



# For The Record

## OACRAO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### President's Opening:



HEATHER PRITCHARD

As we move into March, I continue to be energized by the momentum across OACRAO—especially as we build toward our 100th conference. This month's newsletter includes a couple of articles that highlight the work already underway, and I have to say, it's exciting to see the ideas and planning start to take shape. A century of OACRAO is something special, and I'm looking forward to celebrating that with all of you in October.

Behind the scenes, we are still working through our membership cleanup initiative. Thank you to those who have already responded and helped us ensure our records are accurate. We do still have several institutions we're waiting to hear from, so if that's you, a quick

quick response would go a long way in helping us move this forward—especially as we prepare for future communications and transitions.

We also had a really strong discussion this past Monday around Ohio House Bill 96. I appreciate the engagement and perspectives that were shared—it's clear this is an area our membership is paying close attention to. We're continuing to think through how OACRAO can best support you with timely information and space for discussion, so stay tuned. There may be additional opportunities to engage on this topic in the near future.

As always, thank you for the work you do every day on your campuses and for the role you play in this organization. There's a lot happening right now, and I'm glad we're navigating it together.

Heather Pritchard

*President*

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## What's Happening On Your Campus?



### Bowling Green State University

While spring in Northwest Ohio is full of highs and lows, rain and snow, Bowling Green State University is celebrating milestones and welcoming in new opportunities! 2026 marks the 10-year anniversary for our campus One Day of Giving Initiative to help support students' learning experiences and opportunities. Over the 10 years, BGSU One Day has grown, with last year raising more than \$2.7 million in 36 hours!

Over 200 high-achieving BGSU students received scholarships that cover nearly all their remaining tuition through the Thompson Working Families Scholarship program. The group represents the second cohort of Thompson Achiever Scholars funded by a historic gift by alumni Robert and Ellen Thompson.

Pudge the Cat made quite the stir on campus this fall as an integral member of the BGSU football team and unofficial "mascot." Pudge is the cat of long-snapper George Carlson and was featured on College Game Day, Fox Sports, CNN, Sports Illustrated, Good

Morning America, The Washington Post, The Associated Post, and most recently, The Kelly Clarkson Show.

Our regional campus, BGSU Firelands, celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with initial classes offered in 1965 through Sandusky High School. Construction of the permanent campus in Huron, OH, was completed in 1967. Firelands campus has expanded their offerings from general education and associate degree programs to bachelor's degrees, early college opportunities, and workforce certificates.

In spring of 2026, BGSU was the first university in the nation to offer a customizable AI + X bachelor's degree, with six field options including computer science, mathematics, physics, history, journalism, or public relations, that allows students to apply AI to their field of choice.

Looking forward to summer and fall, BGSU looks to continue its momentum admitting an academically strong cohort of students.

### Mentorship Program Update

The committee is continuing to work on plans to relaunch the OACRAO Mentorship Program with an expanded format. More details will be shared in the coming months, including opportunities for members to participate. Stay tuned!



**JESSIE WOHLFORD**

Senior Registration and Records  
Specialist  
Ohio State University



## Member Spotlight!

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

I hope to have more opportunities to connect with colleagues from other universities and colleges to gain professional insight and knowledge. I appreciate any opportunity to learn from others and grow my own knowledge and experience!

### **What is your favorite TV show or series you've recently enjoyed?**

I enjoy older TV shows, one of my favorites is Little House on the Prairie. It was my mom's favorite as a little girl, and a show and book series I enjoyed as a kid and a show I still enjoy as an adult.

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

I do not have any certain celebrities or historical figures that come to mind, but I'm happy for the lunch dates I do have which are my husband, my family, and my friends.

## Attending AACRAO in New Orleans?

If you will be attending AACRAO this year, I am pleased to invite you to join fellow Ohio colleagues for an OACRAO evening dinner at Mulate's The Original Cajun Restaurant on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m.

