



For The Record

OACRAO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



OHIO UNIVERSITY

President's Opening:

As we continue preparing for what promises to be an incredible fall conference, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some exciting improvements happening behind the scenes at OACRAO.

First, we've officially launched our updated listserv! This has been a significant project, and we're thrilled to have a more reliable way to communicate with our members. Over the next few weeks, please check in with your colleagues—especially others at your institution—to make sure everyone who should be receiving OACRAO emails actually is. If someone isn't receiving our communications, let us know so we can make sure they don't miss important announcements.

We've also been hard at work improving our online resources. If you haven't visited the conference website recently, take a look! We've added a Schedule at a Glance to help you begin planning your conference experience. Whether you're deciding which sessions to attend or coordinating with colleagues, we hope this makes planning even easier.

Our membership website has also received a major refresh. Joining or renewing your membership is now much more intuitive, and we've streamlined the process to make navigating the site easier than ever. While you're there, be sure to visit our brand-new Membership & Mentoring page.

One initiative I'm especially excited about is the relaunch of our mentoring program. OACRAO has always been built on relationships, and mentorship is one of the best ways we can support both new and experienced professionals in our community. Whether you're just beginning your career, looking to expand your network, or hoping to share the knowledge you've gained over the years, I encourage you to consider participating as either a mentee or a mentor. I truly believe this program has the potential to become one of the most valuable benefits of OACRAO membership.

As always, thank you for everything you do—not only for your institutions and your students, but for this organization. OACRAO continues to thrive because of members like you who are willing to share ideas, support one another, and invest in the future of higher education in Ohio.

I can't wait to see all of you this fall!

Heather Pritchard

President

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OACRAO 100th Annual
Conference



Staying Connected Through Our New OACRAO Listserv

Last month, OACRAO successfully transitioned its listserv to MemberClicks, creating a more integrated experience that connects member discussions with our membership platform. Since the transition, members have continued sharing questions, resources, and best practices with colleagues across Ohio.

As with any new system, we encourage members to periodically review their email and notification settings to ensure they are receiving listserv communications. Making sure members are on active institutional rosters. Checking spam or promotions folders, adding the listserv address to safe senders, and reviewing inbox filters can help prevent messages from being missed.

Members can participate in discussions in two ways: by emailing the listserv directly at OACRAO@oacrao.memberclicks.net or by posting through the E-Lists feature within MemberClicks. Notification preferences can also be adjusted through the MemberClicks portal to match individual communication preferences.

One of the greatest strengths of OACRAO is the willingness of members to support one another. Whether you're asking a question, sharing a resource, or offering guidance to a colleague, the listserv remains an important tool for professional collaboration across the state.

If you have colleagues who haven't participated recently, consider checking in with them to ensure they're receiving messages and know how to access the new platform. A quick conversation can help keep everyone connected to the valuable discussions and updates happening throughout our community.

Thank you to all members for your patience and engagement during this transition. We look forward to continuing the conversations, collaboration, and professional support that make OACRAO such a valuable network.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Angela Kiszka - angela.kiszka@utoledo.edu.

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!

What do you hope to get out of OACRAO?

In 2024, my position was moved to Curriculum Management. I was previously the Coordinator for Transfer and Articulation and managed the University Transfer Center, but now I oversee the team who verifies graduation, manages curricular changes and exceptions, oversees the outgoing transcript process, and maintains the transfer pathway and articulation documents. Since a lot of my new position has “registrar” functions, I hope to learn new ways of assisting my team and my college in performing these functions more effectively and efficiently. Columbus State is unique in that our registrar functions are distributed between three separate offices, so OACRAO has been helpful in not only knowing where I fit in, but in learning more about what we can all do better together

What is your favorite TV show or series you’ve recently enjoyed?

This is a hard question. I watch a lot of TV so I’m listing more than one: Summer House (the scandal! But I’m a longtime fan...), Shrinking, Call the Midwife (I love PBS!), The Pitt, and so many more.

If your job had a theme song, what would it be?

9 to 5 by Dolly Parton - The unofficial anthem of keeping systems, people, and processes on track.



MARY WHITT

Assistant Director,
Curriculum Management
Columbus State
Community College



What’s Happening On Your Campus?

With the arrival of its 16th president, Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, in June 2025, Wittenberg has embraced an innovative, forward-facing agenda to become the model of a liberal arts university. Consistent with that objective, Wittenberg recently announced the creation of four new schools designed to bring the liberal arts to life in a synthesized learning environment. I

Inaugural deans selected from among Wittenberg’s own faculty have also been appointed. Additionally, the University is in the process of finalizing an exciting new strategic plan, has developed new recruitment pipelines, expanded its athletics offerings through donor-supported initiatives, and recently enjoyed a record-breaking Commit to Witt Day of Giving with more than \$1.4 million raised in 24 hours this spring.



Scholarship Committee Updates

The OACRAO Scholarship Fund continues to support the next generation of professionals in our field, and we are excited to share an update from one of our recent recipients. Since receiving the scholarship last year, Abbie Harris from Miami University has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, earning a spot on the President's List for Fall 2025. She also broadened her global perspective in January through a three-week study abroad experience in the Himalayas, where she explored life at high altitude and immersed herself in Nepal's rich and diverse culture.

