



NACRAO

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION

OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

EST. 1927

“Island Getaway”

NACRAO Annual Conference

July 10-11, 2025

**Bosselman Conference Center
Grand Island, NE**





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ABOUT NACRAO

Mission

Committed to educating Nebraska’s residents about the opportunities, benefits, processes, and procedures associated with higher learning.

History

The Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers was founded in 1927. We are a mission driven, non-profit educational and professional association dedicated to promoting the advancement of higher education.

Impact

NACRAO members are affiliated with over 90 public, private, two-year, and four-year institutions and organizations associated with higher learning and advanced training in and around the state of Nebraska.

Purpose

The purpose of this non-profit association shall be to promote the advancement of higher education in its fullest and broadest implication.

Goals








NACRAO shall aim specifically to advance professionally the office or offices of admissions, registration, records, institutional research, and closely related functions in institutions of higher education in Nebraska. Any educational activity directed toward the attainment of this aim is within the purpose of this Association.

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2025 NACRAO “Island Getaway” Annual Conference! We are pleased you are here!

Take advantage of this awesome learning and networking opportunity with other higher educational professionals from around our great state.

Here Are Several Tips For A Successful Conference:

-  Don't be shy - Connect with everyone!
-  Visit the wonderful exhibitors
-  Attend as many sessions as you can
-  Offer suggestions and share your expertise
-  Be creative with new ideas for your office
-  Get involved - Sign up for a committee!
-  Have fun!

Don't hesitate to contact anyone on this letter to ask how you can get involved in NACRAO!

Enjoy your conference!
NACRAO Board of Directors
www.nacrao.org
@nacrao

NACRAO Board Members

President: [Bailey Michaels](#) - Southeast Community College

President Elect: [Anthony Cole](#) - College of St. Mary

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Featured Speakers



Peter Ferguson

Peter Ferguson brings over 25 years of experience across education, nonprofit, and leadership spaces. A passionate advocate for belonging and empowerment, he helps individuals and organizations see their own value—and the value of others—through the lens of meaningful relationships. Peter is also the host of “Bigger Than the Score” on 93.7 The Ticket and a proud family man continuing his late mother’s legacy as an educator. His mission: make “Relationship A’s” a standard in every life.

Relationships Matter - “The core of our existence is connection.”

This session dives into the power of relationships in our personal and professional lives. When families, scholars, educators, and communities connect in positive ways, they create space for healing, hope, and lasting change. Through interactive group activities, participants will explore how authentic relationships fuel resilience and unlock potential—for individuals and entire communities.



Amelia-Marie Altstadt, M.A.

Amelia-Marie (they/she) is a scholar, disability culture advocate, and equity-driven educator. With roots in San Diego and a background in student affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, they now lead access initiatives in disability arts through Bodies of Work and coordinate the Coalition for Autistic and Neurodivergent Students (CANS). Recognized with the 2022 Disability Leadership Award and a 2024 Disability Visibility Fellowship, they are committed to building spaces where disabled people are seen, heard, and supported. They have a love for local theatre and two cuddly cats.



Disability, Belonging & Higher Ed - “Disabled people are already here—let’s make sure they thrive.”

In this powerful keynote, Amelia-Marie Altstadt explores their journey through higher education as both a disabled person and the child of disabled adults. Blending personal insight with research in disability studies and student affairs, they challenge us to rethink disability and mental health on campus. This session offers not just reflection, but practical steps to create more inclusive, affirming environments for disabled students and communities.

Conference Agenda



Thursday, July 10



9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Conference Opening & Welcome

9:20 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. **Keynote Speaker - Peter Ferguson**

10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. AACRAO Presentation – **Dr. Connie Shipman Newsome**

11:10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Session 1

Dr. Connie Shipman Newsome - MENTORSHIP: IS IT WORTH IT?

Kat Kreikemeier - Thinking Outside of the Budget:

Lindsay Wallin - From Campus to Career

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Session 2

EducationQuest - How can we help you

Bailey Michaels - International Round Tables

Peter Ferguson - The Social Connection at Work

2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Session 3

LeRoy Rooker - FERPA

Lindsay Wallin - Beyond The Major

Jessica Himmelberg - Engagement, Training, and Retention

3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Session 4

César Durán - Group Campus Visits Round Tables

Matt Schill - Multi-campus Degree Audit implementation at NU

Gabriela Patterson -Customer Service the Admissions Way

4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. NACRAO Committee Highlight

4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Daily Wrap up and giveaways!

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Join us at the Traveler's Taproom for light appetizers, trivia games and drink options (available for individual purchase)!



