



Hello KACRAO!

And Hello Spring! It's one of my favorite times on campus with new students eagerly lining up to get those college schedules made out!

I just wanted to share a couple items from the Executive Council, Coordinators & Chairs.

Register now for the PTAC Training at kacrao.org! KACRAO and KBOR are partnering with The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) to provide a free training event! KACRAO's training day will be held on April 25, 2019 at Butler Community College. Discussion will include the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), student privacy issues and student data security.

I am looking forward to seeing those of you attending the AACRAO Annual Meeting. The KACRAO Reception will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at Lucky Strike, LA Live for those able to join us.

Our next Executive Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the campus of Barton Community College. All members are welcome to attend!

The Executive Council, Coordinators & Chairs have some exciting opportunities for our members in the works and I am so very grateful that I get to work alongside them! We will keep you posted!

Michelle Ponce, Butler Community College

KACRAO President

A large, stylized white graphic on a dark red background. It consists of a vertical line that curves to the right and then loops back down, resembling a stylized 'K' or 'B'. Below this graphic, the word 'KACRAO' is written in a white, serif, all-caps font.

KACRAO

Regalia and Diplomas and Honor Cords.... Oh, My!

KACRAO Registrars and others responsible for coordinating Commencement are busy gearing up for graduation. It's a big job and it takes a lot of coordination among college/university faculty, staff, and administrators to make sure everything goes off without a hitch. One of the worst fears of a Registrar is that he/she will miss a graduation candidate's name and neglect to order a diploma and regalia; and omit that candidate's name from the Commencement program. Well, that and a myriad of other nightmares such as making sure the names are all spelled correctly, pronounced correctly, in the right order, and all appropriate graduation honors are listed and recognized appropriately.

It's quite a feat to get the graduation process to come off without a hitch. First, someone must determine a list of graduation candidates. If the wrong information is listed in the college/university SIS and/or a candidate doesn't know about the deadline for submitting graduation applications, someone is bound to be missed. Then, there's the question of what certificate(s) and/or degree(s) each candidate will be completing. Often, the academic advisor and/or the Registrar know what awards a candidate will be earning and the candidate him/herself doesn't know.

Next, there's regalia to order. Candidates must: a.) actually complete an Application for Graduation (by the deadline even!), b.) know their approximate height and weight (which they don't all seem to know as evidenced by a gown that was WAY too tight and wouldn't even zip!), c.) submit said application to the appropriate office on campus, and d.) answer all questions on the application such as current contact information, plans for walking across the stage, etc. Sometimes, it feels like we are pulling teeth just to get to this point.

Once a list of graduation candidates is compiled, a host of "other duties as assigned" come into play. For example, someone must: ensure the venue has been reserved, order diploma covers and diplomas; determine graduation honors and order honor cords; reserve a photographer; create the Commencement program and get it printed; order corsages and boutonnieres for VIPs; obtain refreshments; get stage decorations such as flowers or balloons; reach out to local media to have the ceremony recorded, broadcast, and/or live streamed; assemble a slide show or video of the graduates; compile marching lists for faculty, administrators, staff, and any other VIPs on stage; and confirm music is lined up (such as a pianist ... I mean, what would Commencement be without "Pomp and Circumstance" playing?) And the list goes on.

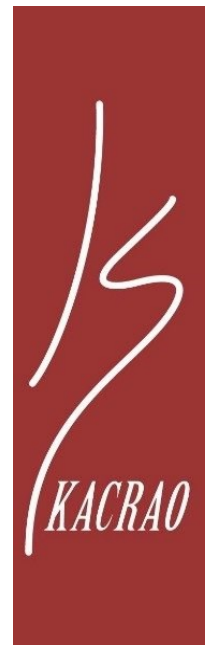
If you're feeling overwhelmed or just realizing you've forgotten a crucial step in the graduation process this year, relax. Somehow, it always works out. Items can be overnighted to you if necessary. If you are stressing out and feeling like you'll snap, try a little comic relief. For example, think about some of the funny things that have happened surrounding graduation in the past. Can't think of any? Let me help you out with a few funny stories of my own.

Graduate Who Doesn't Know How to Pronounce His Own Name – Yes, it's true. During Commencement rehearsal one time, I was practicing pronouncing a student's last name and asked if I'd gotten it right or not. The candidate replied, "To be honest, I'm not really sure how my last name is supposed to be pronounced. What you said will be fine."