This gathering is intended to foster connection and conversation among colleagues in a relaxed and welcoming setting. We would be delighted to have you join us for this opportunity to reconnect and build community.

Please register and pay using the online form: <https://oacrao.memberclicks.net/aacrao-dinner-2026>.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact **President-Elect, Frank Yanchak** at [frank.yanchak@franklin.edu](mailto:frank.yanchak@franklin.edu).

Look forward to seeing you in NOLA!



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# Scholarship Committee Updates

The Scholarship Committee held its first meeting of the year earlier this month. We have a fantastic group this year and are excited to explore new ways to support scholarship funds and help students achieve their professional goals.

We will continue our Days of Giving this year, with an added twist—a friendly competition among participating institutions. To celebrate the spirit of generosity, we will recognize the institution with the highest total contributions in each of three categories: 4-year public institutions, 4-year private institutions, and community colleges. We hope this added element brings a bit of fun while further amplifying the impact of your support for students.

Please keep an eye out for reminders about our first Day of Giving on April 8.

If you have ideas for ways to donate or would like to support the scholarship funds, please reach out to Jenifer Fry, Chair, at [jenifer.fry@utoledo.edu](mailto:jenifer.fry@utoledo.edu), or Ryan Thomas, Vice Chair, at [ryan.thomas@tri-c.edu](mailto:ryan.thomas@tri-c.edu).

## Government Relations Committee

136<sup>th</sup> 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.
- With passage of this legislation, institutional funding will be tied to and revoked depending on an institution's compliance with SB1, notably the "anti-DEI" measures that were part of the legislation.
- The bill is assigned to the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee; further legislative updates will be provided in future newsletters.



### Ohio Senate Bill 163 & Ohio House Bill 524

- Both bills relate to Artificial Intelligence platforms and content generated within them.
- The Senate bill is relative to AI-generated content and requiring a watermark to be placed on the content to alert viewers that it's AI-generated
- Additionally, it expands Ohio's identity fraud laws to make it illegal to use a "replica of a person's persona"—such as a cloned voice or photorealistic AI likeness—to defraud someone, damage a reputation, or make fraudulent financial decisions.
  - This feels especially impactful as many institutions across Ohio are dealing with fraudulent applications, enrollments, etc. from individuals attempting to assume another's identity.
- The House bill is relative to the prohibition of an AI platform to encourage users to engage in self-harm or harm to others.
- The House bill is assigned to the House Technology and Innovation Committee.
- The Senate bill is assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Updates regarding both pieces of legislation will be provided in future newsletters.

# Annual Conference Highlights: A Special Update

## **OACRAO's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**

We quickly volunteered to help out with planning the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of OACRAO!

We are working with the current Executive Team, particularly President Heather Pritchard, to coordinate a series of reunion activities.

### **The main focus:**

- Inviting former OACRAO leaders to join us for some celebration activities at the Fall Annual Conference in October - or at least pass along some wonderful stories from their OACRAO pasts that we can share with others.
- Pull together some “historical gems” of past programs, meetings and activities that we can share at the conference, and more broadly with all OACRAO members this fall.

We're also pulling together a “Save the Date” letter to all former Executive Officers, award winners and Honorary members this spring.

At the fall conference, on Thursday, October 15, we're planning a Welcome Reception, Dinner and Evening Event to celebrate our anniversary.

Our thanks to current Executive members and all of the institutional reps who are helping us track down our former colleagues and mentors.

As we finalize details about the celebration, we'll be reaching out again. Watch out for some “fun tidbits” this summer!

Past-Presidents,  
Dave Sauter and Brad Myers

## Local Arrangement Committee: A Century in Style!

As OACRAO prepares for its 100th Annual Conference in October 2026, this year's celebration is sure to be one to remember. With our theme, Celebrating A Century of Connections, we'll be honoring the past, celebrating the present, and inspiring the future.