Friday, July 11th



9 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Morning Welcome & NACRAO Gives: Big Brothers
Big Sisters of Central Nebraska

9:15 a.m. to 9:45a.m. Business meeting

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. **Keynote Speaker Amelia-Marie Altstadt**

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Session 5

Matt Schill - Registrar Roundtable

Joni Roush - Admissions Roundtable

12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony



Breakout Sessions

Thursday, July 10

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.



MENTORSHIP: IS IT WORTH IT?

Breakout Room 1

Dr. Connie Shipman Newsome

This session's title represents a brief question with a loaded answer! Short answer... YES!, it is worth it. However, developing a mentorship program takes time, commitment, and a desire to engage and be engaged. After all, mentorship is a type of partnership. Let us have a chat around types of mentoring relationships, what it could look like to create a simple mentorship program where both the mentor and mentee are fulfilled and just some of the expected benefits.

Thinking Outside of the Budget: Creative and Affordable Professional Development for Your Team!

Breakout Room 2

Kat Kreikemeier

Professional development is crucial for the on-going development of our teams! Often, budget constraints limit the quality and quantity of experiences and how many team members can participate. Attend this session to learn about no-cost and low-cost professional development opportunities. This session will provide practical ideas for your team to help them build job related skills or increase their awareness and opportunities for professional growth.

From Campus to Career: Building Pathways Through Collaboration and Exploration

Breakout Room 3

Lindsay Wallin

Understanding the true career pathways available through your institution goes beyond brochures and program description- it takes conversation, collaboration, and community engagement. In this roundtable, we'll explore how to build a clearer picture of career opportunities by working closely with career services, engaging program leads, and connecting directly with employers in the community. Join us for a collaborative discussion on how internal and external partnerships can illuminate the real-world outcomes of academic programs and help us better guide students toward fulfilling futures. Come ready to share your experiences, ask questions, and walk away with actionable ideas.

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

EducationQuest- How can we help you

Breakout Room 2

Rachel Freeman

EducationQuest will provide an overview of our services, outreach programs, and website tools that can help students prepare for college. We will also discuss financial aid and FAFSA information to help you answer students' questions.

International Round Tables

Breakout Room 3

Bailey Michaels

International Roundtable Session Description: All DSOs, PDSOs and anyone interesting in learning more about International Admissions join us all are welcome! We will chat about current issues we are navigating with our international students, new trends, processes, training new DSOs, time management etc.

The Social Connection at Work

Breakout Room 1

Peter Ferguson

Engaging with a diverse network can be challenging. Although inclusion is a three-syllable word, the challenge often is one-syllable -bias- ‘becoming what we practice.’ The importance of social connections (relationships) in problem-solving, professional integrity, professional development, leadership, and management cannot be overstated. Connections won’t supplant, but building and maintaining relationships with others provides crucial support, fosters collaboration, and opens doors to new opportunities.

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

FERPA; The Basics with LeRoy Rooker

Breakout Room 1

LeRoy Rooker

LeRoy Rooker, AACRAO senior fellow and former director of the Family Policy and Compliance Office at the U.S. Department of Education, will provide an overview of the basics of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Beyond The Major: Helping Students Find Meaningful Career Through Dialogue

Breakout Room 3

Lindsay Wallin

Whether it’s a quick chat at a college fair or a one-on-one career counseling sessions, every interaction with a student holds the potential to shape their future. In this session, we’ll explore what students are truly seeking when they engage in conversation- often without knowing exactly how to ask. We’ll discuss the importance of active listening in the early stages of career exploration, examine current career trends and student interest, and share strategies for turning everyday conversations into meaningful guidance. Attendees will also have the chance to practice these skills through real-world scenarios designed to sharpen their ability to listen deeply and respond with purpose.

Campus Hosts – Engagement, Training, and Retention

Breakout Room 2

Jess Himmelberg

Round Table- Let's talk about how each school hires, trains, and keeps their campus hosts engaged within the Admissions Office! How can we encourage more students to apply? How do we encourage retention and engagement? How can we support our campus hosts to feel comfortable in problem solving? All questions and topics are welcome!

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Group Campus Visits Round Tables

Breakout Room 2

César Durán

Come and discuss the thing we all love the most, GROUP CAMPUS VISITS! There is not time like when schools are on our campus, what are schools in NE doing for the visits? What is the focus? Come and talk about new ideas that could be implemented at your school.

