



UMACRAO

UPPER MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE
REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

2025 UMACRAO Annual Conference

Schedule Updated 10/22/2025

Each session is marked with an engagement level provided by the presenter(s) to help attendees gauge the amount of participation they might expect.

-  Zero: Lecture-style presentation with optional audience questions
-  Low: Mostly presentation with a few brief activities, like introductions or low-stakes small group discussion
-  Medium: Closer to half of the session will include interactive elements
-  High: More than three-quarters of the time will be spent in breakout groups, audience discussion, or interactive activities

Monday, October 27		
Check-in available 3:00–7:00 PM Main Floor Hallways		
3:30–4:00 PM	First Time Attendee Session <i>Sponsored by Ceremony Photos</i>	<i>Foundry A</i>
4:00–5:30 PM	Welcome Session AACRAO Update • AACRAO Federal Update • Philanthropy	<i>Ballroom B</i>
5:30–7:00 PM	Opening Session & Dinner Buffet Committee Showcase • Vendor Introductions	<i>Ballroom B</i>
7:00–8:30 PM	Engagement Mixer <i>Sponsored by College Source</i> Vendor Area Open (3pm – 8pm) Cash Bar (5pm – 8:30pm)	<i>Ballroom B</i>

Tuesday, October 28

Check-in available 7:00-10:30 AM

Main Floor Hallways

UMACRAO Unplugged available during concurrent session times in Forge A

7:00–8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast <i>Sponsored by CourseLeaf</i> Announcements, 7:45 AM				<i>Ballroom C</i>
8:00–8:50 AM	Roundtable 1A	Roundtable 1B	Roundtable 1C	Roundtable 1D	Roundtable 1E
	Private Institutions  <i>Foundry A</i>	Community Colleges & Technical Schools  <i>Foundry B</i>	Large Public Institutions  <i>Ballroom B</i>	Small & Medium Public Institutions  <i>Foundry C</i>	Admissions  <i>Forge B</i>
9:00–9:50 AM	Session 2A	Session 2B		Session 2C	Session 2D
	Courseleaf - Streamline Your Academic Journey: Discover the Power of Integrated Scheduling, Advising, and Registration  <i>Foundry A</i>	Parchment - Parchment Does That Too? Streamlining Admin Workflows from Admissions to Credentials  <i>Foundry B</i>		Grooper - AI at Work - Breaking through Registrar and Admissions Bottleneck to Deliver Superior Student and Staff Outcomes.  <i>Foundry C</i>	Ceremony Photos - TBD <i>Ballroom B</i>
10:00–10:30 AM	Coffee and Recharge Break - Sponsored by Accruent				

10:30 AM–Noon	Plenary Session <i>Jon Lakefish – Adapt with AI: Practical Tools for Immediate Impact</i>			<i>Ballroom B</i>
Noon–1:30 PM	Lunch & Business Meeting <i>Provided by UMACRAO</i> Relevant documents can be accessed in the Guidebook app.			<i>Ballroom B</i>
1:40–2:30 PM	Session 3A	Session 3B	Session 3C	Session 3D
	Game On: Using Play to Power Up Presentations  <i>Foundry A</i>	Working with an Unobservable Disability  <i>Foundry B</i>	We're a School of Record! Now, what do I do?  <i>Foundry C</i>	Enrollment Requisites: A PeopleSoft PERC Review  <i>Ballroom B</i>
2:40–3:30 PM	Session 4A	Session 4B	Session 4C	Session 4D
	Accruent - Application and Data Governance  <i>Foundry A</i>	National Student Clearinghouse - Enhancing Institutional Support: Q&A with the National Student Clearinghouse  <i>Foundry B</i>	Paradigm - The Credentialing Ecosystem: Paradigm's Vision for a Fully Integrated Future  <i>Foundry C</i>	CollegeSource - Better Together: How schools maximize the bridge between TES, uAchieve, and Transferology to increase student success and staff efficiencies  <i>Ballroom B</i>
3:30–3:50 PM	Coffee and Recharge Break – Sponsored by National Student Clearing House			

