



KACRAO CURRENT



Happy August, KACRAO Friends!

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope everyone had a great summer and had a chance to get away and find a place to relax.

I know one group of people who didn't take time to relax too much. So, please give a big shout out to the Summer Drive-In Workshop Committee the next time you see them for putting on a great event in Wichita last month. I know they worked very hard in making the workshop a great experience for all that attended. There were about 65 in attendance who were taught some great Building Blocks for a successful career and were also able to hear a couple of dynamic speakers talk on finding a pathway to their goals.

As you are reading this we are just over a month away from the KACRAO Annual Conference. If you will be joining us, please make sure to [get out to the website and register to attend](#). Also, don't forget to make your hotel reservations. I know there will be many great speakers, learning opportunities and activities to take advantage of; so don't miss out. If you come to the conference for educational opportunities or simply to build relationships with fellow members, it's all here for you; so we hope you can join us in Garden City from Sept. 26-28.

Registration for the College Planning Conference Fair circuit is also open for this fall. Please make sure to go and register for the fairs soon so the committee can get the information out to the host schools on how many colleges to expect at their fair. You will need to make sure you are logged into the KACRAO website and hover over the College Planning Conference heading and go to the CPC Members only link.

While you are on the website make sure to go over the 2019 proposed KACRAO budget, the 2018-2019 proposed slate of KACRAO Executive Council officers and a few proposed changes to the KACRAO Constitution that will be voted on at the annual conference. This information will be posted to the website no later than 30 days prior to the conference start date. If you have any questions, please make sure to ask during one of the business meetings in Garden City or contact a current Executive Council member.

This KACRAO year has flown by and I want to thank everyone for their support and willingness to take over leadership roles they never expected. I know I sent many SOS emails this year and many of you answered the call and it is greatly appreciated. This past year has been very rewarding and enlightening and I'm glad I said YES to the opportunity. I encourage each and every member, new or veteran, to take time to get involved and say YES if someone asks you to take a leadership role or even join a committee. Make the most of your KACRAO time and give back – you won't be disappointed!

Lynnette Hilty, KACRAO President

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Member Announcements



Kansas students receive KACRAO scholarship

The KACRAO Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Glenn Lygrisse Scholarship. Each recipient will receive \$500 for the 2018-2019 school year to assist with their college expenses.

Four-Year Public University: Lillian Gray is a 2018 graduate of Olathe South High School and plans to attend Kansas State University to study Chemical Engineering

Four-Year Private University: Monica Moser is a 2018 graduate of Wabaunsee High School and plans to attend Benedictine College to study Foreign Language with a possible minor in International Studies.

Two-Year Community College: Jonathan Chao is a 2018 graduate of Blue Valley West High School and plans to study Pre-Pharmacy at Johnson County Community College.

Technical College: Emilee Whelchel is a 2018 graduate of Rock Hills High School and plans to attend Salina Area Technical College to pursue a career as a Dental Assistant.

A big thank you to the scholarship committee for going through all 136 applications you received and selecting the best candidates to represent our organization. Also, if you happen to run in to these winners on your campus – please congratulate them!

REGISTER NOW for the KACRAO 2018 CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2018



2018-2019 Proposed KACRAO Budget

	2018	2019	Change
President			
President to AACRAO	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00	\$0.00
KACRAO Reception at AACRAO	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Executive Board			
Incorporation Fees	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Insurance Fee	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Leadership Development	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$50.00	\$265.00	\$215.00
Bond Fee	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Consultation Services	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Moolah	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
President Elect	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Local Arrangement Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Immediate Past President	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Parliamentarian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards & Accolades	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00
Nominations & Elections	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vice President for Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legislative Liaison	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
College Planning Conference Committee	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Scholarship Committee	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Scholarship Awards	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Planning for College Coordinator	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Corporate Liaison/Coordinator	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Apply KS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Vice President for Association Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership Coordinator	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Historian/Constitution Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Publications Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Coordinator	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Memberclicks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vice President for Professional Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New KACRAO Workshop	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Other Professional Development Opportunities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer Drive-in Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Admissions Advocate-at-Large	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$13,300.00	\$13,515.00	\$215.00



KICA launches online course sharing program

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

With online courses becoming a major way for Kansans to attend college, the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA) launched an online course sharing program for its 19 institutions.

