



President’s Message - Meaghann Wheelis, 2023-24

Summer has officially begun and we’re already feeling the higher temperatures and taking advantage of longer days in the south. I hope you are able to take some time the next few months to rest and enjoy time with loved ones. Fall will be here before we know it!



Summer Plans

While things may slow down at our institutions during the summer, the SAIR Board are staying busy with preparations for the conference in September. Vice President and Program Chair, James Hunt, is creating an exceptional conference program full of opportunities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first SAIR conference. [Conference registration is now open](#) and I encourage you to register before the early bird rate expires. Now is a great time to make your hotel reservation as well!

Kristy Neal, Past President, has also led the Nominations and Elections Committee to select an excellent slate of candidates for the SAIR Board. Elections will take place in the coming weeks and I hope you’ll take the time to cast your votes. I look forward to meeting the next generation of SAIR leaders in Atlanta!

[Nominations are now open for Best Practice Awards](#). I know our SAIR colleagues have been hard at work this past year and I hope you’ll submit your outstanding ideas before the deadline. Also, consider nominating a SAIR member who has made an impact through the Service Awards. See Member-at-Large Carley Dear’s report for more information about the awards with links to make your submissions.

New SAIR Logo

Thank you to everyone who submitted a design for the new SAIR logo! We received a number of excellent designs and it’s going to be hard to choose just one. SAIR members should have received a link to vote on the new logo - don’t forget cast your votes before the end of the month! The final selection will be revealed before the Atlanta conference.

Other News

In other news, we are continuing to develop the new membership management system that will include a redesigned SAIR website. We expect to launch the new site shortly after the conference and we’ll continue to share news through the [Weekly Update](#). Don’t hesitate to contact me at president@sair.org if you have questions about SAIR happenings.



SAIR members discuss data visualization at the 2023 Conference Table Topics Luncheon.

Inside this Issue

President’s Message	1
Vice President’s Update & 2024 Conference Information	2
Past President’s Update	3
Treasurer’s Update	4
Secretary’s Update & Member News	6
Member Engagement & Awards	7
Professional Development	8
Registration 	9
Sponsors & Exhibitors	10
Updates from SAIR Affiliates	12

**UPCOMING
SAIR CONFERENCE
DATES & LOCATIONS**

**SAIR 2024
Atlanta, GA
Sep. 28-Oct. 1**

**SAIR 2025
Alexandria, VA
Sep. 27-30**

**SAIR 2026
Little Rock, AR
Oct. 24-27**

**SAIR 2027
TBD**

SAIR

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

President

*Meaghann Wheelis
Baylor University, TX*

Vice President

*James Hunt
Florida State University, FL*

Past President

*Kristy Neal
Louisiana State University, LA*

Treasurer

*Erica Hughes
Southwest Tennessee
Community College, TN*

Secretary

*Eric Atchison
Arkansas State University
System, AR*

Members-at-Large Member Engagement & Awards

*Carley Dear
University of Mississippi
Medical Center, MS*

Professional Development

*G. Marc Turner
Texas State University, TX*

Registration

*Wendy Broyles
Troy University, AL*

Sponsors & Exhibitors

*Samantha James
Georgia Tech, GA*

Vice President & 2024 Conference Program Chair James Hunt, 2023-24



2024 SAIR 50th Anniversary Conference Update

Planning for the 50th Anniversary SAIR Conference in Atlanta is well underway! As you will see from the updates below, now is a perfect time to begin formalizing your plans for attending the conference on September 28-October 1, 2024. Registration (with pre-conference workshops) along with hotel reservations are open. Additionally, SAIR volunteers will soon complete the concurrent session proposal reviews and will notify all proposal submitters of their acceptance status late in July.

Conference Registration

Registration for the 50th Anniversary Conference is now open! Early Registration is \$425, and Early Student Registration is \$200. You must register by August 21 for those prices. To learn more and to register, please visit the [2024 Conference Registration page](#).

Hotel Reservations

Our 50th anniversary conference will be held at the Westin Buckhead, which is a beautiful property located in the heart of Atlanta's Buckhead district that boasts a wide array of amenities, including high-end shopping centers, gourmet dining options, and much more. Hotel reservations are open now, and I suggest you make yours soon! To learn more about the hotel and to make a reservation, please visit the [2024 Hotel Information page](#).

