From your President-Elect...

**Save the Date!**
The TACRAO Board is excitedly preparing for the TACRAO Annual Meeting, which will take place in Memphis, TN on November 16-18, 2016. We are excited to be at the newly renovated Sheraton Downtown Memphis just minutes away from Beale Street and other fun and educational Memphis must-sees. Our Big Event this year will take place at the beautiful Memphis Zoo at the newest exhibition, Zambezi River Hippo Camp. Be on the lookout for conference and hotel registration information. In the meantime, we hope you will mark your calendars and save the date as TACRAO celebrates “Education for Life.” See you in Memphis!

**Swag for a Cause**
We’ve listened to your feedback and TACRAO is switching things up this year! Instead of the normal college gear swap with members at the Annual Meeting, we will donate all of the collected college swag to local educational groups. This “Swag for a Cause” donation will also serve as our community service outreach project so make sure to bring all of your college swag items with you to Memphis to donate to our educational partners.

**Call for Session Proposals**
If you are interested in presenting at the Annual Meeting in Memphis this fall, we look forward to reviewing your ideas. Submit your proposal online by going to http://www.tnacrao.org/?page_id=998.

Want to present but stuck on a topic? Use some of these topics as a start!

Admissions and Enrollment Trends • Electronic Records • Online Education • MOOCS • Student Access and Success • Professional Development • Academic Scheduling • Office Ethics • International Admissions • Social Media • Transfer Student Articulation • Recruitment Strategies • Dual Enrollment • Career Development • Diversity • Technology • Student and Family Programs • Campus Events • Veterans Outreach Programs • Leadership and Management • Degree Completion • Compliance • Campus Visits • Adult/Transitional Programs • Undocumented Students • Office Morale • Affirmative Action • FERPA • Reverse Transfer

Proposals are due by September 12! Submit soon!
Welcome to TACRAO’s busiest time of the year!

**October Events**

- 10/6 Support Staff Workshop-West @ Southwest TN CC
- 10/7 C4C East @ UT Knoxville
- 10/28 Support Staff Workshop–East @ Lee University
- 10/29 C4C West @ UM Lambuth

**November Events**

- 11/16 Annual Meeting in Memphis
- 11/17 Annual Meeting in Memphis
- 11/18 Annual Meeting in Memphis

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**September Events**

- 9/29 Registrar Roundtable @ Chatt State
- 9/30 Conf 4 Counselors Middle (C4C) @ Columbia St (Williamson Campus)

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Log on to TNACRAO.org

Check TNACRAO.org often for new opportunities on the website include a Members-Only section. Employment Opportunities are posted as received from institutions, so check this page regularly for open positions within Admissions and Registrar offices.

An email will be sent to members to access the Members-Only section which is for paid members only. Help us keep your info secure by not sharing the password with others.

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TACRAO is happy to announce that middle Tennessee’s very own Murfreesboro has been chosen as the host city for SACRAO 2018.

Mark your calendars now to attend SACRAO 2018 in Murfreesboro, Feb 11-14, 2018.

Watch for more info on our website and on social media!

Interested in volunteering at SACRAO 2018?
Contact Megan Mitchell at mitchellm@apsu.edu.

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@TNACRAO NOW ON TWITTER & INSTAGRAM
Middle TN Support Staff Workshop Receives Rave Reviews

The Middle Tennessee Support Staff Workshop was a huge success thanks to Eltra Butler from Volunteer State Community College who served as chair of the event. The theme was “Springboard to Your Best YOU!” Early on, Eltra and Kellie Siniard, VP for Administrative Support Services and Outreach agreed that they wanted this event to be a day for the participants. A day away from the office to relax, recharge, and discover new things to help them both personally and professionally.

The first speaker was Laura Trantum with Organic Fitness Factory. Laura gave practical advice on ways to eat healthier and incorporate more exercise. She also got everyone up and moving by teaching participants exercises that can be done even at work. Our awesome tech guy from VSCC turned up “Bringing Sexy Back” which was a fabulous addition. Laura also had a fabulous question/answer session about cooking and time management! We had each participant take a passion profile assessment which we used during the breakout sessions. The assessment helped participants discover ways to enhance their current job situation and work more effectively with other personality types.

After a great lunch, the second speaker, Mrs. Barbara Scales from MTSU spoke. Barbara was extremely entertaining and very motivational! She included many of her own personal stories and a great Passion Recipe for success!!!

What Middle TN Participants Had to Say…

“Barbara Mary-Sales passion was such a motivation and inspirational. Laura Trantum’s presentation was a wonderful change.”

“Experiencing the opportunity to talk with other offices and colleges. We had the chance to discuss ideas knowing the other person goes through the same thing we do.”

“Passion workshop...great reminder that we need to take care of ourselves.”

“Enjoyable day! Great fellowship with our peers.”

Registration Opening Soon for West and East Support Staff Workshops!

West—Oct 6 @ Southwest TN Community College
East—Oct 28 @ Lee University
**TACRAO Board Members—What do you love about being in Higher Ed?**

**Michele Priddy, President**  
Registrar  
Aquinas College  

I loved the whole experience of being in college myself. So, working in higher ed is special to me because I can share and encourage others to have those same great experiences. I have worked in both Admissions and the Registrar’s Office. In Admissions, I enjoyed being able to walk prospective students and parents through the process of entering college. Now, being a Registrar, I enjoy using my experience in recruiting to help with forming new academic programs and policies as well as assisting students with their various needs as current students.