Following her graduation this past May, Abbie plans to attend Xavier University to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing, beginning in Fall 2026.

"I am deeply grateful to receive the OACRAO Scholarship. This award serves as a meaningful testament to my hard work and academic perseverance. By easing the financial pressures of my final semester, I can focus my full energy on my remaining coursework and professional development in the medical field."

— Abbie Harris

We are also pleased to report strong progress toward our fundraising goal. Through three Days of Giving this year, **we have raised \$1,060 toward our \$4,000 annual goal**—putting us over a quarter of the way there. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and helped build this momentum.

Friendly competition among institutions has added to the excitement! Our current top contributors are the University of Cincinnati, Cuyahoga Community College, and a three-way tie between Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Otterbein University, and Aultman College. Will your institution break the tie and take the lead?

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next Day of Giving on **July 8**, and watch for the listserv email with more details. Every dollar makes a difference and directly supports students as they pursue their educational and professional goals.



Program Committee Update

The Program Committee is pleased to share that the Schedule at a Glance is now available for viewing on the conference registration site. In addition, session descriptions for all confirmed presentations have been posted.

Over the coming months, the Program Committee will continue collaborating with the Local Arrangements Committee to finalize scheduling details and ensure our outstanding presenters have everything they need for a successful conference experience.

Be sure to watch for upcoming Session Spotlights from the Local Arrangements Committee!

Government Relations Committee Updates

136th Ohio General Assembly Legislation Updates from the OACRAO Government Relations Committee

Ohio House Bill 698

- This bill is the enforcer of compliance with measures enacted within SB1.
- Still in committee for discussion — assigned to the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
- Last hearing was on May 12, 2026 with no future hearings planned as of current.

Ohio Senate Bill 163 & Ohio House Bill 524

- Both bills relate to Artificial Intelligence platforms and content generated within them.
- SB 163 passed the Senate and was sent to the House for discussion — assigned to the House Technology and Innovation Committee
- HB 524 is still in committee for discussion — assigned to the Technology and Innovation Committee
 - Given the overlapping concepts in both bills, it is likely the senate bill will continue to move forward instead of the house bill. Reconciliation of differing concepts between the bills is also probable.



Professional Development Corner

The Latest in Higher Ed with Sarah Brown and Rick Seltzer

During each session, Sarah and Rick will break down the latest news, explain what it means for colleges and universities, and answer your questions live.

- Session 1: July 30 at 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT
- Session 2: August 27 at 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT
- Session 3 (Audience Q&A): September 24 at 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT

[Register once](#) and you'll automatically be signed up for all three webinars taking place monthly in July, August, and September.

Not a member of The Chronicle of Higher Education? You can join for free [here](#).



Membership & Mentoring Committee Update

Membership rosters have been updated for all active institutions that have submitted rosters. If your institution has not yet submitted updates, please send any revisions as soon as possible.

Reach out to Sarah Marcini at smarcin1@kent.edu or Kathleen Pugh at kbrown16@ohio.edu for:

- Another copy of your roster to update
- Any departures or new arrivals to remove or create membership accounts
- Add your logo to the directory

Mentorship Program Update

The Mentorship Program webpage has been published and can be accessed from the homepage under the **Get Involved!** menu.

Applications for mentors and mentees will open on **July 1**. Take a few minutes to explore the new Mentorship Program page and see if the program is right for you. The page outlines the program structure, mentor and mentee expectations and benefits of participation. We are excited to bring this program back to OACRAO and look forward to connecting members across the state!

Keep an eye out for a CoffeeTalk to discuss any questions you may have about the Mentorship Program.



Reminders/Save the Dates

OACRAO Turns 100: Registration Now Open for the 2026 Annual Conference!

The moment we've all been waiting for has arrived—**registration is officially open for the 2026 OACRAO 100th Annual Conference!** This year marks an incredible milestone as we celebrate **100 years of OACRAO**, and we invite you to be part of this historic event.

Join us **October 14–16, 2026**, as we gather under this year's theme, "**Celebrating A Century of Connections.**" Together, we will honor our past, celebrate our present, and inspire the future of our organization through meaningful sessions, networking, and shared experiences.

In true centennial fashion, we are going BIG for this celebration! A standout highlight of the conference will be the **Centennial Gala**—an evening dedicated to commemorating this once-in-a-lifetime milestone in OACRAO history. Bring your conference energy and OACRAO spirit, and come dressed in your best gala style—whether vintage, modern, or somewhere in between. And don't forget your dancing shoes for what promises to be a fun and memorable night!

The conference will be held at:
Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center
22300 State Park Rd. 20
Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

For lodging, reservations can be made by calling 1-800-ATAPARK and using group code GCRA. 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.

Ready to join us? Register today by visiting: <https://www.ohioaacrao.org/conference-home-2026>.


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

Here's to celebrating 100 years—and the connections that carry us forward!



OACRAO
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS
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Published by
The Communication Committee

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