Conference Transportation

As you are completing your conference registration and making hotel reservations, please also consider your transportation plans. For those flying into Atlanta for the conference, the hotel is an approximately 40-minute drive from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Additionally, the [MARTA Red Line](#) offers a convenient alternative as it connects from ATL to the Buckhead stop, which is a 5-7 minute walk from the conference hotel.

Opening Session

I am pleased to announce that the opening session at the 50th Anniversary Conference will include a panel of outstanding contributors to the IR/IE field. The panel discussion will align with our conference theme of looking back and moving forward, and the interactive conversation will cover both the evolution and future of our field. The panelists include:

- Dr. Christine Keller, Executive Director and CEO of AIR
- Dr. Mary Sapp, SAIR President 1989-90 and AIR President 1997-98
- Dr. Glenn James, SAIR President 1998-99 and AIR President 2016-17
- Dr. Rick Burnette, SAIR President 2019-20

SAIR 2024

50 YEARS

LOOKING
«**BACK**»
MOVING
»**FORWARD**»

**UPCOMING
DEADLINES**

Travel Grant
Applications
July 12

"Best" Award
Submissions
August 15

Early Conference
Registration Pricing
August 21

Conference Hotel
Reservations
September 5

Kristy Neal - Past President, 2023-24

2024 SAIR Election

The nominations committee and I have been diligently working to review nominations and establish a slate of candidates for the 2024 election cycle. I am in the process of contacting members who have been nominated by their peers, and I look forward to continuing these great conversations. Look for elections to open in July!



2027 Site Selection

One of my final parting gifts is the 2027 site selection. I visited 2 sites, and have begun contract negotiations. I am not quite ready to announce the location, but look for this announcement in July as well.

I hope you are all making plans to join us in Atlanta for the 50th Anniversary of SAIR! I know we will have some original SAIR members and prior leaders joining us, so it will be a great opportunity to hear from them about SAIR's evolution. Their experiences have been invaluable to our organization.

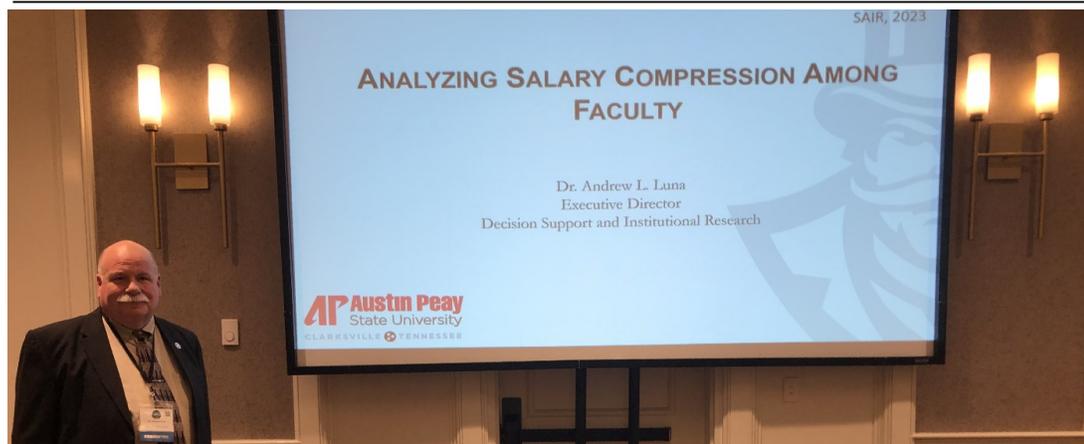


A view of the SAIR 2024 Conference hotel, the Westin Buckhead.

**Southern Association for Institutional Research
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2024
Erica Hughes - Treasurer, 2023-25**



	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Banks	
PayPal Account	192.08
Vanguard Mutual Fund	75,211.64
Wells Fargo Checking	5,929.12
Wells Fargo Savings	6,143.03
Total Banks	87,475.87
Total Bank Accounts	\$87,475.87
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	1,545.86
Total Accounts Receivable	\$1,545.86
Other Current Assets	
Uncategorized Asset	350.00
Undeposited Funds	3,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$3,350.00
Total Current Assets	\$92,371.73
TOTAL ASSETS	\$92,371.73
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Net Assets	172,021.53
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Retained Earnings	-62,362.96
Net Revenue	-17,286.84
Total Equity	\$92,371.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$92,371.73



Andrew Luna presents his research at the 2023 SAIR Conference. The accompanying paper was selected for the 2023 SAIR Best Paper Award.

