

TACRAO NEWS

SPRING 2025

**Saddle Up for Summer in
College Station**

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Year-Round Perks
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TACRAO NEWS is a publication of the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers.

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Message from the President

Reed's Ramblings

Howdy All,

I cannot believe we're in April already. It must be the non-stop fun of working in higher education right now but it seems like time is flying by in ways I'm not used to at all. We've just come back from an amazing TACRAO Executive Committee meeting in El Paso and we are carving out some really incredible experiences that are going to make this year's annual conference one for the ages!

From added events, new membership engagement efforts, and dozens of other items, I'm really looking forward to rolling out teasers of what is coming. I don't want to steal Georgina and Cassandra's thunder but with a wild take on a fun run, sports and 70's music, astronauts, and karaoke in the clouds...we're going to really shake things up!

However, before we get to the annual conference, we have another opportunity to enjoy each other's company coming up in the not-so-distant future. On **July 14-16** we will return to an in-person Summer Meeting at the newly renovated and remodeled **Hilton College Station and Conference Center**. We've long talked about a venue change from the Doubletree in Austin and while it certainly served us well in the past, this felt like the year for something new. I promise I had no undue influence on getting the meeting placed in College Station! Our conference planners secured an amazing deal and we're looking forward to hosting you all this summer. **Registration coming soon!**

In all seriousness I know everyone is running ragged out there and I hope you're all finding your little moments of peace where you can. We're stronger together and we will survive. Keep the faith and we'll see you in College Station!

Chris Reed

TACRAO President



Chris Reed
President

Texas A&M University

Lori's Launchpad



Lori Zerr
President-Elect
*University of Texas Health Science
Center at Houston*

Greetings from Space City!

It's hard to believe that Spring Break is in the rear-view mirror and we are heading quickly to the end of the Spring term; 2025 is zooming by! I hope you're all hitting your goals and gearing up for graduation.

The Executive Committee is working diligently to ensure that your TACRAO membership provides valuable benefits. While professional development is a major tenet of our organization, the Annual Conference is just one way we offer those opportunities. Summer Meeting, Residency webinars, Enrollment Reporting webinars, and Committee participation are additional ways to stay engaged throughout the year. A recent change to the Association structure is that TCCNS is now an included part of the institutional membership fee. With a debt of gratitude to High School Relations Committees past & present, the Day/Night Recruiting Schedule has been and continues to be carefully crafted and honed year after year. The Job Board provides a great place to post and search for open positions. In addition to our listserv, we also have focused Message Boards. Finally, but definitely not least of all, TACRAO provides an opportunity to form collaborative relationships across the state. Networking is at the core of TACRAO!

The TEC is motivated to improve what TACRAO offers, whether it be related to the Annual Conference or beyond. If you have thoughts, we would really like to hear them! Please reach out to any member of the Executive Committee to offer your suggestions.

TACRAO would not be the great organization that it is without your participation. I encourage anyone who is interested in serving on a Committee, or being involved in some other way, to submit the I'm Available form on the TACRAO [website](#). If you aren't sure where you best fit because of time commitment, experience or other level of involvement, I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

Onward & upward, until we meet again friends!

Lori Zerr

TACRAO President-Elect

Past President Post



Bobbie Brown
Past President
Texas Tech University

It's *almost* springtime! We always have one rogue cold day before Easter!

Before it gets here, make sure your membership information is up-dated!

We are working hard to identify membership perks and include members in many awesome TACRAO events we have throughout the year. To do this, we need our members to help!

Here is what you can do to help:

Member

You may update your own profile! Please make sure it's complete and up to date. Take a minute and review!

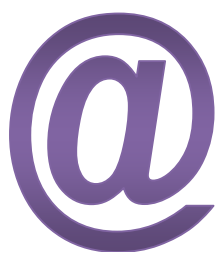
Institution Key Contact

If you are the key contact, please update the *Residency Contact* and *Reverse Transfer Contact* for your institution.

Please take a moment and review and update your member information before spring arrives in full force!

Have a wonderful spring!

