



**KACE**

Kansas Association of Colleges and Employers

Newsletter | May 3, 2016



Linking Kansas Employers and Higher Education Career Services Personnel

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**President's Corner**

*David Hogard*

*Pittsburg State University*

We all have our favorite seasons. For me – I absolutely love Spring! Not just because the trees and grass are perfectly colored green or that it's amazing golf weather, but this feeling I get at the end of a school semester is bittersweet. Many of our students that have worked in our offices are now moving onto the next chapter of their lives and it's often tough to say goodbye. This time of year also gives me a sense of completion and a feeling of accomplishment – much like our students might be feeling at this time. We've all worked hard this past semester so as we begin to wind down our Spring semester, I want to remind each of you to do a few things:

- Take a moment to reflect on this year's successes but learn from the things that perhaps didn't quite meet your expectations.
- Take time to relax and re-energize. Many of us will take a little bit of time away from work this summer. Get away and enjoy it!

Now is also the time to be thinking about those deserving individuals who make a difference within our organizations. KACE annually recognizes its members at our conference but we need YOU to nominate people! So....make a mental note of those individuals now so you'll be ready to nominate later this year.

If you need a break from your campus, I would like to remind and invite you to attend this summer's drive-in workshop. This summer it will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Stay tuned for details regarding this workshop!

Finally, make sure you also plan to attend the KACE annual conference to be held November 30 – December 2, 2016 at the historic Oread Hotel in Lawrence, KS Hotel.

Thank you for all that you do for your organizations! Have a great summer everyone!

**Your Newsletter Contributions are Encouraged!**

Your contributions keep the newsletter fresh! Thank you to those who contributed to this newsletter!  
Please feel free to share ideas and stories with Brandi Wriedt ([bkeller@truman.edu](mailto:bkeller@truman.edu)).



# 2016 KACE Leadership

## Officers:

***President***

David Hogard, Pittsburg State University

***President-Elect***

Erin Wolfram, The University of Kansas

***Past President/Historian***

Kent McAnally, Washburn University

***Secretary***

Julie Anderson, OMNI Employment Services

***Treasurer***

Carol Gard, Johnson County Community College

***Employer Relations Representative***

Celeste Gruhin, UPS

***College Relations Representative***

Julie Hamel, The University of Kansas

***Technology Officer***

Brandi Wriedt, Truman State University

## Committee Chairs:

***Annual Conference Planning***

Erin Wolfram, University of Kansas

***Bylaws***

Gary Handy, Washburn University

***Membership***

Kelsey (Ploeger) Owens, University of Kansas

***Site Selection***

TBA

***Special Events***

Mindy Cloninger, Pittsburg State University

***Technology and Communication***

Brandi Wriedt, Truman State University

Co-Chair: Vacant

It's never too late to join a committee and getting to know your colleagues!

## Save the Date

KACE Summer Drive-In

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Pittsburg State University

Details and Registration to follow





## **KACE Award Winners**

*Polly Matteson and Kelsey (Ploeger) Owens*  
*Truman State University and University of Kansas*

Congratulations to the 2015 KACE Award Winners!

### **=== Larry Hannah Career Services Director Award ===**

***Mindy Cloninger, Pittsburg State University***

In recognition of a career services director who made an outstanding contribution to KACE during a specific year.

### **=== Chairperson of the Year Award ===**

***Chance Clutter, University of Kansas***

In recognition of the outstanding contributions by a KACE committee chairperson during the past year.

### **=== Employer Member of the Year Award ===**

***Phyllis LaShell, KANSASWORKS—Department of Commerce***

In recognition of outstanding contributions by an employer to KACE during the past year.

### **=== Rookie of the Year Award ===**

***Brandi Wriedt, Truman State University***

In recognition of outstanding contributions by a member who is in their first year of membership.

### **=== Technology Award ===**

***Katie Sawyer, McPherson College***

In recognition of outstanding contributions to KACE or to their profession through the development of innovative programs and services.

### **=== Outstanding Committee Member Award ===**

***Carol Gard, Johnson County Community College***

In recognition of outstanding contributions by a KACE committee member during the past year.

## **KACE Member Spotlights**

*Brandi Wriedt*  
*Truman State University*

Whether you're new to KACE or are seasoned veteran, we want to hear your story! By taking ten minutes to submit a [Member Spotlight Form](#), you can take a small, but meaningful step towards connecting with other KACE professionals. In addition to submitting a member spotlight, we encourage you to review new posts on the KACE website (click on the "blog" tab). As you read about fellow members, take the time to join the conversation. Comment on stories, send LinkedIn requests, or connect via email.