**Southern Association for Institutional Research
Profit & Loss, Accrual Basis
January through March, 2024
Erica Hughes - Treasurer, 2023-25**

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Bank Interest	5.85
Conference Revenues	1,925.00
SAIR Memberships	1,150.00
Total Revenue	\$3,080.85
GROSS PROFIT	\$3,080.85
Expenditures	
Conference Expenditures	18,234.51
Overhead Expenditures	932.28
QuickBooks Payments Fees	29.90
Uncategorized Expense	1,171.00
Total Expenditures	\$20,367.69
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -17,286.84
NET REVENUE	\$ -17,286.84

SAIR Summer Word Search

```

R A I K L G E K Q E R H E L E C T I O N
E B U Z P R D C O N F E R E N C E T G V
V J B T E K H K U Y U G K N X I N C R U
I P R B A W D E V E L O P M E N T F A Z
E R R D C U S I C R I R R E Y Q V A N X
W W M O H N U P E V X Z T P A A V C T B
E F G U F R S T L R V X N Y U J H N X F
R F V I C E P R E S I D E N T X M P L S
V Z N R Y G S O I Z Q N I S R S Q B N L
O I U T T I Q S S R N H J E G E U O C A
L S N X P S Z R I A Z E C C B S P O W T
U O R A M T G B L O R F O R A S F S W L
N E P V H E D G I Y N R H E P I H U Z A
T I I N V R Z G J G L A N T Y O N M X N
E P M E M B E R S H I P L A X N V M O T
E A P N O M I N A T I O N R Y L G E G A
R H W S P F M B D Q N W B Y Z O M R C W
K R E G I S T R A T I O N L V G D E Y L
O F Y K J D V X E M L T K C D O T P E P
T S A W D Y E B D F Q N D O A B G K C I
    
```

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| ATLANTA | CONFERENCE | DEVELOPMENT |
| ELECTION | GRANT | LOGO |
| MEMBERSHIP | NOMINATION | PEACH |
| PROFESSIONAL | REGISTER | REGISTRATION |
| REVIEWER | SECRETARY | SESSION |
| SUMMER | VICE PRESIDENT | VOLUNTEER |



The 2023-2024 SAIR Board of Directors meets to plan the 2024 conference in Atlanta.

Secretary - Eric Atchison, 2022-24

Summer Slowdown? Hardly.

I've recently had a conversation about how busy IR/IE staff are during the summer months. Many colleagues in other administrative units consider the quiet campus life and summer hours to be indicative of all facets of college functional areas. However, we know this is not the case. Many institutions offer one or more summer terms or multiple parts of terms that require the same level of reporting and analysis as a full 15/16 week fall or spring term. Annual planning activities may also occur during the summer months to prepare for the fall term. This summer, in particular, seems more hectic than most with three areas of federal data being discussed widely:



- **FAFSA:** FAFSA processing delays and updates from Federal Student Aid are filling up many inboxes and causing numerous concerns about processing federal, state, and institutional aid. I've tried to keep up by reading the [2024-2025 FAFSA Fast News](#) site.
- **FVT/GE:** Concerns about Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment reporting requirements have existed since they were announced last fall, but institutional concerns appear to be increasing. A recent article published in [eAIR](#) by SAIR member Carrie Mata may be helpful.
- **IPEDS:** Proposed changes to IPEDS were recently published for a 30-day comment period. This year's changes include a new Cost survey that combines information collected in the Institutional Characteristics and Student Financial Aid surveys along with proposed changes to the Admissions survey, among others. While the comment period has closed, the changes can be reviewed on [Reginfo.gov](#).

These are just some of the many reasons I look forward to the opportunity to gather at the annual SAIR conference in the fall months. As the summer swelter sets in, I hope you are enjoying whatever breaks you may find but also looking ahead to the SAIR conference this fall!

SAIR Weekly Update

SAIR now uses Mailchimp to send timely updates from each of our board members to more than 600 subscribers! If you are not receiving the SAIR Weekly Update emails from secretary@sair.org, please contact your IT office to request they be allowed. In case you missed any, previous emails are [viewable in the archive](#).

Facilitator Peach Game

Congratulations to the first winner for 2024 from the Spring Issue, **Clay McFerrin** (Heritage Christian University)!