	Session 5A	Session 5B	Session 5C	Session 5D
3:50–4:40 PM	Restructuring a Registrar’s Office to Support Institutional Change  <i>Foundry A</i>	Standardizing the Story - Creating a Consistent Program Page Across Campus  <i>Foundry B</i>	Leading through Ambiguity: Cultivating Positivity and Resilience  <i>Foundry C</i>	Paving the Pathway for Credit Transfer  <i>Ballroom B</i>
4:45–6:15 PM	Banquet Dinner • Awards • Philanthropy Raffle			<i>Ballroom C</i>
5:30 PM	Philanthropy Silent Auction Ends The silent auction will open at the start of the conference. Get your winning bid in place by 5:30 PM on Tuesday! Silent auction winners will need to coordinate cash, check, or credit card payment with the Philanthropy Committee in order to secure their item.			<i>Ballroom C</i>
6:30–10:00 PM	Evening Social Event – JJ’s Axes and Ales <i>Sponsored by Grooper and Paradigm</i> Join us for free axe-throwing, pool, darts, and other games at JJ’s Axes and Ales! When you need a break from gaming (or if gaming isn’t your thing), build your own nachos at the nacho bar, grab a beverage from the cash bar, and hang out. Transportation will be provided.			<i>JJ’s Axes and Ales</i>
Wednesday, October 29				
<i>UMACRAO Unplugged available during concurrent session times in Forge A</i>				
7:00–8:15 AM	Breakfast – On Your Own			

8:30–9:20 AM	Session 6A	Session 6B	Session 6C	Session 6D
	“The Good, The Bad, and The Petition” A showdown between old templates and new logic.  <i>Foundry A</i>	Strategies and Best Practices for Creating Academic Policy: A Practical Guide for Registrars  <i>Foundry B</i>	Supporting Mental Health in Higher Ed: Caring for Ourselves and Our Colleagues  <i>Foundry C</i>	Surviving SIS Transition - Preparing Your Ecosystem for Workday  <i>Ballroom B</i>
9:30–10:20 AM	Roundtable 7A	Roundtable 7B	Roundtable 7C	Session 7D
	Fostering Belonging and Growth: A Discussion on Community, Strategies, and Challenges for Neurodivergent Professionals  <i>Foundry A</i>	Transfer Credit Campfire: Sharing Stories, Building Bridges  <i>Foundry B</i>	From Learners to Leaders: Student Employees Shaping Campus Support  <i>Foundry C</i>	Fraud  <i>Ballroom B</i>
10:30–11:45 AM	FERPA Basics & Brunch <i>Sponsored by Parchment</i> <i>FERPA Panel</i> (Panel member, title, institution) <i>Jessica Alberhasky, Senior Associate Registrar, University of Iowa</i> <i>Colleen Harms, Associate Registrar, University of Minnesota</i> <i>Jackie Schluchter, Associate Director, University of North Dakota</i> <i>Beth Warner, Interim University Registrar, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> Start with an overview of FERPA basics covering key principles, common scenarios, and institutional responsibilities. Following the presentation, join a live Q&A session with our panel of experts. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance through			<i>Ballroom B</i>

	Guidebook or ask them live during the session. Whether you're new to FERPA or looking for clarification on complex cases, this is a great opportunity to engage directly with knowledgeable panelists.	
11:45 –12:00PM	Closing Session – What Can UMACRAO Do for You?	<i>Ballroom B</i>

2025 UMACRAO Annual Conference

Tentative Presentation Overview – Updated 10/22/2025

UMACRAO Unplugged • Available during all concurrent session times

UMACRAO Unplugged is intended to provide an alternative to the interactive sessions as needed. Participants can find passive activities such as art projects, puzzles, coloring pages, and self-serve relaxation exercises.

We ask that this space remain tech-free.



Forge A

Session 1: Institutional Roundtables • Tuesday, 8:00 AM

A UMACRAO tradition: A completely open-ended session in which anyone can pose a question to the group. Attend the session that fits your institution's description, or any session that strikes your interest.