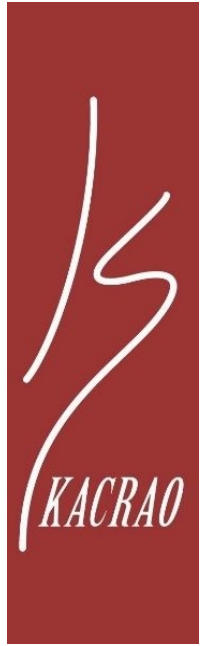
Graduates Who Don't Know Their Alphabet – Oh, I'm sure you've all experienced this. I hand out the marching order to the first person in each department/program area and, even though it lists every graduate's name in alphabetical order, they somehow cannot seem to line themselves up. We have to come over and line them up ourselves. Depending on how the rest of the day is going, this one either makes me want to laugh, cry, or just shake my head and walk away.

Students Don't Think Grades Matter – On more than one occasion, we have had to talk with students and let them know why they will not be walking across the stage. "Yes, it is mandatory for you to pass all of your required courses with a 'C' or better. No, a 'D' or 'F' doesn't count." "Yes, we do require you to have an overall GPA of 2.0. No, you cannot graduate with a 1.90 GPA."

Number of Credits Doesn't Matter Either – Surprisingly, we've even had students who think they can attend college half-time for 1 year and be done with a "9-month program". I mean, they attended college for 9



months! Why shouldn't they graduate at the end of 9 months? They seem to think it's some sort of false advertising on the college's part. The same is true for students who attend here for two years as a half-time student in a 2-year program. They think that, just because they attended here two years, they will automatically be graduating at the end of that two years, even though they have only completed the 1st-year courses.



Where's My Diploma? I'm sure we've all experienced this one. We're supposed to be mind-readers. A part-time student completes the last course he/she needs in order to earn a degree, yet he fails to apply for graduation. This student is not on anybody's "radar" because he has been taking classes so long that nobody even realizes he's even degree-seeking. He doesn't complete a Graduation Application. Then, about three months after he has completed his last class, he asks where his diploma is. Everybody looks at the Registrar as if she dropped the ball. I mean, we are supposed to be mind-readers, aren't we? You only hope that you find out about this graduate before you've printed the Commencement program, mailed diplomas, and submitted your AY files to KBOR!

Can't Decide Which Program and Award to Complete – I have to say, this was a new one on me last year. I had two graduation candidates who kept changing their minds as to whether they wanted a Technical Certificate in one program or whether they wanted an AAS degree in another program. We were phasing out one Technical Certificate program, so they were going to be the last two students to graduate in that program, but they were looking for even shorter avenues to take and still earn "something". Back and forth we went, changing the Commencement program, the marching order and the diploma order until I was ready to call "uncle"! By this time, it almost wasn't funny anymore.

You Don't Actually Need My Transfer Transcripts, Do You? Again, Registrars are supposed to be mind-readers. I mean, why would we need to see an official transcript from another college before we grant transfer credit and award a degree? We should automatically know that Suzie went to XYZ University and finished the last Gen. Ed. course she needed for her degree. We don't need her to have the transcript sent to us; we're just supposed to automatically know the student finished that course elsewhere. We're such sticklers for details.

How Can We Start Commencement Without any Music?! - This is one I will never forget. Our pianist had totally forgotten to show up. The faculty, staff and administrators were backstage waiting to enter the stage, but the pianist hadn't shown up, so there was no music! I received word that we had been unsuccessful in our attempts to get him to answer his phone and it was now several minutes after the ceremony was to start. I said, "Well, we'll just have to go onstage without any music". However, I was afraid that the audience would not know when Commencement was officially starting without Pomp and Circumstance playing. Moreover, I thought the graduates would not know when to process in because the music was to be their cue. The administrators and faculty did not want to process out onto the stage in dead silence (besides the clicking of our heels on the wood floor), but, at the same time, I did not want us to be stuck backstage all afternoon waiting for a pianist who wasn't coming. In the end, we received word that he was on his way and would be there any moment. He finally arrived and we processed out as did the graduates. We survived and can laugh about it NOW. The pianist vows to never forget about our Commencement again.

I Lost My Honor Cords – In the Last Hour – OK. Last one, I promise. This has happened more than once. We hand out honor cords the morning of rehearsal (just a few hours prior to Commencement) and, between the time the candidate leaves for lunch and returns, he has lost his honor cords. Yes, these are honor cords, but we've learned our lesson. We now stress to them at rehearsal that, if they misplace their honor cords over lunch, we do not have extras on hand and we will not be able to replace them. I can't believe an honor student would lose something he/she has worked so hard to earn. We give them grace, though. They're probably just so excited to be graduating and ready to get out and conquer the world, they would lose their heads if they weren't "sewn on".

