



For The Record

OACRAO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



President's Opening:



As we continue moving through the summer, I wanted to share a quick update on our preparations for the 100th Annual Conference. The planning committee has been making tremendous progress, and it has been exciting to see our vision continue to come together. While there is still plenty to do, we're well on our way to creating a conference that celebrates OACRAO's rich history while looking ahead to the future of our profession.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, shared ideas, and supported the planning efforts so far. Your enthusiasm and dedication are what make this organization so special.

I hope you are finding a few moments to recharge before the busy fall semester begins. I look forward to sharing more conference updates with you in the coming months. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer, and I can't wait to see you in October!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Heather Pritchard

President

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We Want to Hear From You - Take Our Poll!

One of the best parts of OACRAO is the knowledge, experience, and connections we share as a community. Whether you've been around for years or just joined, your perspective really matters.

We're launching our first OACRAO Member Pulse Survey, and we'd love to hear from you! It's a quick mix of professional and fun questions about your OACRAO experience, future Coffee Talk ideas, conference attendance, and more.

By taking the survey, you'll help us:

- Find topics you'd like to see in future Coffee Talks and professional development opportunities
- Learn which OACRAO resources are most helpful
- Get ideas for future newsletter content
- Highlight the unique experiences and personalities that make up our community

Take the survey here: [OACRAO Member Pulse Survey](#)

We'll share some highlights in an upcoming newsletter.

Thanks for taking a few minutes to help us learn more about our members—we appreciate you being part of OACRAO!

Member Spotlight!



DAN BOSS

Curriculum Systems
Analyst and Data Custodian
University of Toledo



What do you hope to get out of OACRAO?

I hope to continue learning from colleagues who work with degree audits, transfer articulation, and student records. In particular, there is always something new to learn about curriculum encoding. Every institution has its own approach to translating catalog requirements into degree audits, and I enjoy seeing the different solutions people come up with for similar challenges. Those ideas often help improve our own processes and better support students and advisors.

If you weren't in the Registrar's Office, what other role could you see yourself in?

I could also see myself as a painter or writer. I enjoy acrylic painting and writing poetry in my spare time. Both require careful observation and revision, and I find that process just as rewarding as the finished result.

If you could have lunch with any historical or famous figure, who would it be?

I would have lunch with Henry David Thoreau at his house by Walden Pond. I'd be interested to hear his thoughts on modern life, as well as nature, writing, and life in 19th-century New England.

Program Committee Update

The Program Committee recently hosted Sarah Marcini and Kathleen Pugh from the Membership & Mentoring Committee for the July Coffee Hour to discuss the Mentorship Program. They provided great information on the Mentorship Program and helped answer questions from interested individuals.

Looking ahead to August and September, the Program Committee will be finalizing details for the upcoming conference! Don't forget to review the Schedule at a Glance and Session Descriptions available on the Conference [website](#)!

What's Happening On Your Campus?



Meet Surge: Leading the Pack

The Cincinnati State family is celebrating a new era of school spirit with the introduction of Surge, leader of the Cincy State Wolves.

Unveiled on April 28, 2026, Surge was selected through a campus-wide vote involving both students and employees. While the mascot now takes the form of a wolf, the name "Surge"—a symbol of Cincinnati State pride for the past 15 years—remains a cherished part of the College's identity.

Honoring Dr. Monica Posey's Legacy

After more than 30 years of dedicated service to Cincinnati State, including 10 years as President, [Dr. Monica Posey](#) will retire on August 31, 2026.

To celebrate her remarkable leadership and unwavering commitment to student success and workforce development, the College will host a special fundraising luncheon on August 28. Proceeds from the event will support the creation of the planned Student Success Center, which will be named in Dr. Posey's honor—a lasting tribute to her transformative impact on Cincinnati State and the students it serves.

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate Dr. Posey's contributions, Cincinnati State is also focused on the future. The College has officially begun the search for its next president, marking an important new chapter in its history. Community members are encouraged to stay engaged throughout the process and learn more about the [presidential search](#) through the College's dedicated resources.



★ 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.

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

Conference Charity: Star House

House donation webpage.

This year's conference charity is Star House, a Columbus-based nonprofit that supports teens and young adults ages 14–24 who are experiencing homelessness. Besides helping provide access to food, clothing, hygiene items, and housing assistance, Star House also connects young people with education and employment resources, including academic tutoring, assistance with earning a GED, and support in overcoming barriers to continuing their education. Its services help provide the stability and connections young people need to pursue college, career training, and degree completion.

