



President's Message - Rick Burnette, 2018-19

I refuse to believe that the summer is waning and that we are only two months away from SAIR – Greenville, *Tools for Transformation*. The SAIR Annual Conference promises to be a great event so make sure you tell your colleagues so we have a big crowd attending with lots of opportunities for networking. If possible, please share this newsletter with your state organization and other professional list-serves. Below you will see information on the conference and the pre-conference workshops. This year, we have two plenary speakers -- Christine Keller, PhD, the Executive Director of AIR, and Tom Danielson, former Tour de France racer. They will both be worth the conference registration fee.

We hope you will agree that the SAIR Board is pro-active and hard-working. We have rewritten all the position descriptions to realign the duties to be more logical and balanced between all the positions. These will be posted on the SAIR website for your review. We have adopted project management software so that we aren't keeping the history of the organization on flash drives. We have increased our communications and have plans to make SAIR more of a year-round resource for our members.

We have revamped the SAIR Awards to make them align with changes in technology and information delivery. We have updated information and procedures for travel grants. We have been investigating new membership and mentoring models. The conference session proposal submission process has been moved to a new platform. We are researching a new email platform that will allow us to be even more responsive to our membership. We have SAIR accounts on LinkedIn and Twitter in addition to Facebook.

However, we need your help on several fronts. We need you to:

- Vote for our next group of leaders with an eye to how they will help our organization grow and improve
- Build our membership – find people who will benefit from attending the SAIR conference and make sure they sign up
- Submit nominees for SAIR awards
- Engage new members with travel grants – let your newer colleagues know of this option.
- Sign up for our pre-conference workshops, our newcomers session, the Community and Technical College Organizational Meeting on Sunday, and/or the new IPEDS Keyholders training that NCES is conducting on Saturday, September 28th, all offered in conjunction with our SAIR conference.

We have further information about all of these at <http://SAIR.org> or in the articles below. If you see one of my board colleagues or conference volunteers, thank them for their efforts to support SAIR. We hope to see you in Greenville!

Rick Burnette, SAIR President



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SAIR

SOUTHERN
ASSOCIATION FOR
INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH

<http://sair.org/about-sair/>

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2019 Program Chair — Rick Burnette, 2018-19**Greenville here we come!**

SAIR will be bringing its *Tools for Transformation* theme to a city famous for its own transformation – Greenville, SC. The 46th Annual Conference of the Southern Association for Institutional Research will be from September 28th through October 1st at the Hyatt Regency Greenville. I hate to say I was pleasantly surprised when I visited Greenville, but I am not alone. It is consistently ranked as one of the top small city destinations. The hotel sits at the top of Main Street and is six blocks from the waterfalls on the Reedy River. It is an area where you can walk to most of your destinations including countless restaurants, shopping, cafés, alternative watering holes, museums, theaters, bowling, hiking trails, a comedy club, and the Shoeless Joe Jackson home site. Want more information? Our stellar Local Arrangements Committee will be communicating with you about weekend options and telling you about their favorite places. Chair Suzanne Klonis has a great team in David Eubanks, Donna Foster, Lauren Simer, Sara Gravitt, Ronnie Chrestman, Nancy James and Melissa Welborn. They will help you make the most of your stay and have been planning our Monday night social event at SIP. We reduced the price this year in hopes that we will have greater attendance. The event includes dinner and a casual rooftop environment that will include music, games, and a lounging area to simply sit and talk with friends. Please plan to attend. If you need more information about what you can do in Greenville, go to <https://www.visitgreenvillesc.com/>.

If you are a subscriber to the SAIR member list-serv, you have undoubtedly heard me talk about the preparation for our conference. Plan to arrive on Friday and take in one or more pre-conference workshops on Saturday and Sunday. Barrie Fitzgerald has done a great job of lining up an excellent list of workshops that will guide your transformation (see his update below). You could also plan to attend the NCES/IPEDS New Keyholder Workshop on Saturday. We will have dining parties on Saturday night where you can join other SAIR members for networking and socializing. All SAIR newcomers should plan to arrive early enough to attend the Saturday dining groups and then enroll in the Newcomers Workshop on Sunday. Sunday also features the meetings of the Southern University Group and the new Community and Technical Colleges Group organizational meeting. You can also enjoy the local sites like the Furman campus or enjoy a hike in the beautiful areas around Greenville or along the river on the weekend prior to our opening reception on Sunday.

