



2025
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

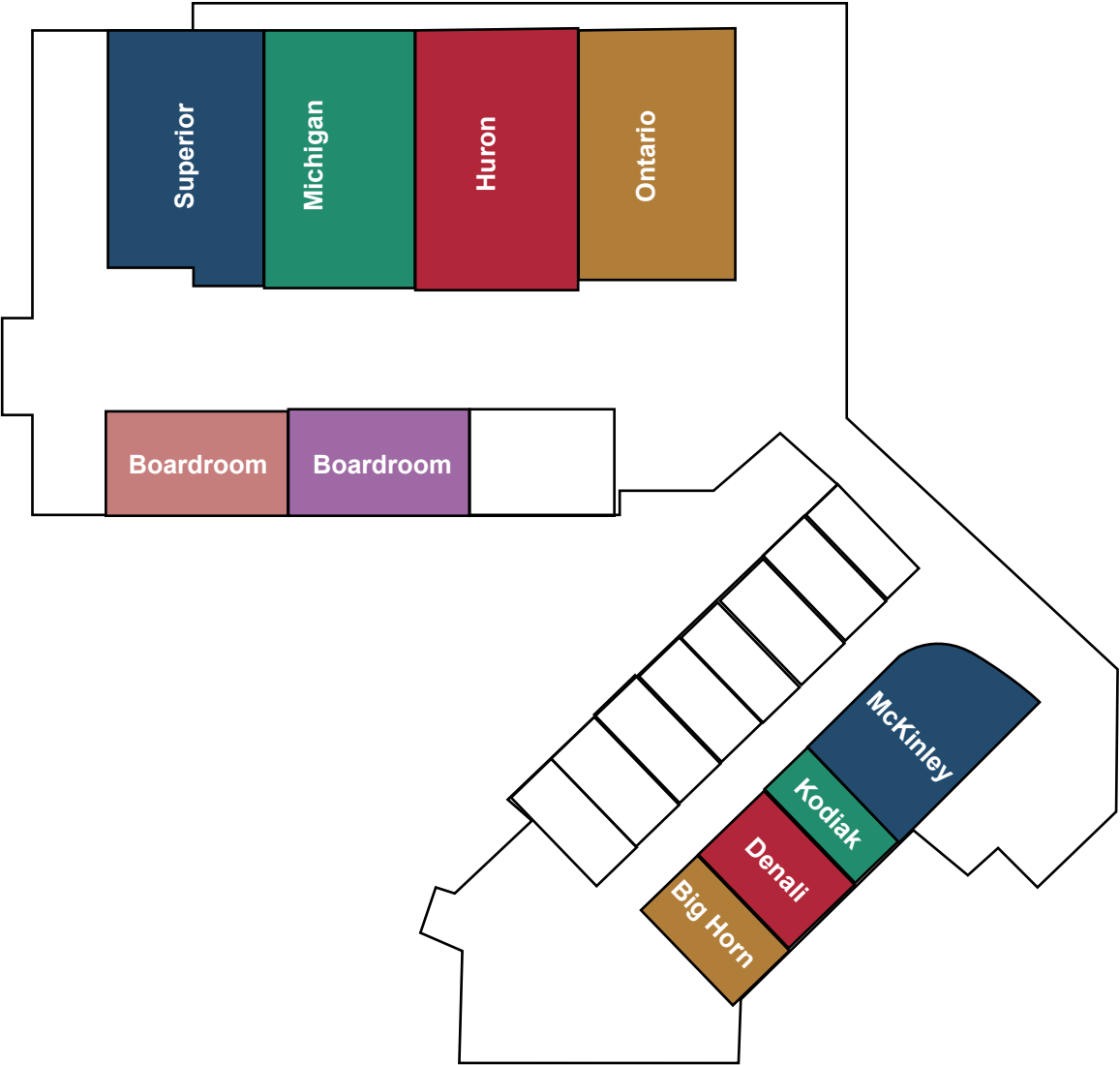
NOVEMBER 5-7
GREEN BAY, WI



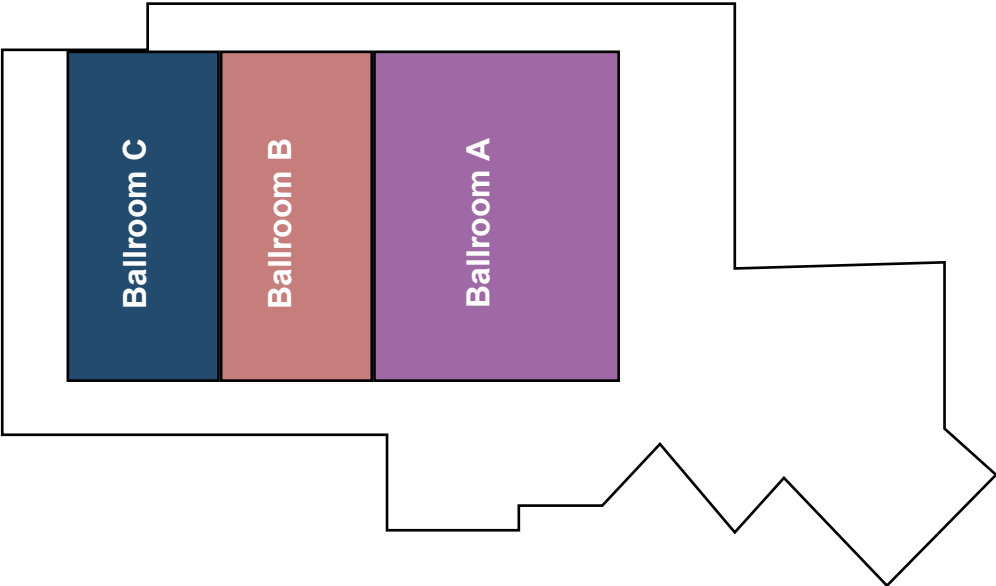


CONFERENCE MAP

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR





WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10:00 - 4:30 REGISTRATION OPENS

10:00 - 11:30 PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

W 1.1| QPR Training

| Stephen Pepper | Moraine Park Technical College



Superior/Michigan

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained as QPR Gatekeepers learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. As you know, gatekeepers can be anyone but include parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, advisors, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide. As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper, participants will learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, and know how to get help and save a life. Participants will receive a certificate of training upon completing this session, valid for one year.

W 1.2 | FERPA 101

| Alex Frain | Marquette University



Superior/Michigan

Are you new to the world of FERPA? Come get your head in the game with our FERPA pre-conference workshop where we'll coach you through the rules of the game when it comes to student privacy. We'll break down the privacy playbook, so you know who's eligible to access student records, what's out of bounds, and how to avoid compliance penalties. Perfect for rookies looking to build a strong defensive strategy from day one.

11:30 - 12:30 LUNCH



On your own

12:30 - 2:15 ISSUES/TRENDS MEETINGS



W 2.1 | Wisconsin Technical College System Meeting
Mckinley



W 2.2 | Wisconsin Independent Colleges and Universities Meeting
Big Horn

12:30 - 1:30



W 2.3 | Universities of Wisconsin System Meeting
Superior/Michigan

1:30 - 2:15



Universities of Wisconsin Breakout - Admissions
Superior/Michigan



Universities of Wisconsin Breakout - Registrar
Superior/Michigan

2:30 - 4:00 OPENING SPEAKER



W 3.1 | Unleashing Agile Leadership
| Lyna Matesi, Ph. D.

