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Linking Kansas Employers and Higher Education Career Services Personnel

**President's Corner**

*LeAnn Cunningham*

*Johnson County Community College*

**The Value of KACE Employer Members**

Happy Spring Greetings to KACE members! Even though spring is late this year, it will arrive eventually. In the meantime, KACE committees have been busy with new projects and conference planning. During my 2013 tenure as president of KACE, I want to encourage us to focus on the value of our employer members. The Kansas Association of Colleges and Employers (KACE) is the leading professional organization in Kansas that promotes effective relationships between career centers and area companies. This partnership effort seeks common goals—helping students attain rewarding careers and providing quality candidates in the workforce. It is a win-win situation for students, colleges and employers. The workforce in Kansas ultimately benefits from these strong relationships. KACE gains immeasurably from the perspectives and experience of our employer members who serve on committees and provide workforce information at the annual conference. Let's continue to build the strength of our organization by inviting new employer members to join KACE! I challenge everyone (colleges and employers) to bring in one new employer member to KACE this year. (The employers will need to join KACE and attend the conference.) As an incentive, for each new employer member you garner, your name will be added to a \$100 gift card drawing at the conference.

**New! KACE Brochure**

To help you with marketing KACE to employers, new KACE brochures, designed by Kelly Burns (Baker University) and the Membership committee, will be available for distribution at the Summer Drive-In Workshop.

**New! KACE Website**

The KACE Board has approved a proposal from technology officer Erin Wolfram and the Technology/Communications committee for design and implementation of a new KACE website. The limitations of the old website prevented necessary changes in forms and usage by administrators. The new website will allow us to perform needed functions smoothly and efficiently. We can't wait to see this roll out, hopefully by early summer!

KACE is a strong organization due to efforts and talents of so many committed members who serve diligently on our committees. Working with you is a genuine pleasure. *Thank you for all that you do!*



# 2013 KACE Leadership

## Officers:

*President*

LeAnn Cunningham  
Johnson County Community College

*President-Elect*

June Coleman  
Emporia State University

*Past President/Historian*

Susan Wade  
Baker University

*Secretary*

Dena Smoot  
Butler Community College

*Treasurer*

James Barraclough  
Washburn University

*Employer Relations Representative*

Nathan Gibbar  
Fastenal

*College Relations Representative*

Chris Wiens  
McPherson College

*Technology Officer*

Erin Wolfram  
The University of Kansas

## Committee Chairs:

*Annual Conference Planning*

June Coleman  
Emporia State University

*Bylaws*

Loretta Patterson  
Butler Community College

*Membership*

Ashley DeMond  
The University of Kansas

*Site Selection*

Carol Gard  
Johnson County Community College

*Special Events*

Aaron Bennett  
Friends University

*Technology and Communication*

Erin Wolfram  
The University of Kansas

Melissa Scholten  
University of Missouri-Kansas City

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Patty Soucy from The University of Kansas was married over the holidays and is now Patty Thompson.



## **Kansas WORK Ready!**

*Phyllis LaShell*

*KANSASWORKS Department of Commerce*

### **WORKReady! Initiative Overview**

The Kansas **WORKReady!** initiative was launched by the Kansas Department of Commerce to improve the job training and marketability of Kansas' workforce and drive future economic growth for the state. This workforce development initiative assesses the "real world" skills of Kansas' workers, provides valuable job training and helps companies reliably match the right people with the right jobs.

### **WORKReady! Certification**

Through the **WORKReady!** initiative, job seekers as well as workers currently employed in Kansas can pursue a **WORKReady!** Certificate to help them better market their skills to current and future employers. To earn their certificate, individuals complete the nationally recognized WorkKeys® assessments developed by ACT to measure their core skills. Qualifying participants receive a **WORKReady!** Certificate indicating their level of work readiness based on their performance.

- Assessments measure core skills in applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information, three critically important skills in the workplace.

### **WORKReady! Benefits**

Kansas **WORKReady!** offers many advantages for Kansas workers and employers.

For Workers:

- Build confidence that personal skills meet the needs of local employers
- Rank above other job applicants who do not have a skills certificate
- Develop a better understanding of employers' requirements for job performance
- Determine skill improvements and training opportunities
- Prepare for career advancement opportunities and promotions
- Demonstrate on a resumé an understanding of the skills employers need

For Employers:

- Improve hiring procedures
- Reduce turnover
- Reduce training costs by certifying candidates with foundational skills
- Increase productivity and profitability
- Provide higher morale, career advancement, and self-esteem for employees
- Enable your ability to compare candidates to a specific job skill set

To learn more about the Kansas **WORKReady!** certification process, visit [www.kansasworks.com](http://www.kansasworks.com) and click on **WORKReady!**, or call 877-509-6757 to connect with your closest Workforce Center.



**Mark your calendars now for the 2013 KACE Annual Conference!**

*June Coleman  
Emporia State University*

**When:** Dec. 4-6, 2013  
**Where:** The BEST Building (It really is!)  
KU-Edwards Campus, Overland Park, KS

Plan to join your KACE colleagues AND make new connections at the annual conference December 4-6, 2013. Tap into how Kansas City is the intersection connecting many pathways—this year’s conference theme is Crossroads. Session topics will focus on ways that employers, career centers, students and the labor market are at a CROSSROADS in 2013.

The site selection team has done an outstanding job securing the state-of-the-art BEST Building at the KU-Edwards Campus. Just completed last spring, this building is an ideal site for keynote and breakout sessions and other networking opportunities throughout the conference. Be watching for the CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS later this spring, and please consider submitting a proposal to present at the conference.



Photo courtesy of [Layover Guide](#)

**2013 Conference Planning Committee:**

*June Coleman, Chair, Emporia State University  
Ann Van Zee, Harvesters  
Kathie Harris, Kansas Department of Commerce  
Dena Smoot, Butler Community College  
Melissa McClung, UMKC  
Ashley DeMond, KU School of Business  
LeAnn Cunningham, JCCC*

*Dana Nordyke, Kansas State University  
Jolene Phillips, KU School of Business  
Robyn MacGregor, Emporia State University  
Susan Wade, Baker University  
James Barraclough, Washburn University  
Stacey Peterson, Garmin  
Celeste Gruhin, UPS*



Summer is almost here...  
Watch your email for details about the KACE Summer Drive-In Workshop!

**KACE's Website Gets a Facelift**

*Melissa Scholten*

*University of Missouri-Kansas City*

KACE's Technology and Communication Committee, led by Erin Wolfram, is excited to announce that KACE's website will be getting a facelift.

Beginning in January, content management systems were reviewed and web design firms were contacted for proposals. Two proposals/bids were received; the board reviewed the proposals and requested recommendations. In March, the KACE Board then voted and determined that the redesign will be completed by Trent Flory and [Flory Design](#) of Lawrence, KS.

The website is projected to go live in May 2013. The changes will allow administrators easier access for updating and will be more cost effective. Flory Design will use a WordPress based website to meet all of KACE's functional requirements.

The website will also be updated to match KACE's new promotional brochures and business cards. The new interface will be black, green, and white.



**Social Media**

Do you want to stay connected with KACE members year round? Be sure to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). Share articles, announcements, and new discussion topics on any of these profiles!

**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 Melissa Scholten (scholtenm@umkc.edu).