Bobbie Brown



February 16—19, 2025, Lubbock, Texas



**Thank you,
Lubbock!**





Sofia Almeda
President
University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

TACRAO in SACRAO Leadership



Nicole Mancone Fisher
Program Vice President
Records & Academic Services
Texas Christian University



Local Arrangements Co-Chairs

Brenda Martinez
Rex Oliver

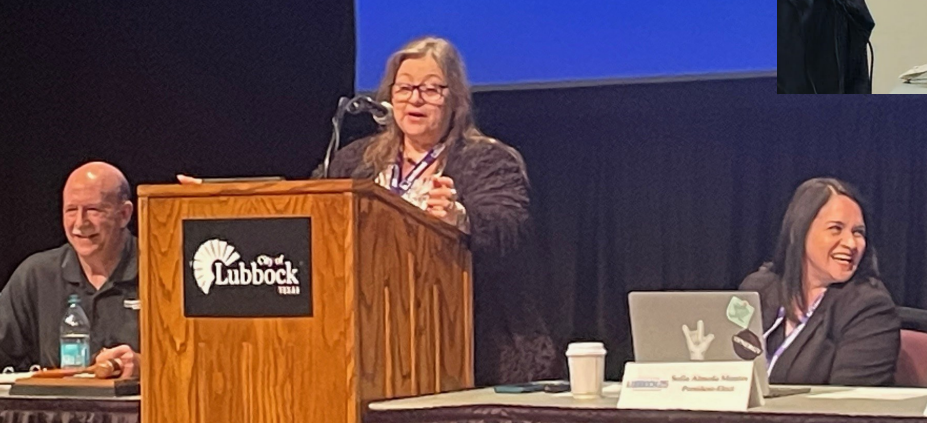
Texas Tech University



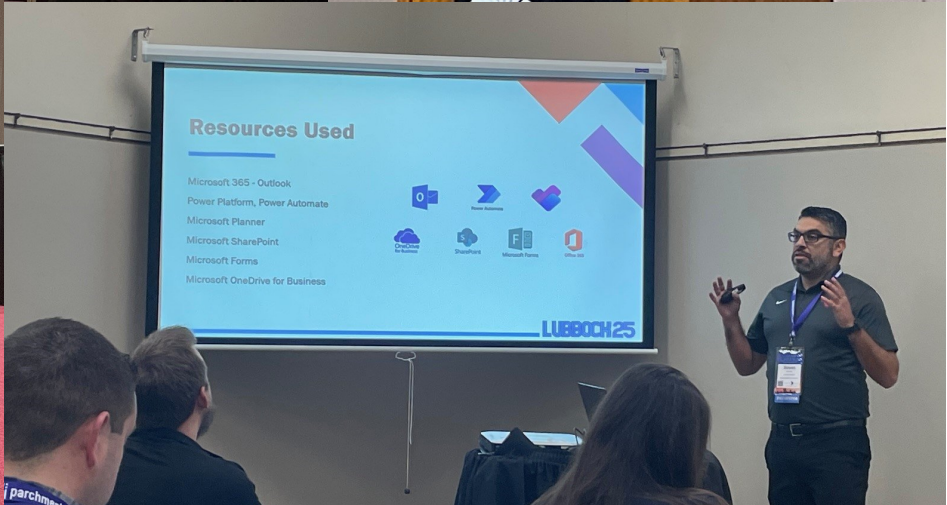
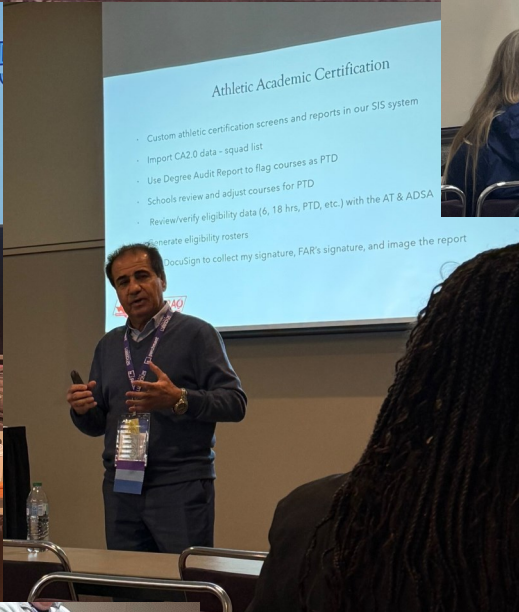
***Thank You
Local Arrangements
Committee!***



TACRAO @ SACRAO



Meeting
February 18, 2025
11am-Noon
Lubbock Memorial
Civic Center Theater



Kristin's Korner

**Kristin McDonald-
Willey**
*Vice President for
Records
& Retention*



On March 30th-April 2nd 2025, AACRAO will hold its 110th annual meeting in Seattle, Washington.

As with previous years, we know that many TACRAO members will make the trek to Seattle to join the nation's best to learn from other professionals and to offer up their own expertise in registrar, admissions, and other related areas.