One exciting highlight of this year's conference will be our Centennial Gala — a fun and memorable evening celebrating this incredible milestone in OACRAO history. Attendees are invited to join in the celebration by dressing up for the occasion, whether that means bringing back a look from the past, wearing a vintage favorite, or stepping out in something new and fancy. Old prom dresses, wedding dresses, tuxedos, cocktail attire, or your favorite dressy look — however you choose to celebrate, we hope you'll join us for a special evening honoring a century of connections and celebrating 100 years in style.

LAC Co-Chairs,  
Sondra Pheil and Chris Dorsten



## Private College/University Meeting

I'm excited to share that the private college and university registrars are planning to gather online for the first time since COVID. This virtual meeting is a wonderful opportunity for us to reconnect, share experiences, and discuss current challenges and ideas in our field.



Looking ahead, we're also hoping to return to in-person meetings next year, which promises to be even more engaging.

If you're interested in joining us for the online meeting on Teams, please email [Frank.Yanchak@franklin.edu](mailto:Frank.Yanchak@franklin.edu) for more information. We'd love to have your participation and input as we build a stronger community together.

Looking forward to hearing from you!  
-Frank Yanchak

## Professional Development Corner

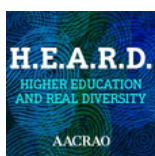
**AACRAO Podcasts** - Did you know that AACRAO regularly produces on demand podcasts? Podcasts can be found [here!](#)  
The different podcasts offered are:



**Admit It:** An AACRAO podcast that serves to educate, amuse and inspire professionals in college admissions and enrollment management.



**For the Record:** Entertaining and enlightening, this AACRAO podcast focuses on the roles, responsibilities, and rigmarole of a registrar's office.



**H.E.A.R.D. Higher Education and Real Diversity:** An AACRAO podcast hosted by three professionals discussing the intersection of DEI, Higher Education, and the personal impact of these topics. Join the presenters for an in-depth and personal look at the current landscape.



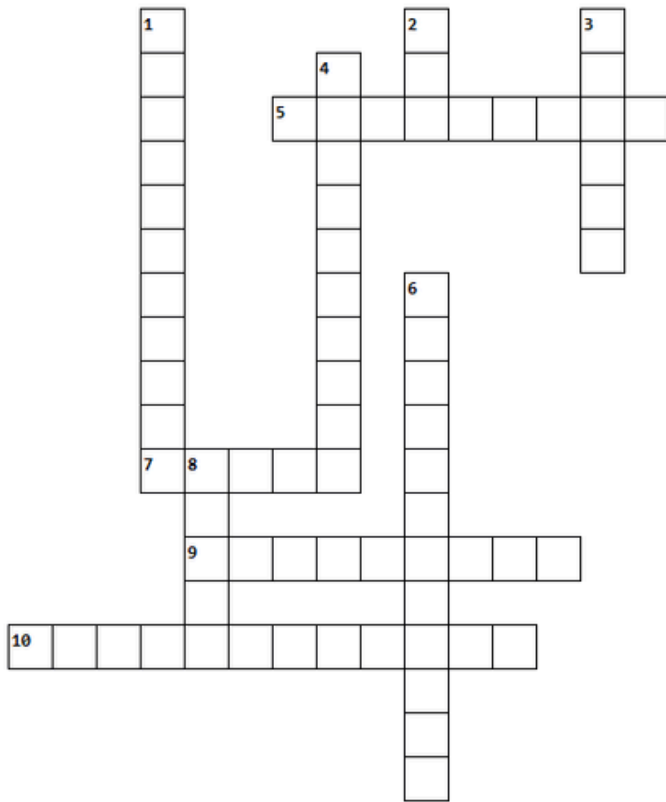
**Transfer Tea:** Learn about transfer efforts from experts across the nation and gain insight into the collaborations that are vital for transfer success.

