aCRN anthropology
CAREER READINESS NETWORK

NETWORK-WIDE

Virtual Meeting

Newcomers welcome!

aCRN

July 16, 2026
4:00 p.m. Eastern

Welcome!

- To our first time participants
- To our returning members

Agenda

1. SfAA Public Sector Crisis Workgroup
2. ACRN Involvement in AAA's Newsletter
3. Career Services Webinar
4. Selected Intern Projects
5. New Strategy for Developing a Tool
6. Discussion – Federal Rule Changes
7. Updates

SfAA Public Sector Crisis Workgroup

Jose Santos

"Anthropology is facing an urgent crisis emanating from the public sector. Under the Trump administration and the broader MAGA movement,

federal employees, contractors, fellows, grantees, and university-based anthropologists have experienced layoffs, cancelled contracts, grant terminations, reassignment, return-to-office disruption, censorship, and loss of public data.

These attacks focus on work associated with diversity, equality, equity, inclusion, environmental justice, Indigenous consultation, LGBTQ health, sustainability, and other anthropology-aligned values."

Taken from SfAA's Workgroup Charge, 2026

The Workgroup emerged in response to these events

- 2025 SfAA Sessions
  - Federal Workers
  - Academics
- 2026 SfAA Presidential Sessions
  - Federal Workers
  - Faculty
  - Students
- 2026 SfAA Informal Meetings
  - Session organizers, SfAA President, Scholars, Practitioners
  - Continued meetings led to Workgroup Charge

Society for Applied Anthropology

acrn

The Workgroup has a charge and set of deliverables

- "Recommend workable SfAA strategies to defend and advance anthropology in the public interest", including:
  - Documenting scale and impact
  - Exploring Legislative Action
  - Developing Collaborative Partners
  - Providing support for job loss, cancelled contracts, surveillance and censorship, instability
  - Providing support for training programs and academic freedom
- Deliverables:
  - Memo to SfAA Board with recommendations
  - 2026 SfAA Conference Programming/Sessions
  - Public-facing articles, op-eds

What actions can you take?

- **In the short term**
  - Talk about how career readiness should help us address this crisis
    - Respond now—verbally or in the Chat
- **In the mid term**
  - Your recommendations that the Workgroup should make to the SfAA Board
    - Send an email to jose.santos@metrostate.edu once you have read the charge (will be emailed today)
    - Time frame: **Before August 1**
- **In the long term**
  - Write an Op-Ed for a news outlet
  - Attend the Public Sector Crisis Workgroup sessions
    - SfAA Meetings
    - Time frame: **March 23-27, 2027,** Norfolk, VA
  - How might you submit a paper, poster, panel or session on an aspect of this crisis?
    - Submission deadline: **October 15**

ACRN Involvement in AAA's Newsletter

Elizabeth K. Briody

ACRN is contributing to AAA's Department Services Program (DSP) Newsletter

- In April, ACRN was asked to submit an entry for each DSP Newsletter
- Since then, ACRN has submitted three entries
  - New online tools now available (May)
    - Networking to Build Your Professional Community
    - Using Informational Interviews in Career Exploration
  - Value of the Departmental Advisory Initiative (June)
  - World of Work Blog offers ready-made course material (July)

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems

DONATE

Bring the World of Work Blog Into Your Classroom

Looking for fresh, ready-made course material? ACRN has published 99 short essays (750-800 words each) on careers and career preparation through its World of Work Blog since 2021. Written by anthropology students, professors, and practitioners, the posts offer a firsthand look at how the discipline is changing, and they work well as take-home assignments, discussion prompts, or in-class essays.

Teaching a unit on AI? Start with these:

- How can linguistic anthropology help you work with AI? by Liz Rodwell
- How can anthropologists prepare for careers in AI? by Matt Artz
- How will interdisciplinary skills serve you in the age of AI? by Christian Castellanos

The blog also doubles as a dataset for analysis assignments. ACRN co-founder Elizabeth Briody put it to the test: of the 69 posts published by May 2025, 23 percent focused on career pivots, a quick indication of how often anthropologists change jobs.

Please check out our ACRN instructor resources here.

Why is the DSP relevant for ACRN?

- Represents an institutional partnership between AAA and college/university anthropology departments/programs
- Consists of about 250 departments
- Receives monthly communications from AAA

How does ACRN benefit?