Denise Hoeffner
Salina Area Technical College



Top o' the Mornin' to Ya! Let's Find a Pot of Gold!

The "Pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" is a quote that came from the Irish in the 17th century. The sun is a circle which makes rainbows circles as well. Since rainbows are circles, the Irish would say that people are as likely to find a pot of gold as they were to find the end of a rainbow. Obviously, people have embellished this and turned it into a fairy tale of leprechauns and finding gold.

There is a fairytale that involves a man and a wife who stumble upon a leprechaun who tells them that he will grant them one wish. The wife says she wants money, shoes, and fine clothes while her husband states that he wants tools and a new house. Well clearly this is more than one wish and the leprechaun scolds them for being selfish. However, being the benevolent and kind leprechaun, he was, he told them that he had hidden a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and all they had to do was find it.

Moral of the story is that somewhere out in the world is a pot of gold waiting for someone to find it. I would like to point out that if any of you who are reading this find it, that you received all the information from Preston, and I deserve 50 percent of the gold. Good luck to you all!

Preston Gapter

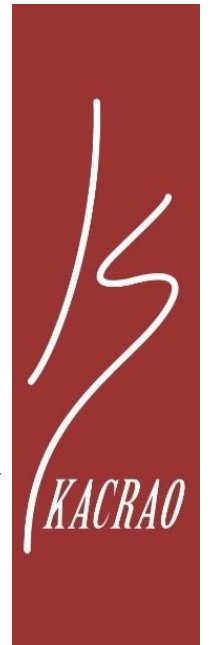
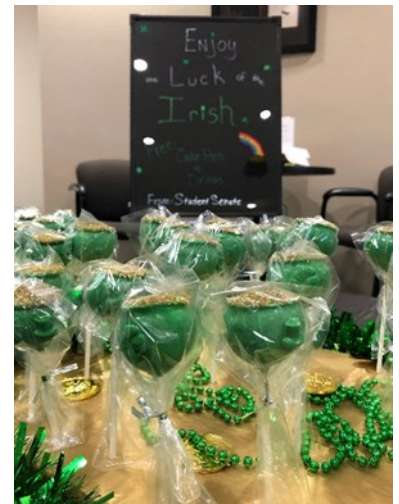
Salina Area Technical College



NCCC Student Senate handed out their own version of "Pot of Gold" to all of their student body on Friday March 15th as a St. Patrick's Day treat! These yummy cake ball treats were covered in green tinted chocolate with gold flakes on top and different charms embellished on the front of each. There was a large "Pot of Gold" full of different candy as well for the taking!

Jenna McDaniels

Neosho County Community College



Get to Know Your Publications Committee

What is your name and position at your institution? Diana Chavira, Recruiter & Admissions Coordinator for Seward County Community College

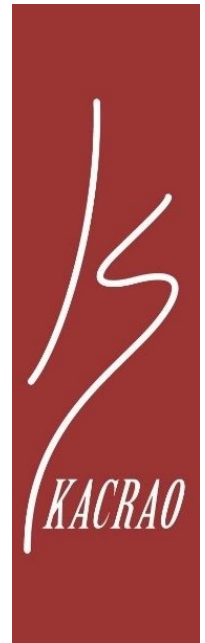
How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? Since September 4th, 2018 Same for KACRAO

What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? Getting to meet recruiters and admissions people from all over the state and being able to relate to each other because we deal with similar things in our positions. I've made some pretty great friends this year.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Pistachio

What is your favorite type of drink? Probably sweet tea, or a Mexican water

Any parting words? "I hope everyone is enjoying their year, it has definitely been an experience for me. I have grown a lot being in my position and I am so grateful for all of the friends that I've made over the past year."



What is your name and position at your institution? Jenna McDaniels, Ottawa Campus Admissions Specialist & International Student Liaison DSO for Neosho County Community College

How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? 2 years with NCCC and 2 years with KACRAO

What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? The people I have met! The friendships and networking relationships I have built have truly helped me in so many ways!!

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Not a huge ice cream fan.

What is your favorite type of drink? Vanilla Sweet Cream Cold Brew from Starbucks as a treat but WATER is a must at all times for me!

Any parting words? One of my favorite quotes is by Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I believe this is so true! We must teach our children to teach their children for education will forever change and expand.

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Get to Know Your Publications Committee

Continued...