Conference attendees are invited to donate items such as:

- New hoodies, sweatshirts, and sweatpants
- New underwear, bras, and socks
- Athletic shoes, shower shoes, or slides
- New hygiene products
- Backpacks and reusable bags
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Reusable water bottles
- Umbrellas and rain ponchos
- Sunscreen and bug spray

Please note that Star House does not accept used clothing. A complete and current list of needed items, along with options for making a monetary donation, is available on the [Star House donation webpage](#).

Nature Walks at Deer Creek

Conference attendees are invited to enjoy Deer Creek State Park through two optional nature walks. Both walks will be easy in difficulty and appropriate for participants who are generally comfortable walking outdoors.

Sunset Bird Migration Walk - Wednesday, October 14, from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Join a Deer Creek State Park naturalist for a relaxed evening walk along the Adena Ridge Trail. This out-and-back trail is less than three-quarters of a mile and offers opportunities to observe migrating songbirds and enjoy views of the lake near sunset.

Sunrise Bird Walk - Thursday, October 15, from 7:00–7:45 a.m.

Start the day with an easy morning walk along the Rich VanHorn Trail near the lodge docks. The route will be approximately 0.6–0.9 mile and will offer opportunities to observe birds along the wooded trail and lakefront.

Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes that can handle potentially muddy conditions. Binoculars are optional, and a limited number will be available during the naturalist-led Wednesday walk. Because cellular service can be limited in the park, participants may also wish to download the OuterSpatial, Merlin Bird ID, or eBird Mobile app before arriving

Membership & Mentoring Committee Update

Membership rosters have been updated for all active institutions that have submitted their information. If your institution has not yet provided roster updates, please send any revisions at your earliest convenience.

Do you have a new colleague joining your office or someone interested in becoming involved with OACRAO? New members can create an account and get connected with the association by visiting the OACRAO MemberClicks [member registration page](#).

Please reach out if you need:

- Another copy of your institution's roster for review or updates
- Assistance adding or removing members due to staffing changes
- Your institution's logo added to the membership directory

For questions or assistance, contact Sarah Marcini at smarcin1@kent.edu or Kathleen Pugh at kbrown16@ohio.edu.

Mentorship Program Update

OACRAO Mentorship Program – **Applications Close August 1!**

There's still time to become part of the OACRAO Mentorship Program! —Become a Mentor or Mentee! Looking for a meaningful way to expand your professional network, strengthen your skills, and grow within the Registrar/Admissions profession? Joining the Mentorship Program is one of the best professional development opportunities available!

As a mentee, you'll gain access to a knowledgeable peer who can answer questions, share insights, and help you confidently navigate the ever-evolving world of Registrar/Admissions work. Learning from someone who has been in your shoes can make all the difference as you build your career and develop new skills.

As a mentor, you'll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact by guiding an emerging professional. Share your successes, lessons learned, and valuable real-world experiences—including challenges you've overcome and pitfalls to avoid. Mentoring not only helps others grow, but also strengthens your leadership, communication, and coaching skills while providing the rewarding experience of giving back to the profession.

Whether you're looking to learn, lead, or do both, the Mentorship Program offers valuable connections, professional growth, and a chance to contribute to the future of the Registrar community.

[Sign up today](#) and take the next step in your professional development journey!



Professional Development Corner

AACRAO Caucus Gatherings!

Did you know as a member of AACRAO, you may participate in AACRAO Caucus Gatherings. These are an opportunity to explore shared topics of interest, discuss challenges, seek insights and discuss best practices. AACRAO Caucus Gatherings occur the second Tuesday of each month. Topic and Communities of Interest vary.

Check out AACRAO's Events Calendar to register or find other virtual events of interests [here](#).

Higher Ed Dive

Have you taken the Dive? [Higher Ed Dive](#) is an excellent online resource that provides a daily newsletter covering: enrollment trends, technology, federal policy, student success initiatives and more! They also have a [current events page](#), and you could promote your own event if you would have one! This page also includes a library of on demand webinars

Power BI

Introductory Power BI training modules are [FREE](#)! **Power BI** is Microsoft's business intelligence (BI) and data visualization platform. It helps you turn data from systems such as Banner, Ellucian Insights, Slate, Degree Works, student success platforms, Excel, and SQL databases into interactive dashboards and reports. You can analyze trends, monitor key metrics, and share insights with campus leadership. Power BI is part of the Microsoft Power Platform.

Popular uses of Power BI in our world:

- Enrollment trends
- Registration activity
- Retention and graduation rates
- Credit-hour production
- Course demand and waitlists
- Transfer-credit metrics
- Processing turnaround times
- FERPA training compliance
- Service desk performance

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Thank you for reading!