**OACRAO ListServ-** We are currently updating our ListServ, if you or a member of your institution would like to be added to the ListServ, email [David Schneider](mailto:David.Schneider). Recent hot topics have been diploma printing, grading scales, transfer agreements, and others! Join the conversation!

**Did you miss the HB96 conversation on March 23<sup>rd</sup>?** Please watch for future information on the ListServ!

If you have ideas for professional development you would like to see OACRAO provide, please contact Kathleen Pugh, chair, at [brownk16@ohio.edu](mailto:brownk16@ohio.edu) or Kensey Love, vice chair, [lovek@ohio.edu](mailto:lovek@ohio.edu).

## For the Record Crossword Puzzle



### Down

1. Podcast focused on transfer efforts and collaboration
2. Summer professional development institute held in July
3. Organization celebrating its 100th Annual Conference in 2026
4. Gala celebrating OACRAO's 100-year milestone
6. Monthly publication you are reading now
8. The unofficial "mascot" for BGSU

### Across

5. Workshop held April 2, 2026 focused on student classification
7. Month when the first Day of Giving occurs
9. Location of the 2026 Annual Conference
10. Platform OACRAO is moving its listserv to

#### Crossword puzzle answers:

1. TransferTea, 2. OSI, 3. OACRAO, 4. Centennial, 5. Residency, 6. ForTheRecord, 7. April, 8. Pudge, 9. DeerCreek, 10. memberclicks

## Program Committee Update

**Session submissions are now closed for the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.**

The Program Committee is meeting March 27<sup>th</sup> to review all submissions and will be confirming session presenters over the next few weeks!

Thanks to everyone who submission a session to present or a session idea!

The March Coffee Hour was a success focusing on registration questions. There were over 40 attendees, and everyone contributed to a great discussion!

Be on the lookout for future coffee hours upcoming on the OACRAO website and listserv!

## Membership & Mentoring Committee Update

Last month, the OACRAO Membership & Mentoring Committee shared that emails would be sent to all active institution Key Contacts regarding **membership roster updates for accuracy**. Those messages have now been sent, and we appreciate the responses we have received so far!

If your institution has not yet submitted updates, we kindly ask that you review your roster and send any revisions as soon as possible. Institutions were asked to:

- Confirm their Key Contact
- Designate voting member(s) based on institutional headcount
- Remove individuals who are no longer at the institution
- Add new members
- Verify member information for accuracy

Updating rosters helps ensure accurate communication, correct voting representation, and proper access to member benefits. If you did not see the email, please check your spam/junk folder or contact us and we will resend the information.

If you have questions, please contact:

Sarah Marcini — [smarcin1@kent.edu](mailto:smarcin1@kent.edu)

Kathleen Pugh — [brownk16@ohio.edu](mailto:brownk16@ohio.edu)

## Reminders/Save the Dates

### 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 Residency Workshop

**SAVE THE DATE:** 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.

For more information, 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



### 2026 OACRAO Summer Institute: Registration Now Open

July 29 - July 31 at Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center.

#### Registration is now open for the OACRAO Summer Institute (OSI),

This workshop is open to all members, as the focus is on growing in leadership and strengthening our professional practice across the division. While it is especially beneficial for those newer to the profession, it is designed to provide meaningful value to staff at all experience levels.

The workshop offers an affordable and accessible professional development opportunity for individuals who may not be able to attend out-of-state training. Current and past Board members, will provide meaningful instruction and share practical insights. Participants will also have opportunities to build informal connections in a relaxed and engaging environment.

To register for the Institute, please visit the [OSI webpage](#).

The cost of the Institute is \$350.00 with free registration to the annual OACRAO conference in October.

For lodging, call 740-435-9000, select option 1, and mention that you are with the Ohio Summer Institute Group to receive the discounted rate up to the June 22nd.

#### Final day to register is June 22

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kristy Taylor. [Taylorlk@mtc.edu](mailto:Taylorlk@mtc.edu)

**We hope to see you at OSI in July!**

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