

How does your office account for these issues? Let us know at kacrao@kacrao.org.

2017-2018 KACRAO Leadership

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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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Publications Committee Chair Chris Neary, Highland Community College, cneary@highlandcc.edu

A complete list of the Executive Council, Coordinators, and Committee Chairs is found at www.kacrao.org/executive-council.

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