Across four days, the SAIR conference offers in excess of 100 workshops and concurrent sessions in areas such as institutional research, accreditation, assessment, strategic planning, community and technical colleges, and technology. This year we have added an additional track on leadership and management that will allow aspiring mid-level and senior managers to address topics that are relevant for university and departmental leaders. We hope this track will add a new way to fuel your transformation. We also have sessions focused on system office employees that we combined with our planning track. We received several more session proposals than we have time slots. That has created a challenge for our track chairs and review teams to choose the best presentations. We appreciate the efforts of our track chairs: Lynn Williford, Alexandra (Alex) Anderson, Emily Campbell, James Hunt, Sandi Bramblett, Eric Atchison, and Marc Turner.

The conference will continue through midday Tuesday, October 1st. This year we have Christine Keller, Executive Director of AIR, as our Sunday night plenary speaker. She strongly believes that AIR is at a point of transformation so her message will tie in nicely with our *Tools for Transformation* theme. An extra benefit for attendees this year will be the addition of a second plenary speaker. Tom Danielson, a former professional cyclist and Tour de France stage winner, is excited to join us to share his own four-step formula for transformation. He is an exceptional speaker who will wake us up with music and video at our Tuesday breakfast. Plan to be around long enough to hear him speak. He also plans to join us at the Monday evening social and dinner. There will be another 20 presentations after the Awards and Business Breakfast on Tuesday along with meetings of our state and affinity-based affiliated organizations. We appreciate you planning to stay through midday on Tuesday so as not to miss out.

As you can see, we have put a lot of effort into making this a memorable conference. Be sure to register and make your hotel reservations soon. We have already discussed overflow hotels as registrations are trending higher than in prior years. Let's make this a meaningful conference by engaging record numbers of attendees. Encourage attendance by colleagues in affiliated offices on your campus that can benefit from better understanding how new models of analytics, assessment, and planning can transform their campuses and their roles. Conference and registration information is available at <http://sair.org/conferences/sair-2019/>. We look forward to seeing you in Greenville.

Awards and Recognition - Susannah Livingood, Member-at-Large, 2018-20

Call for Nominations for SAIR Awards due August 2, 2019

SAIR encourages you to nominate an outstanding member for consideration for the following awards:

James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award

This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to SAIR over an extended period of time. Nominees must have been a SAIR member for over five years and cannot be a member of, or a candidate for, the Board of Directors during the year nominated. In addition, two of the following criteria must be met:

- Has been a member of the Board of Directors or a chair of a conference, or a presidentially appointed committee;
- Has been an officer of, or a recognized leader in, the establishment of a state or special interest group which has been associated with SAIR; and/or
- Has made a professional contribution to SAIR by being actively involved in a combination of the following: presented papers at the SAIR conference; organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops at the SAIR conference or workshops sponsored by an affiliated SAIR organization or group; contributed in some other specific significant way that has advanced the professionalism of SAIR.

Distinguished Member Award

Distinguished Membership may be awarded to members or former members who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research. This award is a meaningful recognition of significant effort in the field of institutional research. The award is for the lifetime of the individual. (Persons retiring from active service in institutional research may be recognized through the award of emeritus membership rather than Distinguished Membership). A member or former member nominated for Distinguished Membership should meet the following qualifications:

- Has been an active and contributing member of SAIR;
- Has contributed substantially to the field of institutional research over an extended period of time, either in practice of institutional research or in a supporting role (e.g., faculty, President); and/or
- Has influenced higher education policies and practices through work or research.

Special Recognition Unsung Hero Award

This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member of SAIR and the field of institutional research and planning in the broadest sense. This award honors individuals whose effort and initiative might not otherwise receive public recognition. The types of effort to be considered include management assignments, innovative projects or ideas, development of new initiatives, or other ongoing service to SAIR, other than as an elected officer. [For the purpose of this award, "officer" is defined as President, Secretary, or Treasurer.] Officers are excluded in order to encourage initiative in fields other than political office and to ensure that the award does not become an appreciation award for past presidents. All members of SAIR are eligible to receive the award with the following exceptions: a member who has previously won the award; officers of SAIR shall not be eligible for five years after leaving their last office.