In this issue, we have hidden 3 peach icons like the one below within this newsletter. The first person to find all three peach icons and send their locations to secretary@sair.org will win a prize to be handed out at the 2024 conference! Here's an example of the peaches hidden in the issue (*actual size may vary - this one does not count!*):



One of the many outdoor murals located in the Buckhead neighborhood.



Don't forget to [submit your news and updates](#) for the next issue of *The Facilitator*!

Member News & Updates

Eric Atchison was recently elected to chair the 2024-2025 Association for Institutional Research Nominations and Elections Committee.

Member Engagement and Awards - Carley Dear, Member-at-Large, 2023-25

SAIR values member collaboration, and supporting this initiative, we offer travel grants to encourage more colleagues to attend the conference. During SAIR's annual conference, we highlight amazing demonstrations of institutional research and effectiveness reports and processes from our members to share best practices with each other.



We encourage you to apply for the following opportunities:

Travel Grants

Applications have been extended to **July 12th**. These grants cater to SAIR members at all career stages:

- [*Newcomers Grants for First-Time Attendees*](#): \$300 grant and conference registration fee waiver. Open to those attending their first SAIR conference.
- [*Bill Fendley Travel Grant for Second-Year Attendees*](#): \$300 grant and conference registration fee waiver. Eligible for those who attended their first SAIR conference as a Newcomer the previous year.
- [*Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant*](#): \$500 grant and conference registration fee waiver. Applicants must have an accepted scholarly paper for presentation at the annual SAIR conference.
- [*Edith H. Carter Travel Grant*](#): \$500 grant. Applicants must be current SAIR members.

To apply, [fill out an application form here](#).

Best Practice Awards

Submissions are due by **August 15th**. Showcase exemplary institutional research in four categories:

- [*Best Print Report*](#): Includes fact books, reports, infographics, etc., optimized for printing.
- [*Best Interactive Report*](#): Includes interactive digital formats not primarily designed for printing.
- [*Best Website*](#): Evaluates departmental websites based on structure, content, and design.
- [*Best Innovative Practice*](#): Recognizes innovative programs, processes, or workflows that enhance efficiencies or outcomes.

To apply, [fill out an application form here](#).

Service Awards

Nominate deserving colleagues for SAIR Service Awards, recognizing outstanding contributions:

- [*Distinguished Member Award*](#): Recognizes members (or former members) who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research.
- [*James R. Montgomery Outstanding Service Award*](#): Acknowledges significant service to the organization over an extended period of time. Must have been a member of more than five years and not currently serving on the Board of Directors.
- [*Unsung Hero/Heroine Award*](#): Honors individuals whose ongoing contributions may not be widely recognized but are invaluable to institutional research and/or SAIR.

Please use this [application form to submit a service award nomination](#).

For any inquiries regarding the application process, please contact me at membership@sair.org.

We look forward to receiving your applications and nominations

Professional Development - G. Marc Turner, Member-at-Large, 2022-24

Thank you to everyone who submitted a pre-conference workshop proposal for the upcoming SAIR 2024 conference!



SAIR 2024 Pre-Conference Workshops

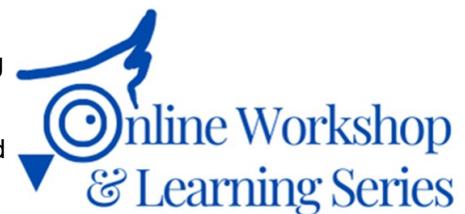
I'm pleased to announce that we have an exciting array of full-day and half-day pre-conference workshops scheduled for this year designed to enhance your data skills and support the work you do at your institutions. These sessions will cover topics such as data visualization with Power BI and Tableau, IPEDS data tools and benchmarking (offered through AIR), and foundational statistics using Excel. Participants will also be able to explore automation with Microsoft Power Automate, gain insights into effective teaming and project management using Microsoft tools, and delve into institutional research best practices. A full list of the workshops can be found on the [conference registration site](#).