The Kansas Independent College Course Sharing Consortium (KICCCSC) allows students to take online classes at different independent Kansas colleges with the guarantee to be able to apply those credits toward their full-time status and financial aid, according to a July 27, 2018, KICA press release.

Students can even count the grade earned on a member institution's online class toward their own campus GPA. KICA says this will especially benefit student athletes needing to earn athletic eligibility.



Logo: Kansas Independent College Association

Transferability within the KICA system is easier through this online course sharing program.

Read the entire July 27 KICA press release at <http://www.kscolleges.org/announcements/kica-partners-with-college-consortium-for-course-sharing>.

Addressing increase in mental health services

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

While we as admissions representatives and registrars do not necessarily address student mental health, we still serve the well-being of the student. We likely get questions about campus health services and should know where to direct students for help.

The University of Kansas Student Affairs department recently noted a major increase—73% between May 2017 and May 2018—in demand for student mental health services.

Campuses take note: This KU trend aligns with a national surge of college students needing services for depression and anxiety, according to a [March 19, 2018, TIME magazine article](#).

In a [July 31, 2018, Lawrence Journal-World article](#), Michael Maestas, director of Counseling and Psychological Services at KU, says that decreased stigma toward mental health issues and increases in early detection of mental health diseases likely contribute to higher demand for such campus services.

Keep these realities in mind as you welcome new students to campus this month. New students are likely overwhelmed, so do what you can to reassure they have chosen the right place to live and work!



file photo

BEYOND SHARED GOVERNANCE

NON-ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS OF REDUCED CREDIT HOURS

By Russell Perkins
University Registrar
University of St. Mary

In a recent Inside Higher Ed article titled “Shared Governance and Preordained Outcomes,” an unnamed state revised regulations on the credit hour requirement for the Associate’s degree from 66 to 60 credit hours. The assumption was that such a change would lead to a reduction of costs to the student and help ensure degree completion within expected timeframes. While the thesis of the article centers on problems of institutional shared governance within state mandates having forgone positive conclusions, it is also pretty clear that a reduction in credit hours does lead to a direct cost savings for students and that 60 is a better number to use to ensure that students can maintain full-time status (60 being equally divisible by both 12 and 15 credits) throughout the degree program rather than having to include an academic term at half-time status in order to fulfill 6 more credit hours. Put another way, the positive foregone conclusions for students seems irrefutable.

For such foregone conclusions to work, however, the Associate’s degree must be seen as a finite attainment having little to no relevance for further studies. While this sounds like an extreme statement, legislation to this effect in other states specifically cites the goal of increasing community college graduation rates by reducing the credit hour requirement on non-specialized degrees. When the baccalaureate degree offered by four-year institutions is thrown into the equation, however, the foregone conclusions regarding overall student costs and completion timeframes at the four-year level become less certain.

One area of consideration is the redistribution of student costs. A decrease in required credit hours

for an Associate’s degree means those credit hours must be made up inside the four-year degree to reach a minimum of 120 total credits. Thus, a reduction of 3 credits (one course) from an Associate’s degree means that the student will have to pay for those 3 credits at the four-year institution which is generally a much higher cost. For those institutions that charge a flat tuition rate for full time enrollment (12 or more credits), that extra expense will not much matter. But for those that charge per credit hour, especially prominent in online and degree completion offerings, the cost will be borne by the student. The Kansas Board of Regents Transfer Articulation Council noted in October, 2017 that 3,796 (48.5%) of students transferring from a Kansas public community college went to a Kansas four-year public institution. That breakdown does not consider whether those students were residential or online. Further, the remaining 4,028 (51.5%) transferring students went either to other colleges out of state or went to a Kansas based private four-year institution on either residential, online, or degree completion paths. The implications for a redistribution of student costs, rather than a straight cost-savings, for students is an area requiring further consideration and study.