Ballroom

Discover how embracing learning agility can empower registrars to thrive amidst evolving pressures. This session delves into practical strategies for cultivating an agile mindset and fostering learning agility within your registrar and campus teams. We'll explore how these capabilities directly enhance your ability to serve students effectively, drive professional development, and build resilient institutions. You'll learn to transform challenges into opportunities for growth and innovation. Join us to uncover actionable methods for promoting a growth mindset, creating psychologically safe environments, and championing experimentation. This is your opportunity to gain valuable insights into fostering cross-functional collaboration.

4:00 - 5:00

ROOKIE SEASON: NEW MEMBER WELCOME

5:00 - 6:00

NETWORKING SOCIAL

6:00 - 8:00

DINNER



On your own

8:15 - 10:00

ENTERTAINMENT: GAME NIGHT – GAME ON!

Bring your competitive spirit and join us for Game Night! Cribbage boards will be provided, along with plenty of other games for all to enjoy. Whether you're a card shark, a board game fan, or just in it for the laughs, it's the perfect way to unwind and connect with fellow attendees.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:00 - 7:50

KICKOFF BREAKFAST



Ballroom

Tables will be reserved for new and recent members to engage with current and past Executive Board members and WACRAO leaders.

7:50 - 8:00

**THE GAME PLAN: WHAT'S HAPPENING ON DAY
2**



Ballroom

7:00 - 4:30

REGISTRATION OPENS

8:00 - 8:50 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

TH 1.1 | WACRAO 101

| Rachel Aldrich | Fox Valley Technical College

| Kelly Browning | UW-River Falls



Ontario

Are you new to WACRAO? Want to become more involved in WACRAO? Not sure what WACRAO means? This session is for you! We will dive into the playbook and explore the organization, become familiar with roles, and explore opportunities for involvement. Come to this session as a rookie, or a seasoned-veteran, and we will have an open discussion on all things WACRAO!

TH 1.2 | Records Coordinators - Keeping Data in the Right Formation

| Ritu Sachdev | Marquette University



Huron

TH 1.3 | HLC Accreditation – Perspective from a Peer Reviewer

| Lane Holte | Moraine Park Technical College



Michigan

The session will provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of a Peer Reviewer to include Peer Reviewer training requirements; pre-site visit review tasks; potential areas of emphasis; and “do/don’t do” insights.

TH 1.4 | From Access to Belonging: Supporting Our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students



**| Lisa Sadowski | Gateway Technical College
Superior**

Join me as we explore ways to create an inclusive learning environment for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing student population. Together, we will discuss ADA requirements and your responsibilities, reasonable accommodation, and the role of the interpreter. We will also explore how to foster a sense of belonging within the college community while advocating for students and consider best teaching practices that respect individual needs and cultural differences — all with the ultimate goal of supporting student retention and graduation.

TH 1.5 | The Data Playbook: From Request to Results



**| Cori Stewart | UW-Madison
Mckinley**

It takes more than a lucky pass to turn a data request into a winning dashboard. This session walks through the full data playbook — from making clear, strategic requests to reviewing dashboards with a critical eye. You'll learn how to communicate effectively, streamline the request process, and deliver dashboards that help your team make smart, game-winning decisions. Attendees will leave with a sample data request template and practical tips for designing dashboards that work — no tech background needed.

TH 1.6 | Who's Bringing the Orange Slices? Parenting Professionals Cohort Kick-Off



**| Kate Kurek, Kayla Jensen, Anne Eckenrod | UW-Madison
Denali**

From mental load to physical challenges, being a working parent comes with unique benefits and obstacles. Join us for a kick-off meeting for WACRAO's new community: WACRENTS! This session will allow us to come together and brainstorm how we can support each other throughout the year. Whether you're an expecting parent, are constantly finding snacks and socks in your pockets and car, or navigating having your own child in higher ed, all experiences and perspectives are welcome!