1A	Private Institutions <i>Cheryl Fisk, Bethel University</i>	<i>Foundry A</i>
1B	Community Colleges & Technical Schools <i>Caroline Kinney, Des Moines University</i>	<i>Foundry B</i>
1C	Large Public Institutions <i>Maureen O'Neill, University of Iowa</i>	<i>Ballroom B</i>
1D	Small & Medium Public Institutions <i>Jackie Schluchter, North Dakota State University</i>	<i>Foundry C</i>
1E	Admissions <i>Stephanie Gaughran, Capella University</i>	<i>Forge B</i>

Session 2: Vendors 1 • Tuesday, 9:00 AM

2A **CourseLeaf - Streamline Your Academic Journey: Discover the Power of Integrated Scheduling, Advising, and Registration** *Foundry A*

Kali Slaymaker, CourseLeaf

Registrars are at the center of the student experience, ensuring that schedules, advising, and registration align seamlessly to support student success. In this session, discover how integrated scheduling, planning, and advising tools can transform your institution by making registration mobile-friendly, empowering advisors with real-time data, and simplifying complex scheduling processes. Learn how to reduce errors, optimize workflows, and gain actionable insights that strengthen academic operations while helping students stay on track to graduation.

2B **Parchment - Parchment Does That Too? Streamlining Admin Workflows from Admissions to Credentials** *Foundry B*

Shalon Anderson, Parchment

Tired of juggling disconnected tools and outdated processes? In this session, explore how forward-thinking institutions across the Upper Midwest are using Parchment beyond transcripts. From streamlining staff workflows to supporting learner mobility, see how one comprehensive platform and trusted partner can help you connect your Admissions, Registrar, and professional learning initiatives in more efficient, learner-centered ways. Learn how institutions are automating transcript processing for admissions and empowering faster transfer decisions using machine learning through Data Automation. Discover how they're expanding learner success with alternative credentials and Comprehensive Learner Records (CLRs), and supporting students with workforce-aligned skills communication through certificates, digital transcripts, and diplomas.

2C **Grooper - AI at Work – Breaking through Registrar and Admissions Bottleneck to Deliver Superior Student and Staff Outcomes.** *Foundry C*

Loren Keller, Postal Source | Grooper

Streamline your admissions and registrar operations like never before! Join us to see how AI-powered automation transforms even the most stubborn bottlenecks into breakthroughs automating tedious tasks like GPA and credit calculations, reading transcripts (even high school transcripts), and normalizing messy student data (handwriting) from any source. In this helpful session, discover how to leap from legacy manual work to lightning-fast, decision-ready information that feeds instantly into your Student Information System letting your team focus

on what matters and moving students from application to enrollment at record speed. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the secrets of document processing innovation that's reshaping the future of higher education.

2D **Ceremony Photos - TBD**
TBD

Ballroom B

Plenary Session • Tuesday, 10:30 AM

Adapt with AI: Practical Tools with Immediate Impact

Ballroom B

Jon Lakefish,

This fast-paced, engaging keynote introduces registrars to the AI tools that can save time, improve accuracy, and enhance communication right away. Jon Lakefish cuts through the noise to showcase practical applications registrars can use the same day: from drafting clear communications to analyzing data and streamlining repetitive tasks. Attendees won't just learn what's possible with AI — they'll walk out ready to apply it immediately in their daily work.

Session 3 • Tuesday, 1:40 PM

3A **Game On: Using Play to Power Up Presentations**

Foundry A

Bonnie Walker, Summit Academy OIC

Looking for new ways to capture your audience's attention and make your presentations more memorable? This interactive session explores how incorporating games can transform the way you deliver content—boosting engagement, information retention, and participation. You'll discover practical examples of game-based formats that work in a variety of settings, from training sessions to team meetings. Participants will also be invited to share their own creative approaches to presenting information, offering a space to exchange fresh ideas and inspiration. Come ready to play, learn, and level up your presentation skills!

3B **Working with an Unobservable Disability**

Foundry B

Kacey Donamaria, Minot State University

Sharing my experiences as an adult with late diagnosed Autism and ADHD, and how that has affected my life, education, and work for both good and bad. The difficulties my diagnoses have caused me before and after I knew about them, and the ways I have learned to work around or through them. I want this to be a fairly informal session where attendees leave with a better understanding of what the people around them may be experiencing silently.

3C We're a School of Record! Now, what do I do?

Foundry C

Scott Correll, University of North Dakota

This session will overview what serving as a school of record entails, discuss accreditation requirements, and detail the journey from keeping manual records to incorporating the process in the main student information system.

3D Enrollment Requisites: A PeopleSoft PERC Review

Ballroom B

Jackie Schluchter, North Dakota State University

This session will provide a review of implementing and reviewing enrollment requisite checking from the perspective of a PeopleSoft institution. We will share our journey and best practices in enforcing course requisites using the PERC process.

