



# For The Record

## OACRAO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**

### President's Opening:



"It's hard to believe we're already heading into another academic year! As things start getting busy on our campuses, there is also a lot happening with OACRAO.

Planning for our 100th Annual Conference continues to move along, with sessions, presenters, sponsors, and all of the little details starting to come together. Registration is open, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in October!

We've also had a great response to the relaunch of our mentorship program, with more than 30 members signing up to participate. It's exciting to see so much interest in making connections and learning from one another.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Ohio Summer Institute a success. We received great feedback, and I appreciate everyone who gave their time to make it happen.

Good luck with the start of the semester, and I hope to see many of you at the conference!"

Sincerely,  
Heather Pritchard

*President*

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## ★ Annual Conference Information ★

### Don't Miss Your Chance to Celebrate 100 Years of OACRAO!

The countdown is on for the OACRAO 100th Annual Conference, taking place **October 14–16, 2026, at Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center in Mt. Sterling, Ohio.** This year's theme, *Celebrating A Century of Connections*, honors the relationships, achievements, and shared experiences that have shaped OACRAO over the past century—and the future we'll continue to build together.

If you haven't registered yet, there's still time to join us for this historic celebration! From engaging educational sessions and networking opportunities to our once-in-a-lifetime Centennial Gala, this year's conference promises to be one to remember. Be sure to pack your dancing shoes and your OACRAO spirit as we celebrate 100 years in style.

The conference room block at Deer Creek Lodge closes on September 1, 2026. Rooms are available for \$145 per night (plus applicable fees), and we encourage you to make your reservation soon before the deadline.

To reserve your room, call 1-800-ATAPARK and use group code GCRA.

Ready to join the celebration? Visit the [conference website](#) to register and learn more.

We can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you as we honor a century of connections that continue to make OACRAO such a special community.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to LAC Co-Chairs Sondra Pheil and Chris Dorsten.

### Conference Charity & Nature Walks

**Star House:** This year's conference charity supports Columbus-area youth ages 14–24 experiencing homelessness by providing basic needs and education and employment resources. Attendees are encouraged to donate **new** clothing, hygiene products, shoes, backpacks, blankets, water bottles, umbrellas, and other essential items. Star House does not accept used clothing. For a full list of needs or to donate financially, visit the [Star House donation webpage](#).

**Deer Creek Nature Walks:** Attendees can join two optional, easy bird-watching walks led by park naturalists: a **Sunset Bird Migration Walk** on Wednesday, October 14, from 5:00–6:00 p.m., and a **Sunrise Bird Walk** on Thursday, October 15, from 7:00–7:45 a.m. Comfortable shoes are recommended, as trails may be muddy. Binoculars are optional.

### ★ Friendly Reminder—Book Your Hotel by September 1! ★

For lodging, reservations can be made by calling 740-869-2020 and using group code Website: [OFC2868](#).

Rooms are available at a rate of **\$145 per night** (plus applicable fees). Please note that the room block closes after **September 1, 2026**, so we encourage you to book early.

Website: <https://www.deercreekparklodge.com/>



## Scholarship Committee Update

The Scholarship Committee is grateful for your continued support in developing the next generation of professionals in our field.

Thanks to your generosity, we have raised \$1,230 toward our \$4,000 scholarship goal so far this year. That means we're already more than one-quarter of the way there!

While that may not seem like a large amount yet, every dollar makes a difference. With your continued support, we know we can reach our goal and provide valuable scholarship opportunities for our future colleagues.

Our friendly competition among participating institutions is really heating up! **The University of Toledo** has taken the lead among the four-year public institutions, surpassing the University of Cincinnati. Meanwhile, the private institutions are locked in a four-way tie between **Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Otterbein University, Aultman College, and Ursuline College**. Which school will break away and claim the top spot? Over in the community college ins, **Cuyahoga Community College** is setting the pace and *leaving the competition in the dust!*

Mark your calendar! Our next Day of Giving is Wednesday, September 9th. Let's keep the momentum going and continue investing in the future of our profession. Every gift counts!

We're also excited to share that we'll have more information coming soon about our 50/50 Raffle at the Annual Conference—a fun way to support the Scholarship Fund while having a chance to win! In addition, be on the lookout for details about the 2026–2027 OACRAO Student Scholarship application, which will open in October. We encourage students to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to help support their educational journey.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping make these scholarships possible. Together, we're making a meaningful difference in the lives of future higher education professionals.