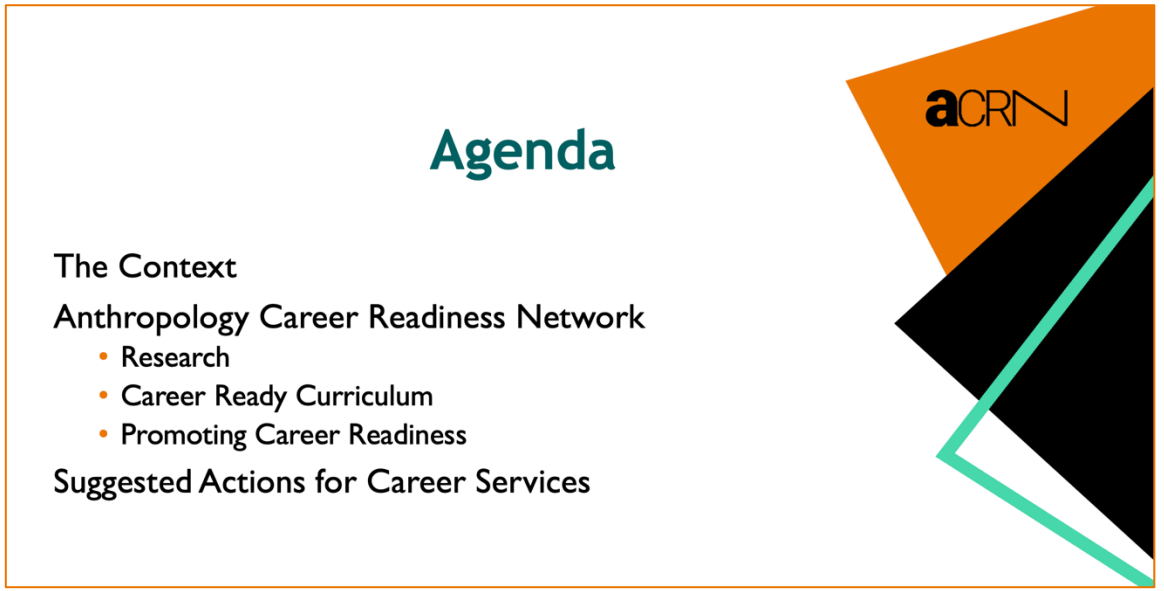
- Can tailor career and career-prep messaging, appealing to DSP leaders, instructors, and their students
- Able to offer up-to-date insights on a changing discipline

Career Services Webinar

Jennifer Studebaker

After many months of planning, ACRN offered its first webinar to Career Services professionals

- Organized by: **Beth Schill**, Anthropologist, ACRN member, and Asst. Dir. for Prof. Dev't., Georgetown
- Attendees: Career Services staff from East coast universities, colleagues from Career Services professional associations
- Date: July 14, 2026



Why is this webinar opportunity relevant for ACRN?

- Represents a critical stakeholder group
- Has the potential to connect ACRN with both professors and students
- Aligns with ACRN's career focus

How does ACRN benefit?

- Continues to spread awareness of resources and services available to anthropology and other social sciences/humanities
- Opens up more three-way connections among ACRN, Career Services, and anthropology depts./programs

Action item: Make sure professors you know or work with are in regular communication with their Career Services on campus!

Selected Intern Projects

Elizabeth K. Briody

Two interns are involved primarily in gathering new information for our website

Alivia Archdale

- Updating Speaker's Bureau profiles
- Identifying potential Speakers
- Formatting new tools

Maryn Ascher

- Updating Anthropology Resources page
- Developed an accompanying social media campaign

Two other interns are busy posting new information

Audrey Acres

- Boosting engagement on ACRN social media platforms
- Developed and posting flyers on the two ACRN books

Christian Castellanos

- Updating ACRN website
  - Speaker Profiles/Anthropology Resources
  - Blogposts
  - Presentations/Workshops
  - Zoom Calls/Newsletters

What other responsibilities do ACRN interns have?

- Write a blogpost for the World of Work Blog
  - Gain experience in writing publishable essays
  - Learn to work with an editor
- Conduct informational interviews with a few anthropologists working in their areas of interest
  - Build up self-confidence in seeking support from professionals
  - Understand how to maximize an interview for their own benefit
- Meet with the other interns to start building/ expanding their professional network
- Participate in any meetings associated with their responsibilities

New Strategy for Developing a Tool

Elizabeth K. Briody

ACRN's current tool development strategy relies heavily on networking

1) We ask an anthropologist with a known area of expertise to develop a new tool
   - Job seeker tool: Analyzing Job Descriptions (Ipshita Ghosh)
   - Skill tool: Public Speaking (Helen Fisher)
   - Career tool: Building a Career in Process Improvement (Steven Thomson)
   - Instructor tool: Making Career Fairs Work for Anthropologists (Robert McCallum)
   - Department tool: How Do You Set Up an Internship Program (Ted Maclin)