While we may be a bit biased, we know that Texas holds a lot of knowledge and insight that is hugely beneficial to our non-Texas colleagues. As a result, the TACRAO Executive Committee (TEC) meets each year and selects a session(s) that highlights the extraordinary work we're doing in Texas and recognizes the quality of the TACRAO member presentations we receive each year. Following each TACRAO conference, the TEC reviews evaluations and nominates one (or in the case of a tie, a few) TACRAO sessions for the AACRAO Best of the Best scholarship. If AACRAO selects that session for that year's agenda, these individuals are able to use their scholarship to attend the upcoming AACRAO conference.

2025 AACRAO Scholarship Nominating Criteria

The session evaluations and comments provided by our TACRAO session attendees truly do matter. We actually do read all of your comments, recommendations, and accolades!

This past TACRAO conference hosted over 100 sessions, we had a collective 800+ session evaluations submitted, and the average presenter rating was a 4.5 (on a 1-5 scale) so choosing which session(s) to recommend for a scholarship was a difficult and competitive process.

For this year's evaluation criteria, the evaluation criteria came exclusively from the surveys. The list was sorted to focus on TACRAO member presenters (i.e. the sessions presented by members of our colleges, universities, or district system offices). Next, the "Would you recommend this session?" information was sorted (along with the other evaluation fields) and this information and the comments were provided to the TEC.

The TEC then looked at the sessions which had over 10 submitted evaluations and then reviewed those sessions with the highest overall ratings to make a recommendation.

Once the recommendation is made, the potential winners are contacted and then asked if they would be willing to present, if selected, at AACRAO. Once the presenters agree that they would present, the nomination to AACRAO is then made.

2025 AACRAO Scholarship Winner(s)

For this year, we had a tie!

We had two sessions where the same number of attendees submitted a review for two sessions and both sets of attendees also gave both sessions a perfect "5" rating.

It's our please to inform you that the following two sessions were this year's Best of the Best recipients:

Session	Presenter(s)
I Want My Life Back! Taming the Outlook Monster	Melissa Hyatt, Texas State University
The Registrar's Role in Microcredentialing: Navigating creation, governance, and Implementation	Brenda Schuman, University of Texas at Austin Kimberly Tate, University of Texas-Arlington

Thank you again to all of last year's presenters and congratulations to this year's winners!

Kristin McDonald-Willey
Vice President for Records and Registration

Rexroat's Rhetoric



Jodie Rexroat
Vice President of Technology
Southern Methodist University

Spring is quickly approaching and soon flowers will be popping up everywhere. You know what else has a tendency to pop up? Questions that you just need to ask your counterparts around the state. Bad analogy, but the sentiment is still true. To quote the Beatles, we all “get by with a little help from our friends.” The TACRAO discussion forums are a great place to pose your questions on a variety of topics. We have forums for residency, enrollment reporting, gainful employment and college fairs among others. We even have forums for each region! They are easy to access, login to the website and click on Discussion Forums at the bottom of the Quick Links. Don’t hold those burning questions in! It is bad for your stress level and digestion.

Discussion Forums aren’t the only resource on the TACRAO website. Our Job Board is an excellent place for institutions looking for their next great hire. Better yet? It is free to our members (just make sure the main contact is on your institution’s roster).

Our newly minted **Residency and Enrollment Reporting Committees** recently hosted webinars in February. Don’t worry if you weren’t able to attend. The recordings are available on the website at <https://tacrao.memberclicks.net/webinar-recordings> and they are planning to add additional webinars through the year. Remember you must log in to access member content and while you are there take the opportunity to review and update your profile as we have added new information.

Do you have ideas for how TACRAO can better utilize technology or our website? Drop me an email and share your ideas, comments or questions at vpit@tacrao.org. I would love to hear them.

I’ll leave you with a punny joke for Spring.

Why do trees seem so carefree in spring?

They’re releafed winter is over.

Jodie Rexroat

Vice President of Technology

Kate's Currency



Kate Richardson
Treasurer

North Central Texas College

Happy Spring, TACRAO Members!

The financials for the 2024 Annual Conference are nearly finalized, and the results look great! I'd like to give a special shout-out to: Past President Bobbie Brown; San Marcos LAC Co-Chairs Brandy Garcia and Martha Fraire-Cuellar; Corporate Relations Committee Chair Hannah McDonald; and San Marcos LAC Treasurer Lori Zerr. You all were fantastic stewards of TACRAO's money and put on a wonderful conference—thank you!

