



For The Record

OACRAO
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE

President's Opening:



Hello OACRAO colleagues,

As we begin the new year, I want to thank you for the engagement and enthusiasm that continue to carry our work forward.

From conversations throughout the fall to recent volunteer interest, it's clear that OACRAO remains a community built on participation and shared commitment.

As we move into the spring, I encourage you to start thinking about two upcoming professional development opportunities: the Residency and Staff Workshop, and OSI (Ohio Summer Institute).

OSI is designed specifically for new professionals, and I can tell you—it is going to be an amazing experience. More details on both programs will be shared soon.

Throughout this year, we'll continue to highlight the history of our profession and our association in thoughtful, manageable pieces, as we move toward OACRAO's 100th Annual Conference in 2026.

Thank you for the work you do every day to support students, institutions, and one another. I'm looking forward to what we'll accomplish together in the months ahead.

Warmly,
Heather Pritchard
President, OACRAO

President

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Admissions in Motion: Connecting With Students Before the Digital Age

Before email campaigns, CRM systems, and virtual tours, admissions work depended on relationships, travel, and trust. Early OACRAO records show admissions professionals working closely with public schools, often serving as the primary link between institutions and communities.

Meeting materials from the 1930s document presentations focused on college entrance from the public school perspective, highlighting how admissions officers collaborated with counselors and principals to guide students into higher education. These partnerships were essential in shaping expectations around preparation, readiness, and access.

As college-going expanded in the decades that followed, admissions roles grew more complex. By the late 20th century, conference programming reflected increased travel demands and evolving professional realities — including sessions that addressed personal safety for admissions staff on the road. Across every era, admissions professionals adapted to meet students where they were, opening doors through connection long before technology made it easier.



Jennifer Ahern

Registrar
Cleveland Institute of Art

Member Spotlight!

What do you hope to get out of OACRAO?

I hope to gain community within the higher education administrators in Ohio to build resources and professional peers.

Who or what inspires your work?

One of my main inspirations is seeing graduates at Commencement, especially when I've known them since their first year. Seeing them go from confused first-year students to graduates is a joyous experience.

What is your favorite coffee order or go-to snack?

Unsweetened iced black tea (usually from Dunkin').



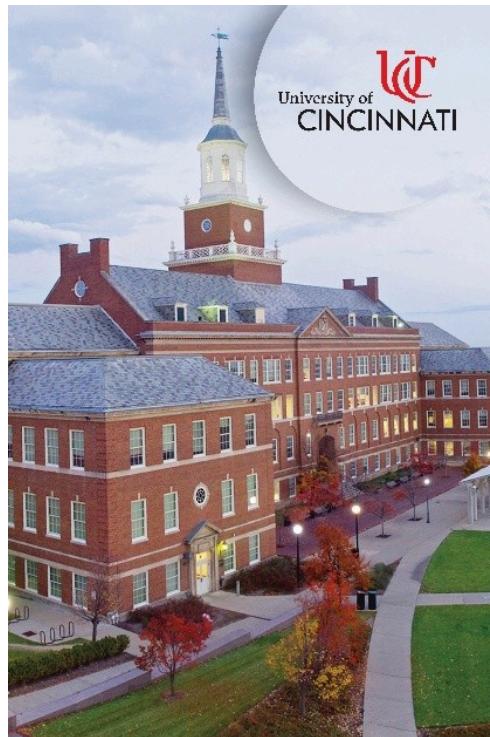
What's Happening On Your Campus?

The University of Cincinnati

Great things have been happening at the University of Cincinnati! UC has recently launched a tuition-free pathway for prospective students with families making less than \$75,000 a year with the Bearcat Affordability Grant.

Celebrate with us our newest graduates and additions to the Bearcat alumni! Congratulations Bearcats on crossing the stage!

On the basketball court the Bearcats have secured their first Big 12 win! Come and "Cheer Cincinnati, Cincy will win" with us as the season continues.



OACRAO: Built to Share the Work

From its earliest days, OACRAO functioned as more than a professional association — it was a working community. Early minutes and conference records reveal members gathering not just to learn, but to problem-solve together, share practices, and support one another across institutions.