Another area to consider involves four-year institutions that have one or more “branded courses” within a general education core. These courses are typically not subject to transferability and mean that students who have completed a state mandated general education core at a community college will not have fully completed the general education core at a private four-year institution. In this situation the student not only has a redistribution of costs (and debt) for 3 or more credit hours removed from the Associates degree to the four-year degree but also has an increased credit hour load for the fulfillment of courses that were not already

contained in the completed general education core. These “branded courses” may also not be subject to the Kansas State Reverse Articulation agreement if they are not recognized for transferability by the community college toward the Associates degree while the student is attending a four-year institution.

These considerations can have an impact for admissions officials when confronted with a student comparing transfer credit awards between universities or having to explain why certain extra courses are required. College to college articulations can be devised to mitigate this but at a cost of potentially losing the uniqueness and value-adding proposition that form the basis for general education at private institutions. On the positive side, however, public community and four-year institutions are generally aligned and, thus, with such a unifying policy of credit hours and transfers may drive community college transfer student enrollment up inside the state by encouraging students to stay within the state system rather than seek a private in-state four-year education or going out-of-state entirely.

Future studies and comparisons with the states of Texas and Maryland, to name just two, which have already enacted such legislation will determine whether students actually received a benefit from the lowered Associates degree credit requirements or whether solving problems in graduation rates and actual learning outcomes have created new educational challenges.

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

Appliance shopping compared to college shopping

By Maggie Schmeiser
Admissions Counselor
Colby Community College

I don't know if you have ever thought about this, but Admissions Representatives are basically salespeople. We are the front line, dealing with the community, knowledgeable about the features our college has to offer, and can make or break decisions for prospective students. I know we probably don't think of ourselves as salespeople, since we try not to be too pushy and we don't make any commission (wouldn't that be nice). But we do have a product—our college—and we have purpose—recruit students.



When we “sell” our college, there are some things that we need to keep in mind. An article titled, [“Don't Freeze Out Your Prospective Students,”](#) illustrates Karen's process of buying a new refrigerator and how she relates that process to looking for colleges. She says, “The college admissions process is more intimidating than buying a refrigerator (and more expensive!), so be aware of your use of institutional jargon early in your conversations with families.” One very important detail to remember when selling your college to a prospective student, is that you also have to convince the family why your college is the best choice for their student.

A few good reminders from Karen include:

- ▶ Listen to the customer rather than being on autopilot - Remember that most students are new to this process and would rather feel like an individual than just another customer
- ▶ Answer the “question behind the question” whenever you can - Families know general questions to ask, but sometimes you need to help them dig deeper and find the specific answer they needed.
- ▶ A prompt and enthusiastic greeting makes a great first impression - Customer service is key in Admissions.

Maybe you are that Admissions Representative that needs a new appliance. Will you be more cognizant of the sales tactics being used or maybe take notes for yourself? I had never been in sales before stepping into Admissions, so I know I'm always open to new ideas.

Poll: Adults see U.S. higher ed headed in wrong direction

By Chris Neary
Admissions Representative
Highland Community College

The Pew Research Center surveyed more than 4,500 U.S. adults this summer about higher education. Sixty-one percent said the higher education system in the United States is headed in the wrong direction. How do college admissions representatives and registrars come in to play? Public perception is key to these results.

Most Americans who said U.S. higher education is in an unfavorable state say high tuition costs, according to the study. Other reasons include students not getting the skills they need in the workplace, protecting students from reality that institutions might find offensive, and professors implementing political bias in the classroom.

So, how do you sell it? Do you have students and parents get to know professors? Do you show how students apply lessons to typical real-life issues and relevant problems? Consider how you protect students from high tuition costs. Do scholarships offset high prices? How do you communicate loan attainment and financial literacy? This all ties to the image of your college and university. Combat these unfavorable public perceptions and show colleges are the best places for students!

2018-2019 KACRAO Leadership

President Elect: Tana Cooper, Barton Community College
Treasurer Elect: Steve Grenus, Washburn University
VP of Outreach: Rachel Cronn, Fort Hays State University
VP of Professional Development: Cassie Keefer, University of Kansas
Secretary: Barb Nagel, Kansas State University
Registrar Advocate At Large: Margaret Herron, Ottawa University
Admissions Advocate At Large: Caitlin Miller, Pratt Community College

Contact Us

Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO)

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

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

Visit us on the web at www.kacrao.org and log in to Member Clicks.