I am finalizing our 2023-2024 tax filing with TACRAO's contracted accountant. I'm happy to report that TACRAO is financially secure, and the TEC continues to ensure that we manage funds wisely. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any concerns or if I can answer any questions.

Updated Mailing Address for TACRAO

At the annual conference, we announced a new mailing address; however, it has since been updated. Please take note of the correct address below:

4400 State Hwy 121, Ste 300 #1225

Lewisville, TX, 75056

If your institution mails checks for TACRAO invoices, please be sure your business office is aware of this change. Our mail is collected at the Venture X (iPostal) facility in Lewisville and subsequently forwarded to me in Gainesville, which may result in a potential two-week delay. Please keep this in mind when submitting checks for invoices.

Important Transition Note: If you have already sent mail to the Plano address, it will still be forwarded to me until June. However, please begin using the Lewisville address immediately to avoid delays.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this great organization! Wishing you all a smooth conclusion to the Spring semester and an excellent start to Summer! Speaking of Summer, I hope to see many of you at the Summer Meeting in College Station.

Kate Richardson
Treasurer

Beal's Blabber



Jennifer Beal
Secretary

North Central Texas College

Hello TACRAO!!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **Annual Conference in El Paso!** The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) has been hard at work planning an incredible experience for all attendees. From great sessions to exciting networking opportunities, we can't wait for you to see what they have in store. As they say in El Paso, **"Fear the Ears!"** with the **El Paso Chihuahuas**, and **"Vamos Locos!"** with **El Paso Locomotive FC**—El Paso is a city full of energy, and we can't wait for you to experience it!

As we continue to improve our organization and the way we serve you, we have added some important new fields to the TACRAO member profiles. We kindly ask that you take a few minutes to log in and update your profile with the following information:

- **Birthdate** – No, we're not planning a giant TACRAO birthday bash (yet!), but we do need this information to help us better identify individuals who may share the same name. Because that never happens in higher education, right?
- **Area of Responsibility** – This will help us communicate more effectively with the right audiences, ensuring you receive the most relevant updates, events, and resources specific to your role.
- **Need Access to the Day/Night Recruitment Schedule?** – If you or your team need access to the fair registration system, this designation will ensure that the appropriate individuals have the correct permissions.

Additionally, a quick reminder that **Membership Dues renewal invoices will be sent out in May.** You can conveniently pay your membership online or by PO, so be on the lookout for those invoices soon.

Lastly, **TACRAO has a new address!** Please update your records accordingly:

TACRAO

4400 State Hwy 121 Suite 300 #1225
Lewisville, TX 75056

Thank you for taking the time to update your profile and for your continued participation in TACRAO. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Jennifer Beal
Secretary



Get ready to elevate your **TACRAO 2025** experience in **El Paso, Texas!** This year, we're thrilled to highlight **La Nube**, the cutting-edge STEAM discovery center that's redefining what it means to explore, create, and innovate.

Located in the heart of downtown El Paso, La Nube—Spanish for "the cloud"—is more than just a museum. It's a hub of imagination, offering interactive exhibits that let you climb, code, design, and dream. Whether you're forecasting the weather or building a sustainable city, La Nube is a playground for curious minds of all ages.

Don't miss your chance to experience this one-of-a-kind venue during the TACRAO 2025 conference. Let's make this year unforgettable—together, under the cloud of creativity!

<https://la-nube.org/>

IN MEMORIAM



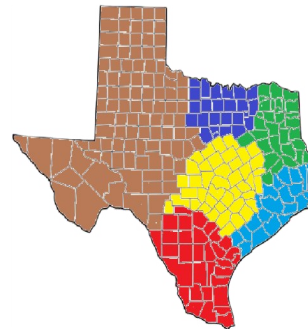
Louis Edward Jimenez

November 24, 1957—January 23, 2025



Lou was born in Victoria, TX on November 24, 1957. He graduated from Victoria High School. He received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Southern Illinois University and a Master of Science in Business Management from Troy University. Lou retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1997 after serving his country for 20 years. He served as University Registrar in various universities until his retirement in 2021 and was a University of AL football fan.

REGIONAL NEWS



SOUTHEAST TEXAS



Lamar University, Graduation Team welcomes a new employee

Jamarcus Corks, Graduation Manager.

What are you most excited about regarding your new position?

I'm most excited about learning how to print diplomas and fixing and working more in-depth with degree works and seeing how we plan and put on the grad fairs.

What do you want people to know about you?