Newcomers Workshop

As members of SAIR, many of you are already aware of the Newcomers workshop which is offered each year. This valuable session is designed for those new, or not so new, to the field who are attending SAIR for the first time. Providing a comprehensive introduction to institutional research, its principal components, and the practices of institutional researchers, this workshop covers data sourcing, communication, reporting, and the role of institutional research in supporting assessment and accreditation. Participants leave with a solid foundation and a network of peers to support their continued growth in the field. We strongly encourage those new to SAIR and the field of IR to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Whether you're new to the field or looking to advance your expertise, our pre-conference workshops provide an amazing opportunity for professional development. We look forward to your participation in these enriching sessions and to another successful SAIR conference.

In addition to our in-person pre-conference workshops, we are still accepting proposals for the Online Workshop and Learning Series (OWLS). These online sessions are offered to provide professional development opportunities for everyone in the IR community. We are especially interested in providing workshops to help introduce people to how Python and R can be used to enhance operations in IR offices. If you are interested in offering an OWLS workshop, please email prodevelopment@sair.org for more information.



Southern Association for Institutional Research

I look forward to seeing all of you in Atlanta in just a few months!



Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood. Source: Discover Atlanta

Registration - Wendy Broyles, Member-at-Large, 2022-24

SAIR 2024 Conference registration is OPEN!

Visit the [event website](#) and [registration site](#) for more details.



SAIR members make this professional organization valuable and irreplaceable. We each have interesting stories and lessons learned to share. And while connection and learning are undeniably the basis of our organization's history, our ongoing and deepening emphasis on professional development and networking is vital for our future. Institutional research, institutional effectiveness, and related fields are not for the faint of heart, and our annual conference will be marked by opportunities to grow and to engage in a community of kindred spirits.

Registration Desk Volunteer Opportunity

Now is NOT too early to begin looking for ways to be involved leading up to and during the conference. I will be seeking volunteers to help with the on-site registration desk, which is a great chance to make or renew connections. Contact me at registration@sair.org if you're interested in volunteering at the registration desk.

Looking Ahead to SAIR 2024 in Atlanta!

In the meantime, be sure to check out more of what [greater Atlanta](#) and [Buckhead](#) in particular have to offer.

Atlanta is known for its history, cultural diversity, rich musical heritage, Southern hospitality, good food, local brews, crazy traffic, awe-inspiring street art, and a never-ending list of events and activities. Over 70 streets in the city have "Peachtree" or some variation of it in their name, so be careful to follow directions in unfamiliar neighborhoods.

Because Atlanta's "urban tree canopy" covers almost half the city, including native dogwoods, maples, cedars, and birches, you won't be hard pressed to find a nicely shaded park for a stroll; and the [Atlanta BeltLine](#) is an especially interesting series of parks and trails to explore. If you're not super familiar with Atlanta already, chances are good that you'll recognize some part of the city from a favorite film or tv show thanks to the intensely busy film industry in the area.

Additionally, Atlanta's sports teams keep the city busy year-round. The [Georgia Aquarium](#) is one of the world's largest aquariums, and yes, the dolphins will happily splash you with cold, salty water regardless of the weather outside. The nearby [World of Coca-Cola](#) offers an opportunity to taste dozens of soda flavors from around the world. And Buckhead is a famous shopping destination sometimes called the "Beverly Hills of Atlanta" and home to a selection of the city's best art galleries, restaurants, and nightlife.

Come early or stay late this fall. There's plenty to do in the vibrant and dynamic city of Atlanta, but this year's SAIR 50th anniversary conference will be a don't-miss-it affair!



A view of the Path400 Greenway that runs through Buckhead.

Sponsors & Exhibitors - Samantha James, Member-at-Large, 2023-25

Please invite your corporate partners to participate in our upcoming 51st Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary of the Southern Association for Institutional Research - Looking Back, Moving Forward to be held in Atlanta, Georgia! We want to provide our members the ability to interact with all partners to learn about their products and services that can support us in institutional research, effectiveness, assessment, accreditation, data management, and planning activities at our organizations. If you know of any organization that is interested in sponsorship, please have them contact us at sponsorships@sair.org! The full Sponsor Prospectus is available on the [SAIR website](#).



Sponsorship Levels

Exhibiting Sponsorship: \$1,250

Sponsorship Levels are determined based on the total value of options selected.