9:00 - 9:50 **VENDOR SESSIONS**

TH 2.1 | Parchment Does That Too? Streamlining Admin Workflows from Admissions to Credentials

| Nate Cronk and Kevin Hickey



Ontario

Tired of juggling disconnected tools and outdated processes? In this session, explore how forward-thinking institutions across Wisconsin 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, including:

- Automating transcript processing for admissions and transfer with Receive Premium + Data Automation
- Empowering faster transfer admissions using machine learning through Data Automation
- Expanding learner success with alternative credentials and Comprehensive Learner Records (CLRs)
- Supporting learners with workforce-aligned skills communications through certificates, and digital transcripts and diplomas

9:50 - 10:10 **THE HUDDLE BREAK**

10:20 - 11:10 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

TH 3.1 | Fielding Success: Curriculum Management as a Team Sport

| George Henze | Marian University

| Jonelle Przbylski | UW-Steven Point

| Victoria Rahn | UW-La Crosse



Ontario

What do football, fútbol, and curriculum management all have in common? They're team sports! Join us for a panel discussion with four universities to share how their registrar offices collaborate with academic governance bodies for a winning game. We'll share our playbooks on how we make sure that rules of the game are being followed, how we huddle to develop strategies for successful policies and programs creation, and maybe even share some trick plays we've found helpful on our campuses for success.

TH 3.2 | High School Demographics, K12 & CBO Partnerships | Jennifer Van Thiel | Fox Valley Technical College



Huron

This session will explore partnerships in the K12 and Higher Education space, highlighting resources, best practices, and strategic planning.

TH 3.3 | Unmasking Trickster Credentials | Karin Christoph Brown | One Earth International Credential Evaluations



Michigan

A high school diploma that's really just 9th grade. A secondary credential in a field that only exists at the post-secondary level in the U.S. A degree that opens doors to employment - but not to further education. International credentials can be full of misdirection. The real mystery? Knowing what documents to request, verifying authenticity, and - perhaps most baffling - understanding what the credential is actually intended to do. Join a former international admissions counselor turned credential sleuth for a lively session that reveals the truth behind misleading (but common) academic documents. You'll get example documents, practical tips, and strategies for spotting red flags before they wreak havoc on your admissions process. Let's unmask those credentials - no Mystery Machine required.

TH 3.4 | A New Playbook: Game-Changing Career Moves | Heidi Tuescher-Gille & Kelly Norton | UW-Madison | Sarah CW Sullivan | Cornell University



Superior

Change is inevitable, but transformation is a choice. In this panel discussion, higher education professionals who have made significant shifts—whether changing roles, departments, campuses, or entire career trajectories—will share their experiences, insights, and strategies for embracing professional evolution. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives on: -Identifying personal and professional potential -Stepping outside comfort zones and discovering new strengths -Effective change management and transition strategies -Advocacy, empowerment, and navigating promotion opportunities -Lessons learned from challenges and triumphs along the way. Whether you're contemplating a career move or looking to support others in transition, this session offers inspiration and practical guidance for forging new paths in the ever-changing world of higher education.

TH 3.5 | Fighting Ghost Students & Fraud

| Lisa Schmid | Fox Valley Technical College

| Luke Voight | Fox Valley Technical College



McKinley

They have many names, Ghost Students, Fake Students, Pell Runners, Fraudulent Students, etc. They are a drain on college resources and can have impacts on real students. Fox Valley Technical college has successfully gone live with a software partner to help prevent ghost students. The session will include some general information on the impact of ghost students, along with an in-depth look at the journey and implementation of software at FVTC to prevent fraud.

TH 3.6 | Game Plan for Clear Communication: Plain language for all Players

| Sydney Badeau | Advocacy and Outreach Specialist, People First Wisconsin

| Molly Cooney | Program and Policy Analyst, Wisconsin Board for People with Development Disabilities



Denali

Plain language is clear communication that people understand the first time they read or hear it. Join this session to learn plain language strategies that you can use right away. We'll share helpful resources and discuss the intersection of plain language and digital accessibility.