Multi-campus Degree Audit implementation at NU

Breakout Room 1

Matthew Schill

Degree audit and management systems are large and complex, often taking years to implement on a single campus. When expanding across multiple campuses in a state university system, additional challenges and benefits factor into the project. The University of Nebraska system chose Stellic to replace their degree audit systems. Learn the approaches taken and challenges addressed while providing advisors and students with a similar experience across campuses that support their overall success.

Customer Service the Admissions Way

Breakout Room 3

Gabriela Patterson

The goal is to help people develop strong service skills and provide an experience on your own campus that will leave your students with the best possible impression. Enrollment is everyone's business, so we want to make sure we have the tools to put our best foot forward. This may be geared towards newer professionals but can be open to anyone.



Breakout Sessions

Friday, July 11

11 am - 11:50 am



Registrar Roundtable

Breakout Room 2

Matt Schill

Student Records Birds of a Feather for Trending Topics. Come join your colleagues and friends in the Registrar world for an open forum to talk topics around Transcripts, Terms and Sessions, Medical Withdrawal processes, Federal and compliance reporting and More!!!

Admissions Roundtable

Breakout Room 3

Joni Roush

Allow admissions staffs in attendance to discuss the NACRAO College Fair circuit and other admissions related issues, trends, and topics with other institutions.



Conference Survey Code



Please take a moment to evaluate the NACRAO conference 2025. We appreciate and value your feedback

Session Evaluation Forms



Please take a moment to evaluate the sessions you attended during NACRAO. When completing the evaluation, make sure to include the session title as found in this brochure, as well as the session presenter(s) name. Each session will use the same QR code for evaluation so the session title you enter will be used to differentiate evaluations.



NACRAO Gives



Each year NACRAO gives back to an organization in the community of the Annual Conference.

The 2025 Recipient is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska is a force for change. We help young people realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. Mentorship has been proven to be one of the most powerful ways to change the trajectory of a young person's life. Our mentorship programs - from our 1-to-1 caring mentoring relationships to our broader ecosystem of support - help equip young people with the skills, confidence, and positive relationships to empower them to reach their full potential.

Suggested Donations:

Food:

Individually wrapped snacks

- crackers
- cookies
- chips
- granola bars
- Goldfish
- trailmix
- candy

Games and Toys:

- Deck of cards
- Uno
- Connect 4
- Puzzles
- Jenga
- Chess
- Checkers
- Battleship
- Craft sets
- Jewelry Making sets
- Coloring books
- Crayons & Colored Pencils
- Bubbles
- Magnetic Building Tiles
- Candy Land
- Trouble
- Yahtzee





AACRAO



Dr. Connie Shipman Newsome

*Director of Registrar Services, Campbell University
School of Law*

**AACRAO Role: Vice President at Large - Board of
Directors & President Elect**



Dr. Connie enjoys the study of leadership and the privilege to impact others through encouragement and exhortation to be the best version of one's authentic self. During her career, with over 20 years in higher education administration and preceding years in non-profit management, her main focus has been on process improvement, managing teams, and creating professional development opportunities that lead to proper team and organizational fit. Her recent professional

passions include the study of behavioral and communication drivers, leading to a certification in the John Maxwell D.I.S.C. Method of Behavioral Analysis.

In her current position of Director of Registrar Services, she worked diligently to transition the department to a paperless division, created a pathway for electronic transcripts, presented an environment aesthetically pleasing as a "safe space" for students hailing from various areas of diversity, and has continually focused on process improvements throughout her career, to the benefit of the respective department, team processes, and organization as a whole.

Dr. Newsome holds a B.S. and an MPA, both from East Carolina University; she also holds an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership, with a focus in Higher Education Administration, from Argosy University. She appreciates time to periodically blog and write articles, write poetry, watch action movies with her husband and Schnoodle, and fellowship around good food with beloved family and friends.

**Please join us for next year's Annual AACRAO
Conference! - Lincoln, NE July 16th & 17th 2026**





Central
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Meet Your Host Institution



3 Campuses | 4 Centers | 37 Programs

Central Community College serves a 25-county region in the heart of Nebraska – covering 14,000 square miles and more than 300,000 people. With 37 career and technical education programs, CCC helps students earn degrees, diplomas, or certificates in two years or less. We also offer academic transfer programs for those planning to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university. CCC's main campuses are in Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings, with additional centers in Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington, and Ord.

We bring education closer to home with online classes, training for businesses and organizations, and courses in nearly 90 communities across central Nebraska.

Fast Facts 2023-24

FTE students: **3,529**

Total credit enrollment: **9,995**

Total noncredit enrollment: **11,132**

Total enrollment: **21,127**

Average age: **24**

Student to faculty ratio: **16 to 1**

3-year graduation rate: **45%**