2) An anthropologist approaches ACRN with an idea for a tool
   - Job seeker tool: LinkedIn Profile Features and Checklist (Morgan Sampson)
   - Skill tool: PhotoVoice for Research (Melissa Stevens)
   - Career tool: Building a Career in Project Management (Victoria Danner)
   - Instructor tool: Promoting Courses with a Dash of Pop Culture (Emma Pramuk)
   - Department tool: Addressing Instructor Concerns about Career Readiness (Janelle-Marie Moreno)

What do we do if neither of these strategies work?

Possible solution: Combine tool development with a client-based class project

- Time frame: Spring semester 2027
- Client: ACRN
- Class: A core Biological Anthropology course
- Institution: University of Michigan-Dearborn and/or Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD
- Professor: Patrick Beauchesne and/or Trent Trombley
- Project: Draft a tool called **Building a Career in Biological Anthropology**

Discussion: Federal Rule Changes

Missy Maceyko

Introducing Missy Maceyko

Education

- B.A. Political Science (IR/Law); English Literature, Allegheny College
- M.A. General Linguistics, University of Virginia
- M.A. Anthropology (3-field), University of Virginia
- Ph.D. Anthropology (Linguistic/Political), University of Virginia

Employment/Professional Experience

- Faculty, California State University, Long Beach (Political Science, Anthropology, Linguistics, Gender Studies)
- Director, Public Policy, American Association of University Women of California
- Co-Founder, Willing Observers (culturally-centered DEIB consulting firm)
- Member, (new) Anthropology Advocacy Council, American Anthropological Association

Current U.S. accreditation system is at risk

- Rule change proposal – released May 21, 2026
- Proposed accreditation rule's comment period expected to open in July
- Center for American Progress released report July 14, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Department of Education Reaches Consensus to Reform and Strengthen America's Higher Education Accreditation System

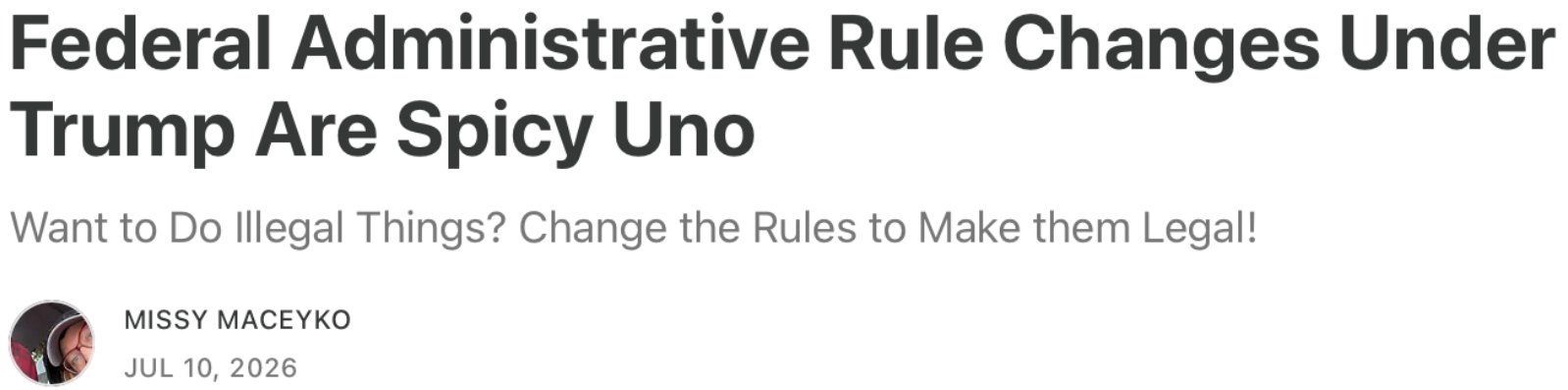
REPORT JUL 14, 2026

The Trump Administration Moves To Tighten Grip on Colleges

Six implications appear in the Center for American Progress' report

1. The federal government could exert more control over college curricula and faculty research
2. New, inexperienced accreditors would enter the system
3. Campus support services geared toward students from diverse backgrounds could be rolled back
4. Accreditation rules would become weaker, and students would pay the price
5. Students would be at greater risk when their college closes unexpectedly
6. Colleges could shop around for the easiest accreditor

AAUW asked Maceyko to explain the rule changes and their impact, especially under Trump



Federal Administrative Rule Changes Under Trump Are Spicy Uno

Want to Do Illegal Things? Change the Rules to Make them Legal!