## OACRAO Summer Institute 2026

Nineteen higher education professionals came together for the OACRAO Summer Institute (OSI) at Salt Fork Lodge & Conference Center, July 29–31. The attendees had the opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas and best practices, build new connections, and strengthen their professional networks. From engaging sessions to meaningful conversations, the institute provided valuable resources and practical ideas that attendees can take back to their campuses. The willingness to collaborate, share experiences, and support one another is what continues to make the Summer Institute such a rewarding experience. Thank you to the faculty and to everyone who helped make this year's Summer Institute a success. We look forward to seeing how the ideas, connections, and resources gained at OSI continue to make an impact throughout the year.





## Program Committee Update

OACRAO Session Preview! Identity theft is at the front of our minds right now – from admissions applications to sending official transcripts. How are other universities working through these issues? Check out these great sessions lined up for the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual OACRAO Conference!

### **Ghost Application Fraud: Identification, Prevention, and Response**

Thursday, October 15 – 9:30 – 10:20am

Presenters: Jason Chambers, Caitlyn Carey, Alexandria Fraley, Amy Murray

Application fraud is no longer a fringe issue - it's an evolving threat hitting institutions of all sizes. This panel brings together admissions professionals from large and mid-sized Ohio institutions to share what they're seeing on the ground, how they're identifying suspicious applications, and the institutional, legal, and policy considerations that come with responding. Rather than a one-size-fits-all solution, attendees will walk away with a clearer picture of the fraud landscape and practical strategies they can adapt for their own campus context. Whether you're just starting to notice the warning signs or already deep in response mode, this is the conversation you need to be having.

### **Guarding the Gates: Tackling the Rise of Fraudulent Transcripts**

Thursday, October 15 – 10:20 – 11:20am

Presenters: Heather Rognon, Kirsten Berlan

Fraudulent transcript requests and applications are becoming more common, and many institutions are feeling the impact. In this session, we'll talk through how to spot red flags, what steps schools are taking to prevent fraud before it happens, and how to thoughtfully notify alumni when their identity has been misused. Join us for a practical, discussion-based session focused on real scenarios and shared solutions.

## What's Happening On Your Campus?



The [Veterans and Military Student Services Center](#) at [OHIO University](#) continues to progress their Military Community Advocate (MCA) Program. The MCA program is a service scholarship initiative designed to support military-connected students at OHIO. This program provides all types of military-connected students with leadership roles that strengthen campus engagement, enhance student support services, and foster a military-connected student-friendly environment. The MCA program will provide selected students with a \$2,000 scholarship in recognition of their service and leadership.

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## What's Happening On Your Campus? – *Continue*

Launched in the fall of 2025 with an inaugural three students, the program has grown exponentially with 20 students in the fall of 2026 cohort. Students in the MCA program will:

- Develop peer support networks
- Improve awareness and utilization of resources
- Promote student engagement and leadership
- Enhance campus-wide military awareness
- Organize social and educational events

Implementation of MCA has further strengthened OHIO's commitment to serving those who serve our nation. OHIO was selected in the inaugural class for the Ohio Collegiate Purple Star designation amongst colleges and universities within Ohio. OHIO's Veterans and Military Student Services Center consistently achieves [high rankings](#) based on criteria for military friendly schools. VIQTORY has once again designated OHIO a Military Friendly Gold and Military Friendly Spouse School for the 2026-27 academic year.

### Professional Development Corner

As the new academic year approaches, faculty and staff have an opportunity to pause before the semester's demands begin and engage in conversations about the future of higher education.

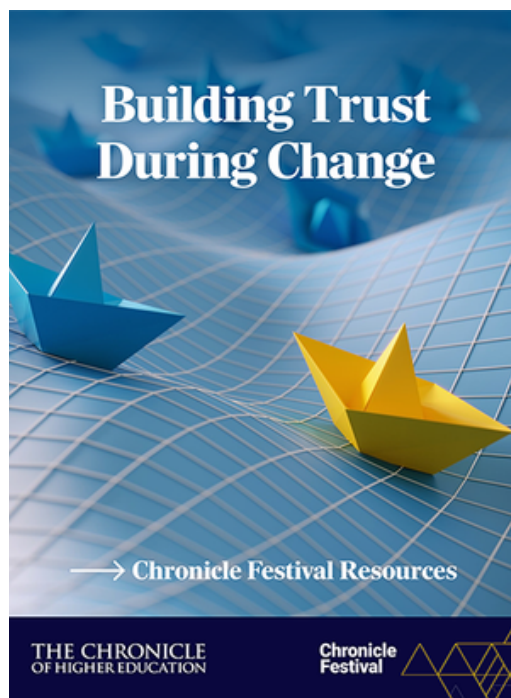
Registration is now open for **Chronicle Festival 2026**, a free virtual event taking place **September 10, 15, and 17**. This year's theme, **Building Trust During Change**, will bring together higher education leaders, The Chronicle of Higher Education journalists, and experts from across the country to examine the challenges and opportunities shaping today's campuses.