11:20 - 12:10 GENERAL SESSION

TH 4.1 | Legal Issues in Higher Education

| Matt Lind | System Legal



Ballroom

12:00 - 1:45 HALFTIME LUNCHEON



Ballroom

1:45 - 2:45

WARM UPS AND COOL DOWNS: WELLNESS BREAK

Take a WACRAO-sanctioned break to rest and reset mid-conference.

Choose your own wellness adventure from the following:



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1. Financial Wellness with UW Credit Union

2. Craft in Community- bring your own knitting, needlepoint, coloring book, etc.

3. Silent Book Club- bring your book and enjoy a quiet reading room.

4. Yoga and meditation

5. Office Ergonomics in Practice with Jared K. Dalberg, UWGB - get tips to make your workspace work for you and enjoy a movement snack.

6. Journaling and Self Affirmations with Tiffani Robertson, PhD, MBA - bring a pen and dive into some self-care

2:45 - 3:05

TIMEOUT BREAK

3:10 - 4:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TH 6.1 | Navigating the Playbook for NSC Reporting

| Beth Warner | UW-Madison



Ontario

Ready to level up your reporting game? Join this interactive roundtable to discuss the ins and outs of enrollment and degree reporting to the National Student Clearinghouse, including hot topics like Financial Value Transparency (FVT) and Gainful Employment (GE) reporting. Whether you're new to NSC's playing field or a seasoned pro, come share your challenges, wins, and strategies with colleagues from across the state. It's Game On for clearing up confusion and scoring reporting success!



TH 6.2 | Update on Accessibility **| Ruben Mota | UW-Madison** **Huron**

There are new accessibility standards that will need to be in place for all institutions on April 2026. I think it would be good to have someone come and talk about what this means, what is affected, and provide tools people can use to complete this work.



TH 6.3 | Improving Effectively Through Automation **| Jon Dyess | UW-Superior** **Michigan**

In recent years, both the UW-Superior Registrar's & Admissions Offices implemented new automations, significantly improving office efficiency. In this session we will review automation processes for both the Admissions and Registrar's Offices, including the degree conferral, the use of BPLogix forms, as well as admissions processing in both PeopleSoft and Perceptive Content.



TH 6.4 | Invigorate Recruitment & Prospective Students **| Lori Christianson | UW-Madison** **Superior**

This session will focus on recruiting all student types, exploring what works, what doesn't, and addressing challenges.



TH 6.5 | A Transfer Playbook - TES and Transferology **| Ritu Sachdev | Marquette University** **| Andrew Meyer | UW-Green Bay** **| Ryan Bench | UW-River Falls** **| Michelle Ferry | UW-Green Bay** **Mckinley**

We will kick off the session with tips for creating / maintaining transfer course equivalencies and evaluation workflows in TES. In the second half, we will share our play-by-play for building successful transfer agreements and implementing strategies to enhance your prospective transfer students' experience with Transferology.

TH 6.6 | Huddle Up: Professional Development Strategies **| Isabel Walters | UW-Eau Claire**



Denali

Huddle up with fellow professionals for a dynamic roundtable discussion focused on creative, low-cost approaches to staff development. Whether you're working with a tight budget or no budget at all, this session is your chance to share and gather practical strategies, resourceful ideas, and collaborative solutions to keep your team growing and thriving. Bring your best plays and leave with a stronger game plan for doing more with less.

4:10 - 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TH 7.1 | Portal Players: Transfer Student Experiences **| David Toles | UW-River Falls**



Ontario

A student-led panel sharing firsthand transfer experiences.

TH 7.2 | From Resistance to Resilience **| Marc Young | UW-Milwaukee**



Huron

Change initiatives often face resistance, but the key to lasting transformation lies in building resilience and leading with purpose. In this session, change management, practical strategies for fostering adaptability, and leadership techniques to guide teams through uncertainty. Through a UW-Milwaukee SEM planning case study, participants will learn how to turn hesitation into momentum, align stakeholders around a shared vision, and sustain change for long-term success. Whether you're navigating organizational shifts or leading cultural transformation, this session will equip you with actionable tools to drive meaningful and lasting change.