Session 4: Vendors 2 • Tuesday, 2:40 PM

4A Accruent - Application and Data Governance

Foundry A

Mike Kinney, Accruent

The lost and found is a great resource for items of unknown ownership. Unfortunately, institutions typically don't have a lost and found for data, applications, and processes. In this session, we'll discuss the several ways one can answer the question of "Who owns this?" and the subsequent questions "Who can use it?" and "How can it be used?". Topics covered will include governance structures and oversight, the role of governance in change management, and determining and managing access to data and applications. This session is meant to be conversational, so please bring your governance successes and struggles.

4B National Student Clearinghouse - Enhancing Institutional Support: Q&A with the National Student Clearinghouse

Foundry B

Andi Liner, National Student Clearing House

Join us for an engaging Q&A session featuring representatives from the National Student Clearinghouse. The focus will be on strengthening institutional support through improved collaboration and service delivery. Participants will have the

opportunity to share experiences, address current challenges, and explore effective solutions to enhance the student experience. Whether you're navigating operational hurdles or seeking best practices for partnership, this session at UMACRAO aims to foster open dialogue and actionable insights for your campus.

4C Paradigm – The Credentialing Ecosystem: Paradigm’s Vision for a Fully Integrated Future *Foundry C*

Shawn Owen, Paradigm Inc.

Explore Paradigm’s end-to-end credentialing solutions—from beautiful diplomas and tamper-proof digital certificates to future-ready tools like ScholarRecord, ApostilleConnect, and digital transcripts. Learn how we streamline registrar workloads, fight fraud, and empower student mobility across formats. Enter for a chance to win in our live raffle!

4D CollegeSource - Better Together: How schools maximize the bridge between TES, uAchieve, and Transferology to increase student success and staff efficiencies. *Ballroom B*

Stephanie Sutton and John Panzica, CollegeSource

Many schools have found success in utilizing the functionality of all three products together: TES, uAchieve, and Transferology. TES allows staff an efficient way to view catalog information in one place that is needed to make equivalency decisions or communicate with those making equivalency decisions. uAchieve allows staff the ability to store transfer articulation rules and create degree programs for your curriculum. Anyone interested in viewing your school's transfer rules and learning how their courses apply to your degree programs can do so from within Transferology.

Session 5 • Tuesday, 3:50 PM

5A Restructuring a Registrar’s Office to Support Institutional Change *Foundry A*

Cheryl Fisk, Bethel University

Bethel University is undergoing a restructure to a One Bethel Model where programs will be grouped and housed according to academic discipline rather than by modality and degree level. In order for the Registrar’s Office to support students, faculty, and staff under this new structure, a major restructure of the office positions and division of tasks was needed. This session will share the many lessons learned and best practices related to the restructure as well as change management.

- 5B Standardizing the Story – Creating a Consistent Program Page Across Campus** *Foundry B*
Heidi Christensen, Iowa State University
- Iowa State University is rolling out a standardized catalog format, beginning with a pilot group of 15 programs and expanding to all programs by the 2027–28 catalog. The initiative includes a uniform "quick facts" page designed to give all campus stakeholders - from students to advisors to accreditors - easy access to key program data in a consistent format. Join this session to learn how ISU approached buy-in, templating, and rollout planning, and bring your questions for a discussion on improving catalog usability through standardization.
- 5C Leading through Ambiguity: Cultivating Positivity and Resilience** *Foundry C*
Beth Warner, Interim University Registrar, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Leading through ambiguity requires more than strategy—it calls for resilience, optimism, and the ability to inspire trust even when answers are unclear. In this session, we'll explore practical tools for cultivating grounded positivity and building resilient teams, drawing on leadership research and lived experience. Along the way, we'll weave in lessons from my 108-year-old grandfather, a WWII Merchant Marine from Pigeon Falls, Wisconsin, whose century of wisdom offers timeless guidance for navigating uncertainty. Participants will leave with strategies they can apply immediately to lead with clarity, hope, and steadiness in unpredictable times.
- 5D Paving the Pathway for Credit Transfer** *Ballroom B*
Laura Cross, Dakota State University
- Discover how Dakota State has leveraged TES and Transferology to streamline the process for transfer students and students with transfer, starting even before high school graduation.