Thanks in advance for contributing!



**Workshop Contributes to Career Fair Success**

*Steve Rottinghaus*

*Career and Outreach Coordinator*

*The University of Kansas School of Journalism and Mass Communications*

The week before the annual University of Kansas School of Journalism and Mass Communications career fair in early March, I hosted two hour-long workshop sessions on separate days to better prepare students. Before the workshop, most of the J-School students thought career fairs were a place to dress sharp, randomly make the rounds to all the booths, drop off resumes, pick up business cards and collect giveaway items.

I encouraged students to think more strategically about their approach to the fair and focus on maximizing their limited time by targeting organizations that interested them the most. During the preparatory sessions, we emphasized the importance of being confident in their introduction, how to present resumes to prospective employers, research the organizations and the proper questions to ask in a small timeframe to keep the conversation going. At the end of each session, I presented an actual internship description of one of the companies looking to hire the students and asked for volunteers to participate in a mock career fair. I served as a representative for a company recruiting interns, and students eagerly stepped up to serve as the prospective intern. It was extremely well received and the students who participated were confident in their approach.

"In a five-minute conversation, you can get an impression of the company, the company's culture and see if the company seems like a good fit for you," said Katie Stone, a KU graduate who interned with InTouch Solutions, a company she now represents at career fairs as an associate analyst in social media. "It's a great way to get an in-person impression about companies that you've read about online."

The turnout for the career fair was fantastic with 187 students and 30 vendors, and I believe the workshops contributed to the success. Holding it the week before the fair was perfect timing. By then, I knew all of the organizations registered and was able to provide the students links to their websites to research. The perfect scenario that emerged: A student attended the workshop, connected with an organization at the career fair, applied for a summer internship, participated in a mock interview in my office and two days later was notified she had been selected as an intern.

If you haven't already, I highly recommend organizing a mock job fair to promote your actual career fairs and help your students make the most of the opportunity.

*Save The Date*

**2016 KACE  
CONFERENCE**

Nov 30-Dec 2 | The Oread Hotel | Lawrence, KS



**The President's Scholarship 2015  
AAEE's 82nd Annual Conference**

*Kent McAnally, Past President  
Washburn University*

I would like to express my appreciation to you, the members of KACE, for the President's Scholarship, which allowed me to attend the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual AAEE National Conference last November in San Antonio, Texas. The American Association for Employment in Education invites career services professionals who work with education students and school human resources personnel to membership.

Some of you may know AAEE for its *Job Search Handbook for Educators*, which is published annually. It continues to be an excellent resource for teachers and pre-services professionals engaged in the job search. Articles run the gamut of job search resources, from résumés and interviews to international teaching and alternatives to the classroom. Many member institutions purchase the *Handbook* to distribute to student teachers each year.

For a time, I was quite involved in AAEE, having served on its Board of Directors for four years and two years on the now-defunct Senate. During that time, AAEE was suffering from some rather inept management, along with financial difficulties as a result of declining membership. As you all know, as budgets for both PK-12 and higher education suffered, an easy place to cut back was professional memberships. AAEE, as a targeted and somewhat secondary organization for career services offices and human resources professionals, endured the difficulties and seems to have emerged as a somewhat stronger and renewed organization.

Though the conference now runs only Sunday night through Tuesday morning, it was encouraging to see higher attendance and better programs than the last time I had attended a few years ago. I believe the association has re-found its footing. I'd like to share a couple of highlights.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Cinthia Salinas, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Texas at Austin. Her talk, "Tomorrow's Classroom: What If We Could Prepare Teachers for a Culturally and Linguistically Rich Community of Learners?" was an engaging and enlightening session focusing on multiculturalism. Using her own experiences as a Hispanic American growing up and seeking education in Texas, as well as other situations where cultures have collided, we were led toward her "what if" proposition to the conclusion that we must make stronger efforts in teacher education to reach the goal of true multiculturalism in preparation and delivery.

The best breakout session that I attended was presented by Ralph Pruitt on the topic of international teaching. Mr. Pruitt is an international educator himself, now working with the International Schools Group (ISG) in Saudi Arabia. I have been to numerous sessions on international teaching over the years at multiple conferences, but Pruitt's nuts-and-bolts approach was the most practical I have heard.