SAIR Awards Nomination Process:

Send an email attachment in Microsoft Word format by **August 2, 2019** to Susannah Livingood at slivingood@ou.edu. Please put "SAIR Award Nomination" in the subject line of the email. The attachment should include the following sections:

SAIR Award Name: (James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award, Distinguished Member Award, Special Recognition Unsung Hero Award)

Nominator information: name, current position, company/institutional affiliation, address, phone, and email

Nominee information: name, current position, company/institutional affiliation, address, phone, and email

Has this nomination been discussed with the nominee?: (Yes or No)

Provide a narrative summary of 1,000 words or less. The narrative should evaluate the nominee's accomplishments and a specific identification of the work to be recognized; explain why the nominee is being recommended for this award with regard to the stated purposes of the award; if the nominee has received another SAIR award within the last five years, specifically describe why this nomination is appropriate; if the nominee has received a previous SAIR award, describe why this award nomination does not cover the basis for a previous award; analyze patents if cited, and if the nominee is not the sole author of works, specify the contribution of the nominee.

Professional Development—Barrie Fitzgerald, Member-at-Large, 2018-20

Hey guys and gals, I know we are all lining up at the starting gate to begin the mad rush of a new academic year, but I wanted to remind you that the SAIR conference is rapidly approaching. Speaking of SAIR, have you had a chance to take a look at the available pre-conference workshops? We are offering a wide variety of sessions that will provide you with the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable experts. In these sessions, presenters will provide you with valuable information and useful tips and tricks to develop your skills. Here are the topics that are going to be covered:

- Dashboards Development
- Data Visualization
- Institutional Effectiveness
- Management/Leadership
- Programming (R, Python, SQL, etc.)
- Statistics in Excel
- Strategic Planning
- Student Success Analyses

For more details, head over to the SAIR registration website. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Saturday, September 28th and Sunday, September 29th. Take a look at the schedule and figure out which workshop or workshops you would like to attend. Don't wait too long to register! Reserve your spot in a session today since workshops might fill up. You can find the workshop list at <https://bit.ly/2XUFTKB>. Click on the title to see a description of the workshop.

Until then, peace, love and see you in Greenville, SC!

Barrie D. Fitzgerald

First SAIR Conference? You won't want to miss the **Newcomers' Workshop** on Sunday, September 29th!



Vendor Relations – Laverne Macon-Jamison, Member-at-Large, 2017-19

As of this publication, the following companies have committed to serve as sponsors of our 2019 Annual Conference.

Please show your support and appreciation by visiting our Sponsors/Exhibitors during SAIR 2019! The Exhibit Hall will be located in the Regency Ballroom A & B of the Hyatt Regency Greenville. During the conference, plan your visit to the exhibit hall on Sunday afternoon or until 5:00 p.m. Monday evening to find out more about the products and services offered.

ACAT/PACAT

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Campus Labs

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Concord U.S.A. (Xitracs)

SmartEvals

Evisions

SREB

HEDS

U.S. News Academic Insights

I3 Group

WEAVE

National Student Clearinghouse

Becoming a sponsor or exhibitor is a wonderful way to connect with our community of professionals. If you don't see your favorite sponsor or exhibitor on the list, please reach out and encourage them to become one. There is still time! Please contact Laverne Macon-Jamison at Imacon@livingtone.edu or (704) 216-6247 to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities. You can also find a list of sponsors and exhibitors on the SAIR website at <http://sair.org/conferences/>.

Thank You
To Our Sponsors

Announcements and Notices

Travel Grants - Wendy Kallina, Member-at-Large, 2017-19

**Exciting news about
travel grants – coming
soon to your email!**

AIR National Survey of IR Offices - Susan Lounsbury, Secretary, 2018-20



National Survey of IR Offices Deadline Extended

The deadline to complete the National Survey of IR Offices is July 30, 2019. Take the survey now to ensure that your institution's data are included in the national report, available in fall 2019.

The National Survey was designed to empower offices by providing a tool for internal reporting and comparison to peer institutions. The reporting and benchmarking functions provide information to help you understand if your office is performing efficiently and effectively, and if your office is resourced adequately for the work that's expected of you. Completing the survey allows you to leverage benchmarking data by putting the right information into the hands of the right people to initiate and sustain improvement. To learn more, visit the [AIR National Survey page](#) or email NSIRO@airweb.org.

Matthew Campbell Past President, 2018-19

SAIR in 2022: It's the MONTELEONE!

Built in 1866 and located in New Orleans' French Quarter, it is one of the great family-owned hotels in the U.S. With its rich history as host to many authors, it is one of only three hotels in the United States to be declared a literary landmark.



The early 1900's décor provides a welcome change to today's corporate hotel, plus the Monteleone is true to its luxury roots and maintained at the highest standard.

The Monteleone's historic construction makes for magnificent private rooms and elegant public spaces, punctuated by the famous Carousel bar.