During my time at Lamar University I was able to help bring about our ADA Shuttle and I was on both the Lamar University Baseball and Football Teams.



The Registrar's Office at Texas Southern University recently welcomed one new team member and had 2 others recently start new roles.

- Kyndra Snoddy joined the Registrar's Office in March as an Enrollment Officer. Ms. Snoddy previously worked at the University of Houston as an Integrated Enrollment Services Coordinator before joining the TSU team.
- Kerriyan Kirt was promoted to Academic Certifying Officer in January.

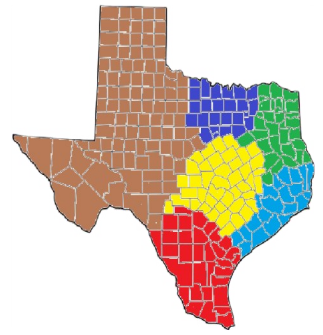
Ariana Contreras also advanced her tenure at TSU as she was promoted to Manager of Registration Records.

Also, the Registrar's Office at Texas Southern University is proud to announce a staff member graduated with their master's degree.



Mark your calendars!!! Texas Southern University will be hosting SETACRAO on **Thursday, June 26** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Be sure to look for future announcements about Registration and speakers. We hope to see you there!

REGIONAL NEWS



WEST TEXAS



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Patricia McCormick, Associate Registrar at

West Texas A&M University

Received the Top Staff Honor – [Clarence E Thompson Award Fall 2024](#)

- Completed her Doctor of Education Fall 2024

NORTH TEXAS

New Hires

- ✦ Welcome Admissions Recruiters – Alysa Fillet and Aubrie Eason

Promotions

- ✦ Maylin Herrera – New Senior Admissions Recruiter
- ✦ Monserrat Navarro – New Assistant Director of Visitor Experience

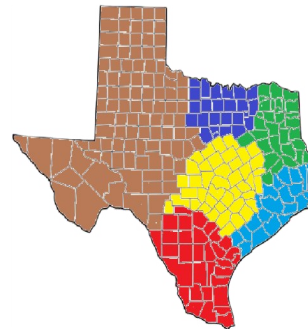


Retirement

- ✦ Carolyn Mitchell - amazing 42 years of service to the UNT Admissions Office and we wish her an awesome time in her retirement!



REGIONAL NEWS



NORTH TEXAS CONTINUED



New Hires

Vanessa Walker is now serving as District Registrar and Director of Academic Support Services at Tarrant County College. This position was previously held by John Spencer, who retired in January. She led the

MyTCC Experience ERP Implementation Project for the Student Module and has implemented initiatives which have enhanced the student experience and increased operational efficiencies. Her dedication to fostering an environment of learning and growth aligns perfectly with our mission and values at TCC.



Retirement

As for John, he retired Jan. 15 after more than 20 years of service at TCC. To kick off his next chapter, John and his wife Marcie moved to upstate New York to work with a ministry they have a deep passion for – YoungLife. He is also continuing his podcast – The Daily Grind (can be found on Apple and other places where you might get your casts).



Promotions

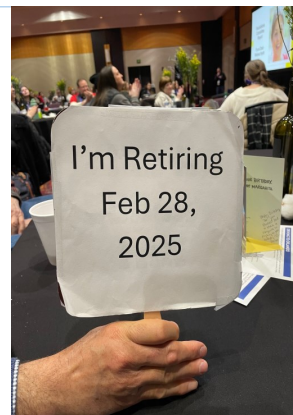
Kayla McDowell is now the Director of International Student Recruitment



CENTRAL TEXAS



Melissa Hyatt, Associate University Registrar at Texas State University, retired on February 28th after a nearly 40 year career at Texas State.



2024-2025 Communications Committee

Co-Chair, Newsletter, & South-east Texas Editor	Madelyne Tolliver	Victoria College	madelyne.tolliver@victoriacollege.edu
Co-Chair & Newsletter Editor	Bobby Lothringer	Southern Methodist University	rlothringer@smu.edu
Central Texas Editor	Eric Poch	The University of Texas at Austin	eric.pouch@austin.utexas.edu
East Texas Editor	Mickey Diez	Stephen F. Austin University	mickey.diez@sfasu.edu
North Texas Editor	Anam Iqbal	Southern Methodist University	ajiqbal@smu.edu
South Texas Editor	Melissa Chapa	Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi	missy.chapa@tamucc.edu
West Texas Editor	Georgina Antillon	The University of Texas at El Paso	gantillon@utep.edu