Most of his presentation focused on international American schools, which generally require a bachelor's degree and a teaching license. As has been the case for many years, Pruitt recommends that students interested in teaching internationally attend the University of Northern Iowa Overseas Recruiting Fair, held annually in early February. Most of you have probably heard about this event or receive promotional materials from UNI. He also noted that teaching couples are usually preferred, but not required universally. Pruitt's own organization offers competitive salaries (\$40-58K plus signing bonus!), free housing, annual home leave, free utilities, and considerably more – pretty fascinating stuff to someone who spent the first half of his professional life in a classroom.



**The President’s Scholarship 2015 (cont’d)**

**AAEE’s 82nd Annual Conference**

*Kent McAnally, Past President*

*Washburn University*

Just as with KACE and similar organizations combining both halves of the hiring equation, AAEE encourages networking among the members at the conferences. What fascinated me most about this conference was the mix of education employers attending, which had become very much a weakness of the organization recently. In addition to recruiters from public school districts ranging from Delaware to Louisiana to Alaska and points between, Christian schools, charters, and several international agencies were represented. It was a much broader scope than previous AAEE conferences that I attended several years ago.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual AAEE National Conference will be held November 13-15, 2016, in Nashville, Tennessee. Though the conference is short, it does provide some excellent networking and professional development opportunities for education career services professionals and our school partners. Membership in the association allows for a discounted purchase price of the *Handbook* and lower conference registration fees. Members are also encouraged to submit articles for possible publication in the *Handbook*. Take a look at [aaee.org](http://aaee.org).

**KANSASWORKS Employer Partner Incentive**

*Phyllis LaShell*

*KANSASWORKS Department of Commerce*



**Employers:**

Please utilize **KANSASWORKS.com** for posting job opportunities and paid internships at no cost. Create an employer account at **KANSASWORKS.com** and enter your job openings to find qualified and skilled candidates matching your job specifications. Once you have established an account, you can also search for resumes and candidates by experience, keyword, and other search criteria. If you need assistance with posting jobs, please call (877) 509-6757 for your closest workforce center.

**Students/Job Seekers:**

Kansas offers careers in key industries such as **Alternative Energy, Distribution, Bioscience, Advanced Manufacturing and Value-Added Agriculture/Food Processing** and also professional services such as **Finance, Accounting, IT and More**. These industries have incredible potential and need talented employees for **full-time, part-time** and **intern** positions. All you have to do is click on [www.kansasworks.com](http://www.kansasworks.com) and set-up your account, then begin your job search. You can also upload your resume so that it is available to employers who are searching for qualified job candidates.

For more information, please call (877) 509-6757 for your closest workforce center or email Phyllis LaShell at [plashell@kansasworks.com](mailto:plashell@kansasworks.com).



## Announcements

The University Career Center at The University of Kansas welcomes new Communications Coordinator, **Jon Sabillon**. Prior to his position at KU, Jon served as Creative Development & Communications Director at Blackbird Studios in Tennessee, and Digital Marketing Manager at Universal Music Group in California. A native Kansan, Jon attended Free State High School in Lawrence, and earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Communication Studies from The University of Kansas, minoring in Business and Leadership Studies. Jon is also a devoted animal lover, sponsoring a hippopotamus named Liberty at the Kansas City Zoo. The University Career Center at KU is pleased to welcome Jon to KACE.

**Mary Hogan** joined the University Career Center at KU in January in the role of Communications Assistant. She assists with the coordination of career networking events and outreach efforts. Mary completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama, with a major in Hospitality Management. She has previously worked as a membership and event coordinator in North Carolina, and was very involved as a leader at the University of Alabama, where she was President of Meeting Professionals International, the second largest student chapter of the organization in the country. She arrived at KU with lots of customer service experience and a can-do attitude that has quickly made her an invaluable member of the UCC team.

**Kelsey Ploeger**, Assistant Director at The University of Kansas' Career Center and KACE Membership Development Committee Chair, married Matthew Owens on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Kelsey and Matt tied the knot at the Castle Tea Room in Lawrence and continued the celebration outdoors with the help of friends, family, and a jazz quartet. It was a beautiful, memorable day, and Kelsey is very thankful to her KU and KACE colleagues for their well wishes and support!