Throughout the three-day event, participants will explore thought-provoking topics, including:

- Can colleges rebuild trust?
- How do we reconnect students with learning?
- Can artificial intelligence strengthen—not divide—a campus?
- What should the next compact for colleges look like?

Whether attendees participate in one session or the entire series, the festival offers an opportunity to gain fresh perspectives, practical strategies, and new ideas for navigating change in higher education.

Register today to reserve your place! Registration is free. Those who register will also receive immediate access to the complimentary Building Trust During Change Chronicle Festival report.



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# Membership & Mentoring Committee Update

**We are excited to share that the 2026–2027 OACRAO Mentorship Program is officially underway!**

This year, **31 OACRAO** members are participating, including 10 mentors and 21 mentees. Participants have been placed into small peer mentoring groups based on areas of expertise, job responsibilities, professional interests, and goals. Each group includes two mentors who will help guide conversations and provide different perspectives throughout the year.

Groups will connect monthly from August through May, with opportunities to discuss professional goals and challenges, share best practices, learn from one another, and get to know fellow OACRAO members along the way.

Although the initial groups have been formed, the Mentorship Program remains open to members who may become interested in participating during the year. When possible, we will work to connect interested members with an appropriate group.

We're excited to see the relationships and connections that develop throughout the year and appreciate all of our mentors and mentees for helping make the return of the OACRAO Mentorship Program a success!



## **Need to Add Someone to Your OACRAO Membership Roster?**

Have new staff members who should be added to your institution's OACRAO membership roster?

New members can complete the Request to Create a Member Account form located on the OACRAO Membership & Dues page.

Request a Member Account:

<https://oacrao.memberclicks.net/membership-and-dues>

Completing the form ensures we receive the information needed to add the individual to your institution's roster. Once their account is created, the new member will be able to set up their password and access MemberClicks.

We encourage institutions to continue keeping their membership rosters current as staff join or transition into new roles. If you have members that leave your institution, please reach out to Sarah ([smarcin1@kent.edu](mailto:smarcin1@kent.edu)) or Kathleen ([brownk16@ohio.edu](mailto:brownk16@ohio.edu)) to update your roster and remove them from the listserv.

## Member Spotlight!



University Registrar  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



### What do you hope to get out of OACRAO?

I have been attending OACRAO since 2016 when I moved back to Ohio from Florida; I had first learned of IACRAO, when serving in Indiana at Taylor University's Fort Wayne campus (before it closed). I always appreciate the networking opportunities, relationship building, and workshop/conferences that our State Associations provide via membership and gatherings. Ohio has a great chapter, great leaders and invested people serving in our field. I appreciate collaboration and having a place to send each of my team members to grow in their professional roles and responsibilities throughout the seasons of life and changes in higher education.

### Would you rather have a four-day work week or a two-hour lunch every day?

I would rather work four days, for sure! Lunch breaks almost seem a thing of the past, honestly – I enjoy focused time and would relish more concentrated time for fun on the non-working days – some weekends fly by way too fast to fully enjoy

### What's the last thing you binge-watched?

My kids would tell you I'm not always up on the latest in entertainment! My son had me watch the Stranger Things series this past winter – into Spring – as he rewatched it leading up to the theatre showings (yeah, I still waited to see it at home). I enjoyed it! (minus some of the gory scenes) And I recently caught up watching the Sweet Magnolias series with my daughter. This is more my genre, along with the occasional Hallmark Holiday movie. In my free time, I would rather be outside when it is nice weather and doing just about anything that is not "screen time" since I feel glued to the screens during the workday.

**OACRAO**  
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS  
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*Thank you for reading!*