Session 6 • Wednesday, 8:30 AM

- 6A “The Good, The Bad, and The Petition” A Showdown Between Old Templates and New Logic** *Foundry A*
Tyler Schatz, South Dakota State University
- A look back at my time going from the private sector to the public sector/higher education & the opportunities that presented themselves to make updates to various forms used in my work.

- 6B Strategies and Best Practices for Creating Academic Policy: A Practical Guide for Registrars** *Foundry B*
- Cheryl Fisk, Bethel University*
- Best practices for student academic policy creation will be explored, focusing on how registrars can effectively collaborate with faculty and other campus stakeholders to create clear, consistent, and equitable policies. Lessons learned and key insights from Bethel University's recent policy alignment initiative will be shared. This session will also include a collaborative discussion, providing a valuable opportunity for you to share your own experiences, challenges, and successful solutions.
- 6C Supporting Mental Health in Higher Ed: Caring for Ourselves and Our Colleagues** *Foundry C*
- Trent Tappan, University of Iowa*
- As staff members, we often navigate high demands, shifting priorities, and emotional labor—all of which can take a toll. This session will offer practical strategies for recognizing signs of mental health challenges, supporting coworkers with empathy, and taking care of our own well-being. Let's build a culture where mental health is acknowledged, supported, and prioritized.
- 6D Surviving SIS Transition – Preparing Your Ecosystem for Workday** *Ballroom B*
- Heidi Christensen, Iowa State University*
Kali Slaymaker, CourseLeaf
- Switching to Workday as your SIS? Iowa State University is mid-journey and has some wisdom to share. This session offers a high-level roadmap of what to expect when migrating to Workday while managing a tightly integrated curriculum management environment. We'll cover the timeline, team collaboration, data integrity concerns, course data workflows, and unexpected roadblocks. Whether you're just starting or deep in transition planning, you'll walk away with actionable advice and key questions to ask your vendors and internal stakeholders.

Session 7: Roundtables by Topic • Wednesday, 9:30 AM

- 7A Fostering Belonging and Growth: A Discussion on Community, Strategies, and Challenges for Neurodivergent Professionals** *Foundry A*
- Elissa Thoman, University of Iowa*

Caroline Jens, University of Iowa

This roundtable invites neurodivergent professionals to engage in a collaborative dialogue centered on building inclusive professional communities, sharing effective strategies for success, and addressing systemic and interpersonal challenges in the workplace. Participants will explore themes of identity, advocacy, accessibility, and resilience, while exchanging lived experiences and practical approaches to navigating professional environments. The session aims to foster mutual support, amplify diverse perspectives, and generate actionable insights to inform institutional practices and promote equity for neurodivergent individuals in professional settings.

7B Transfer Credit Campfire: Sharing Stories, Building Bridges

Foundry B

Olivia Umbaugh, University of Northern Iowa

Stephanie Gaughran, Capella University

Danielle Weide, University of Northern Iowa

Pull up a seat around the Transfer Credit Campfire! In this informal roundtable session, we'll explore how our institutions evaluate transfer credit—discussing the who, what, and how of our processes. What systems or tools do you use? Are you leveraging AI or other innovations? This is a space for sharing challenges, solutions, and best practices. Together, we'll spark ideas and build stronger connections that can help us improve credit evaluation across campuses.

7C From Learners to Leaders: Student Employees Shaping Campus Support

Foundry C

Mary Rankin, University of Iowa

Jessica Alberhasky, University of Iowa

Student employees are increasingly vital to the success of campus service areas—but how do we prepare them to thrive in these roles? At the University of Iowa Office of the Registrar, we're in the early stages of incorporating student employees into our service model. Our current focus is on building strong onboarding and training practices that not only support operational needs but also foster student growth and engagement.

7D Fraud

Ballroom B

Beth Mikulas, Kirkwood Community College

Katie Tanner, Kirkwood Community College

Join us for a roundtable discussion about all thing's fraud.

FERPA Basics & Brunch • Wednesday, 10:30 AM

FERPA Basics & Brunch

Ballroom B

Jessica Alberhasky, Senior Associate Registrar, University of Iowa

Colleen Harms, Associate Registrar, University of Minnesota

Jackie Schluchter, Associate Director, University of North Dakota

Beth Warner, Interim University Registrar, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Closing Session • Wednesday, 11:45 AM

What Can UMACRAO Do For You?

Ballroom B

Caroline Kinney, Des Moines University

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their generous support of this event!**

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