MISSY MACEYKO

JUL 10, 2026

- **Impact:** These rule changes would alter the interpretation and enforcement of anti-discrimination policies, first amendment freedoms, and equal protection provisions under the law
- Read the article here

What actions can you take in the short term?

- Watch for the proposed Federal Rule changes
- Then submit an official comment to →
- Notify your *entire* professional network, asking them to submit an official comment

Regulations.gov
Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

Questions?

Comments?

ACRN Updates

Jennifer Studebaker

We are looking for *one more professor* to work with on a client-based class project

- Each semester, ACRN work with two professors and their students to address a client problem
  - Client is from the public, private, or nonprofit sector
  - Client's problem is the focus of a project that the students work on together
  - Students gather and analyze data and present a PPT to the client at the end of the course
- If you, or someone you know, is teaching either an UG or grad course in the fall, please contact: Elizabeth.Briody@gmail.com

Explore this job board and its other opportunities

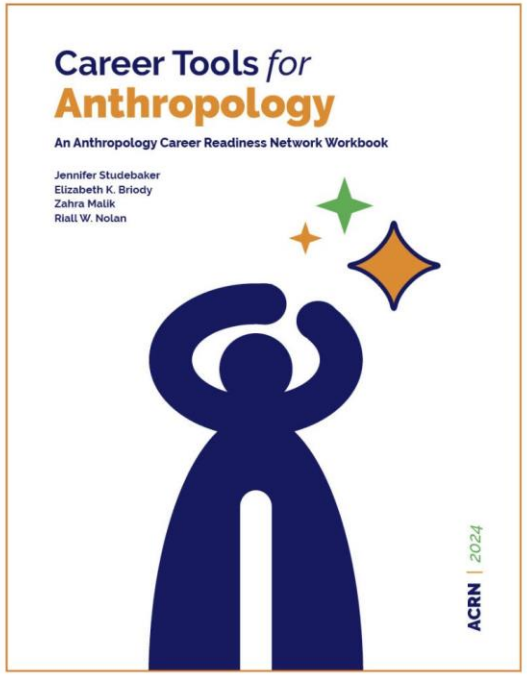
- Founder: Rachel Meade Smith
- Newsletter Type: Donation-based
- Focus: "jobs, support, and collaboration across art, design, research, information, and the built environment"
- Publication Frequency: About once/week
- To Subscribe: Click here

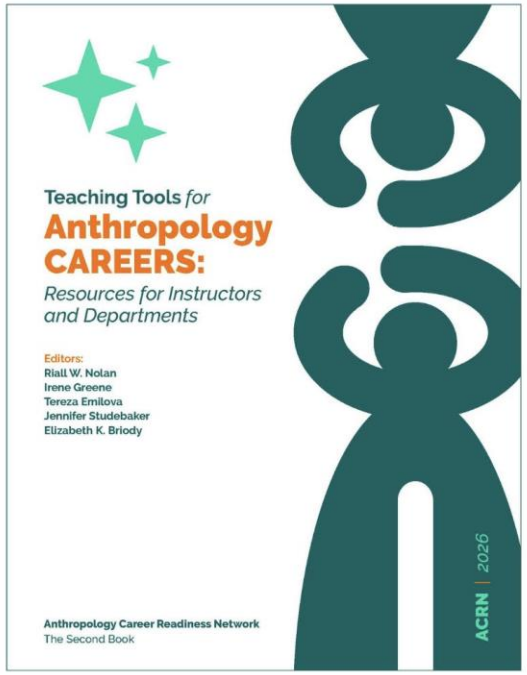
Write for this “rebooted, public-facing digital magazine…”

Society for Applied Anthropology

- **Editor:** Kiran Jayaram
- **Submission portal opening soon!**
  - Short, timely, plain-language pieces (approx. 300 – 1,000 words)
  - Public-facing stories, explainers, op-eds, Q&As, profiles, visual essays, and SfAA News
  - “News-adjacent” commentary connecting anthropological insights to current issues
  - Integrated multimedia (photos, video, infographics) and mobile-friendly formats

Check out ACRN's Career Readiness Books!





For Students and Graduates at any Career Stage

For Instructors and Practitioners

Available on Amazon for $10

acrn anthropology CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Available for $25 from Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Flyer by Audrey Acres

acrn

acrn anthropology
CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Thank you for coming!

Next Zoom Call:

Thursday, Sept. 17, 4:00 pm Eastern