Sponsorship Level	Minimum Amount
Platinum	\$4,250
Gold	\$3,250
Silver	\$2,250
Bronze	\$1,250

Sponsorship Level Inclusions:

Inclusions	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Booth Space – One 6 ft Table	✓	✓	✓	✓
Registration for One Attendee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgement in the Conference Program	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hyperlink on Conference Website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to President’s Reception (Saturday night)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media Posting		✓	✓	✓
Company Provided Banner Displayed in Walking Area		✓	✓	
Recognition to Attendees via Preconference Email			✓	✓
Company Provided Banner Displayed in High Traffic Area				✓
Near Premium Booth Placement			✓	
Premium Booth Placement				✓

Sponsors & Exhibitors - Samantha James, Member-at-Large, 2023-25

Sponsorship Add On's - \$500 and Below	\$250 ea.	\$300 ea.	\$350 ea.	\$400 ea.	\$500 ea.
Advertisement in Conference Program+	¼ Page				½ Page
Brand Awareness items for Tote Bags	✓				
Event Sponsorship+		✓			
Mailing List of Registered Attendees (1 week prior)		✓			
Company Banner next to Registration Table			✓		
Additional Sponsor Attendee (cost of regular registration minus \$25)					
Program-at-a-Glance - allows for one sponsor to take advantage*+				✓	
Branded Lanyards (Sponsor provided)*					✓
Branded Tote bags (Sponsor provided)*					✓
Concurrent Session Presentation+					✓
Sponsor Name as Wi-Fi Password*					✓
Branded Item (\$35- minimum) for Sponsor Passport Prize Drawing – Bring item to give away – “At Cost”					
Sponsorship Add On's - \$750 and Above	\$750 ea.	\$1,000 ea.	\$1,250 ea.	\$1,500 ea.	\$2,500 ea.
Advertisement in Conference Program+	Full-Page				
Full-day pre-conference workshop (co-presented with SAIR member)+		✓			
Keynote sponsor: includes (a) 10-minute Lightning Session at end of Keynote*+		✓			
Sponsor Hosted Trivia - Includes 10-minute award ceremony at opening reception to award winners+		✓			
SAIR Program & Sponsor Hosted Trivia - Includes ¼ Page advertisement of trivia with QR code in program in addition to “Sponsor Hosted Trivia” offering+			✓		
Cocktail Hour Drink Tickets (includes 50 premium tickets)				✓	
Work Room (Sponsor provided swag and branding)*+					✓
Zen Den (Sponsor provided swag and branding with calming swag if available for room)*+					✓

*Only one available , +If submitted by August, 15, 2024 deadline

Updates from SAIR State Affiliate Organizations



The **Arkansas Institutional Research Organization** is in full planning mode for the 2024 Annual Conference, this year's theme is: The Best of AIRO: Highlighting Institutional Research and Effectiveness. The event will be held at Arkansas Colleges of Health Education in Fort Smith on November 11-12. The first day of the event is slated for IPEDS training which is open to anyone who would like to attend.



The **Florida Association for Institutional Research** had a successful meet-and-greet at the recent AIR Forum in Denver, CO. We discussed how to increase communication among members (listservs), additional training opportunities (webinars), improving participation in FAIR (institutional representation), and ways to increase the impact of FAIR in statewide issues (reaching out to organizations that are involved in legislative issues).



The **Louisiana Association for Institutional Research** 2024 conference will be held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, July 16 and 17. This year the conference aims to bring the institutional research community together for collaboration, and professional development. The conference will host a Newcomers session for those members that are new to the world of Institutional Research. [\[Details\]](#)



The **Maryland Association of Institutional Research** Summer Enrichment Series will be August 2 at UMD College Park with a seminar by Amelia Parnell titled "You are a Data Person, Strategies for Using Analytics on Campus". [\[Details\]](#)



The **Mississippi Association for Institutional Research** hosted a spring workshop entitled "Outcomes: Start to Finish" at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The spring session allowed colleagues from across the state to reconnect and learn practical insights to navigate the entire outcomes process. The 2025 MAIR annual conference will be held in Gulfport, MS February 10-12. Please reach out to dnichols@oire.msstate.edu for more conference details or if you are interested in being a part of the virtual presentation series.



The 2025 **Texas Association for Institutional Research** Annual Conference will be held February 25-28, 2025 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. The 2024 Conference in Frisco, TX this past March had 232 attendees, 2 keynote sessions, 9 pre-conference workshops, and 50 concurrent sessions.

Affiliate Organization Updates

Are you an officer of a state affiliate IR/IE association?

Please send announcements to be included in the SAIR newsletter to secretary@sair.org.