What is your name and position at your institution? Preston Gapter, Enrollment Specialist, Salina Area Technical College

How long have you been at your institution and how long have you been a member of KACRAO? Insitution, 7 months. KACRAO, 5 months.

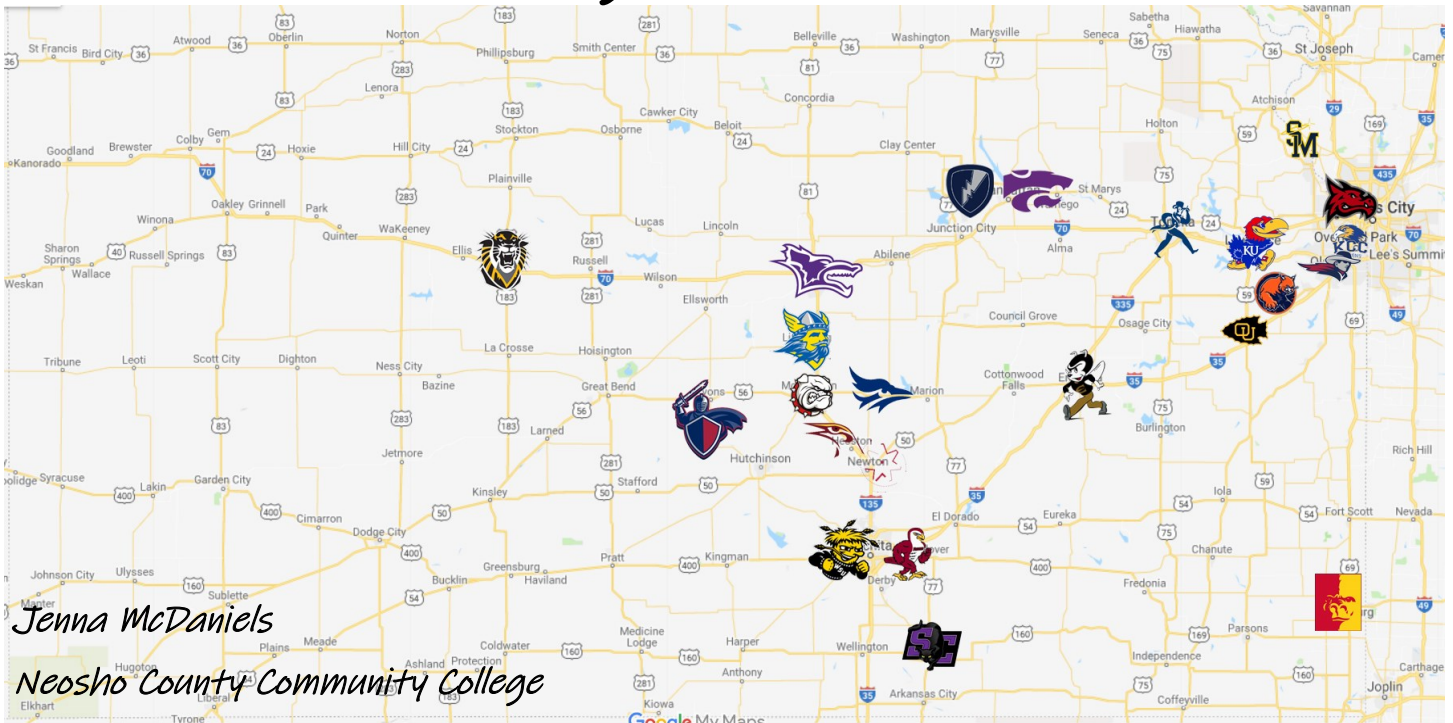
What is your favorite thing about KACRAO? Meeting a bunch of different people and getting advice from those who have been in the business longer.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Mint Chip

What is your favorite type of drink? Sweet Tea

Any parting words? Being on the publications committee is my favorite part of KACRAO so far!

4 Year Colleges Around Kansas



Current Job Openings

Dean, Washburn Institute of Technology
Washburn University

Registrar
Kansas Wesleyan University

Health Care Recruiter
University of Saint Mary

Admissions Counselor
University of Saint Mary

Coordinator of Enrollment Management
Hutchinson Community College

Find these postings and more at
kacrao.memberclicks.net/job-opportunities



Words of Kansas

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OPE
SUNFLOWER
BUFFALO
WHEAT
TOPEKA
WINDY
TIGERSALAMANDER
WIZARDOFOZ
TORNADO
FLAT

Adopting the right attitude can convert a negative stress into a positive one.
Hans Selye