**Avery Swinson, President-Elect**  
Director of Admissions and Enrollment Development  
Walters State Community College  

I have seen firsthand the power of education and how it can change people’s lives. I was fortunate enough to be one of those people. I am passionate about access to higher education and it is very rewarding to see the transformative power that college can have on students especially when they thought it was an unattainable goal.

**Dusty Duncan, President**  
Associate Director  
East Tennessee State University  

Working in higher education and admissions specifically, allows me to witness “the fruits of my labor” as they say. Whether it’s seeing that new and excited ETSU student who first visited with us at a college fair, student reception, or campus tour, it’s very fulfilling to me to see that student come full circle. That makes all the hours both in and out of the office well worth it. It’s not a job at that point. It’s a true sense of accomplishment. As professionals in higher education, we are all a team, looking out for the best interest of the student. If ETSU is not the perfect fit for a particular student, I know I have a great network of friends and colleagues across the state and country that I can refer them to.

**Jessica Swiney, Secretary**  
Director of Registration & Records  
King University  

Knowing that the work I do provides opportunities for students to grow and make a difference in the world. It is inspiring to watch young men and women come in as nervous freshman and leave as confident individuals ready to make a difference in the world. Peter Drucker once said, “We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change. And the most pressing task is to teach people how to learn”. I love being surrounded by highly knowledgeable individuals that strive to help others become better individuals. Having that family atmosphere with the individuals you work with. I work with individuals who truly believe in the mission of building meaningful lives. No two days are the same. Every day is a new adventure into a chapter of someone’s life story.

**Tracy Comer, Treasurer**  
Assistant Director of Admissions  
Austin Peay State University  

I have a passion for learning as its one of my top five strengths so I can’t see being anywhere else besides Higher Ed! I was a first-generation student and I love being a resource to so many as they navigate college life. My favorite part is when I see my kiddos at graduation.
TACRAO Board Members—What do you love about being in Higher Ed?

Sammy Stevens, VP for Admissions and Financial Aid  
Regional Admissions Counselor  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

I love giving students the opportunity to find what makes them unique and really own those things, and I love that higher education gives students an outlet to pursue their passions and interests freely.

Adam Johnson, VP for Recruitment Services  
Coordinator of Enrollment Services  
University of Memphis, Lambuth

I love the comradery that is built on campus with students, faculty, and staff and the great relationships that are fostered with prospective students and their families!

Dawn Carter, VP for Records and Registration  
Associate Registrar  
Northeast State Community College

I love knowing that in some small way I can help change a person’s life. My favorite quote says it all - Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself. (John Dewey)

Carol Laney, VP for Publications and Information Technology  
Assistant Director, Admissions Operations  
University of Memphis

I love that I play a part of making someone achieve their goals and am helping make a difference. I loved my college experience and want others to experience the same. I’ve also been able to meet amazing colleagues across the country who I can contact at any time about anything.

Kellie Siniard, VP for Administrative Support Services and Outreach  
Kellie Siniard  
Chattanooga State Community College

I truly love being a part of each student’s journey!! I work in the Welcome Center and Recruiting Department at Chatt State, so I am able to help students from any initial contact until the day they start classes. I enjoy being able to sit down with them in the beginning to help answer all of their questions regarding admissions, financial aid, and program requirements as well as helping ease their fears. I love it when students come back to see me to share milestones along the way such as being accepted into a program or passing a difficult course. However, helping with graduation is probably the most rewarding day of the year. I am so very proud of and for each of them and it is such an honor to be able to celebrate their accomplishments and hard work.
Looking for ways to connect with other TACRAO members??

- Visit our website
- Join the TACRAO List-Serve
- Volunteer
- Visit us on our Social Media sites:

Meet TSU’s Alan Lancaster

Institution: Tennessee State University  
Title: Assistant Director of Admissions  
How long have you worked in higher education? 24 years (22 of those at TSU)

What is the most rewarding part of your job?  
When I see a student on campus (either an enrolled student or visiting on tour) that I have been working with and talking with, it is very gratifying knowing that I helped get them to campus. One thing that is particularly rewarding is when a student comes to me to say thank you and show their appreciation for the role I played in helping their college decision to attend TSU. Especially those who may have had trouble navigating the system. It may seem small to me at first, but when they come back to show their appreciation, it makes me feel like I made a difference. I also like looking at the numbers. I see how many students have enrolled from particular areas or schools that I work with. It is rewarding to see improvement in particular areas.

What motivates you professionally?  
All of the above plus…Being able to be a guide for students who are unfamiliar with the process and being a motivation to them. I enjoy talking with populations of students of which many may be first generation. This is a source of inspiration for me.

What is your favorite part of TACRAO?  
Seeing colleagues on the road at recruitment fairs and events. The friendships and the fellowships.

Fun fact:  
I love keeping up with music and the Billboard charts. I’ve been doing my own countdowns going back to the 1940’s. I find all these charts online or even go to the Country Music Hall of Fame for back issues if need be. I like knowing and charting what songs were #1 when. I’m an 80’s music expert.

Interested in serving on, or chairing a TACRAO committee?  
Your TACRAO board is happy to announce that you can now register to volunteer quickly and easily by http://www.tnacrao.org or by clicking here to access the online form.

Go online to contact board members and committee chairs to see where you can help!