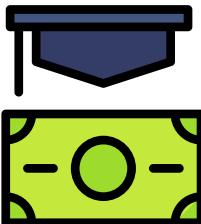
Committees, meetings, and shared responsibilities formed the backbone of the organization. Members volunteered their time to review policies, plan programs, and help colleagues navigate challenges that were often common across campuses. This collaborative spirit allowed OACRAO to grow alongside the professions it served.

As we begin a new year, these archives remind us that OACRAO's strength has always come from participation and partnership. The association was built — and sustained — by people willing to share their expertise and invest in one another.

Coming Soon: OACRAO Coffee Hours!

Stay tuned for meeting invitations via the OACRAO Listserv—a great chance to connect and share ideas with members from across the state!





Scholarship Winners!

We received 55 applications for the OACRAO Scholarship, and each applicant demonstrated strong leadership skills and meaningful involvement within their institution. We awarded three \$1,000 scholarships—one to a public four-year institution, one to a community college, and one to a private institution.

After careful review, we selected three outstanding recipients: **Abbie Harris** of Miami University, **Flavia Pimenta** of Marietta College, and **Rishi Chitte** of Cuyahoga Community College.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are eager to expand our committee membership and explore new fundraising opportunities to continue supporting students throughout the state. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year a success and for investing in the future of our students!

Program Committee Corner

The 2026 Program Committee is excited to announce that we are now accepting session proposals for OACRAO's 100th Annual Conference!

This milestone event is the perfect opportunity to share your expertise and ideas with colleagues across the state.

We are seeking submissions for sessions in the following tracks:

- **Admissions & Enrollment Management**
- **Information Systems & Data Management**
- **Professional Development**
- **Records & Registration**

If you're interested in presenting, please submit your proposal using the link below:

[**Session Proposal Form**](#)

Member Directory Update

The Membership and Mentoring committee be reaching out to each institution's primary contact to review and update the online member directory.

This is a great opportunity to confirm your roster, add current staff, and remove individuals who are no longer at your university.

An up-to-date roster will ensure your members have access to the OACRAO ListServ and important communications.

Looking for additional **professional development opportunities?**

Check out AACRAO's [webinars](#), available throughout the month!



The Registrar's Invisible Work

Registrar work has always been central to the academic mission, even when much of it happened quietly behind the scenes. OACRAO's earliest meeting minutes from the 1930s show registrars deeply engaged in questions of course load, scheduling, and academic structure — long before automated systems existed.

One recurring theme in these early discussions was balance: how to offer flexibility while maintaining fairness and clarity for students. Members debated how new course structures affected schedules and academic progress, recognizing that increased choice often brought unintended complexity.

As institutions grew, the registrar's role expanded to include transfer credit evaluation, degree verification, and policy interpretation. While the tools have evolved dramatically, the responsibility has remained constant. Registrars have long served as the stabilizing force in higher education — ensuring accuracy, consistency, and integrity in a changing academic landscape.

Reminders/Save the Dates

2026 Residency Workshop

REGISTER NOW! April 2, 2026 9:30 am - 1:30 pm at Mount Carmel College of Nursing

- An informative session on best practices for determining residency. A representative from Ohio Department of Higher Education will be available to answer any questions. In addition to residency best practices, we will also have a presentation on AI.

To register, visit the [Residency Workshop webpage](#).

100th Annual OACRAO Conference

October 13-16, 2026 at Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center

Join us in celebrating A Century of Connections at OACRAO's 100th Annual Conference! We hope to see you there as we mark this milestone event.

Keep a look out for more information!

Staff Development Workshop

SAVE THE DATE: June 4, 2026 at Marion Technical College.

- There will be a \$10 fee.
- More information to come, please check the [Staff Development webpage](#).

2026 OACRAO Summer Institute

SAVE THE DATE: July 29 - July 31 at Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center.

- More information to come, please check the [OSI webpage](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kristy Taylor.
Taylork@mtc.edu

We hope to see you at OSI in July!

OACRAO Summer Institute



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Thank you for reading!