TH 7.3 | Swing and a Miss: Why Some Projects Fail and How to Keep Them In Play



| Ellen Clark | UW-Madison
Michigan

We have all heard about what has made projects successful, but what about when projects fail. In this session you will learn some fundamentals of project management and how they can be applied in projects big and small in your areas. We will cover some terms, best practices, and have plenty of times for questions.

TH 7.4 | Draft Day Decisions: Empowering Hispanic/Latinx Students | Arlene Tuler | UW-Green Bay



Superior

Traditional student recruitment often overlooks the potential of underrepresented students—this session, inspired by the “Moneyball” mindset, explores how data, storytelling, and collaboration can help institutions identify and support these “undervalued players.” With persistent equity gaps in Wisconsin’s graduation rates, we’ll share actionable strategies to reimagine readiness and build more inclusive pathways to student success.

TH 7.5 | Wisdom from the Hall of Fame | Beth Warner | UW-Madison



Mckinley

They’ve entered the Hall of Fame and are back to share wisdom with the rest of the team! This panel discussion will include a healthy dose of nostalgia, advice, and more. Moderated by the infamous Beth Warner, this session is one for the record books!

TH 7.6 | Identifying and Addressing Stereotypes | Stephen Pepper | Moraine Park Technical College



Denali

This session is intended to educate staff and faculty about military culture and how stereotypes can affect student veterans. Attendees will better understand the different branches of the military, their significant roles in our Armed Forces, and some of the negative stereotypes many veterans and those currently serving may experience.

5:15 - 6:00 THE TAILGATE



Foyer

6:00 - 7:30 ALL-STAR BANQUET



Ballroom

7:30 - 8:30 5TH QUARTER CONNECTIONS



Foyer

8:30 - 10:30 ENTERTAINMENT: DJ COSMIC BINGO



Ballroom

Hosted by MelodiesNMayhem

Get ready for a high-energy twist on a classic game! Join us for DJ Cosmic Bingo, where bingo meets music, lights, and plenty of laughs. Hosted by MelodiesNMayhem, this isn't your typical bingo night—you'll experience great tunes, a lively atmosphere, and exciting prizes. Don't miss out on one of the most entertaining events of the conference!



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00 - 8:00

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS



Ballroom

8:00 - 8:40

GENERAL SESSION



AACRAO Update Ballroom

8:50 - 9:40

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**F 1.1| Big Plays & Bold Questions: AI's Impact on Education
| Kelly Norton | UW-Madison**



Ontario

Ready to step onto the field and tackle one of education's hottest topics? Join us for a dynamic (play)book roundtable inspired by *The Promises and Perils of AI in Education: Ethics and Equity Have Entered the Chat* by Ken Shelton and Dee Lanier. No need to read the book beforehand - this interactive session invites you to huddle up, bring your questions, and dive into discussion with others in the room about the big plays shaping AI's impact on education. Topics may include bias in AI, high-stakes decision-making, the power of AI with student data, how institutions are using AI, and more.

F 1.2 | Game Plan: Navigating the Field of Campus Visits **| Genna Mattioli | UW-Stevens Point**



Huron

This roundtable discussion explores the strategies behind successful campus visit planning, examining the challenges and wins in creating a memorable, engaging experience for prospective students. Attendees come willing to share insights on managing logistics, enhancing visitor engagement, and overcoming obstacles, all while aligning with the competitive landscape of college recruitment.

F 1.3 | Scoring a Win with End of Term Processes

| Jennifer Bonack | UW-Oshkosh
| George Henze | Marian University
| Victoria Rahn | UW-La Crosse
| Amy Holewinski | Nicolet College



Superior

Join us to learn how to Score a Win with student-centered end of term processes. This panel discussion brings together the registrar's staff to share strategies and best practices for end-of-term processes in the Registrar's Office. This session will explore how to enhance processes and increase efficiency while supporting students effectively. Topics will include graduation and degree conferral, academic standing, grade submission, and more.

F 1.4 | Huddle Up: Taking a Time Out to Process the Attacks on DEI

| Jaclyn McHugh | UW-Madison
| Maya Boren | UW-Green Bay
| Arlene Tuler | UW-Green Bay



Michigan

Join the WACRAO Access, Diversity, and Equity Committee for a roundtable discussion on the growing attacks on DEI programs on our campuses and across the country. This session offers a space to pause, reflect, and find solidarity in response to the political and institutional shifts threatening diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. Across the nation, campuses have been pressured to defund or dismantle DEI initiatives, creating a climate of scrutiny and legal challenges that leave many educators and staff feeling uncertain and unsupported. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, share experiences, and connect with others navigating similar challenges. Whether you're directly impacted or seeking to understand and advocate, this session is a space to regroup, reflect, and collaborate on ways to protect inclusive practices in this challenging climate.

F 1.5 | Join the Team: WACRAO Huddle
| Kelly Browning | UW-River Falls
Mckinley



Whether you're currently on a Standing Committee or interested in serving on a committee or the Local Arrangements Committee, come take a break and join the huddle! Learn how you can get in the game and make an impact in WACRAO.

9:40 - 10:00 FUEL UP BREAK

10:00 - 10:50 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

F 2.1 | Field of "Military" Dreams
| Sheila Kershek | Marquette University
Ontario



Does evaluating Military Credit put you in left field? Do you strike out with Military evaluations? Come to this session and learn about evaluating military credit and see that it is possible to hit a homerun with ACE Evaluations.

F 2.2 | Unlock the Board: SQL Skills for Functional Users
| Yasamin Blackmon | Marquette University
Huron



Feeling boxed in by your SIS's limited ad-hoc query tools? It's time to take control of the game with SQL. In this session, we'll explore the rules and strategies of Structured Query Language, teaching you how to build custom queries from the ground up. We'll review the basics and then level up to take on aggregates and subqueries.

F 2.3 | Stellic Implementation 2.0
| Kristin Hildebrandt | UW-Milwaukee
| Josh Lind | UW-Stout
| Heather Chermak | UW-Whitewater
Michigan



Hear from your colleagues at Milwaukee, Stout, and Whitewater about their current state regarding Stellic. We'll discuss what we like, what we don't, what was easy, and what was hard. We'll do a review of the end user experience in audit, planner, and registration, and we'll share upcoming functionality that excites us.

F 2.4 | Home Court Advantage: Creating Unforgettable Visits

| Genna Mattioli | UW-Stevens Point



Superior

During this dynamic round table discussion focused on campus visit and event experiences at both 2-year and 4-year institutions, we will share creative strategies to make events stand out, highlight unique campus offerings, and collaborate with idea-sharing around all things campus visits and events. Come ready to contribute and get inspired as we dive into what it takes to build a home court advantage and create unforgettable visits!

F 2.5 | TCS10-Lessons Learned

| Amy Clark | Moraine Park Technical College



Mckinley

Wisconsin Technical College System schools needed to update processes for high demand programs to be in compliance with TCS10. Come hear from representatives from WTCS colleges share their experiences and lessons learned in this journey!

11:00 - 12:00 CLOSING SESSION

F 3.1 | The Art of Positive Thinking

| Aaron Sadoff



Ballroom

The Art of Positive Thinking RIGHT NOW! Pain is inevitable, suffering is a choice! Stuck in a rut - Thinking about making a career change - Dealing with loss and despair - Wanting a change in you? You are at the right place, at the right time to make your life better, the past more helpful, and the future brighter. We each have the power to amazingly impact our lives and others through OUR positive thinking RIGHT NOW! Welcome to MindCraft.



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