The Monthly Mentor

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Welcome Mentors & Mentees!

We are thrilled to have you as part of the sixth year of IACAC's Mentor Year Program! We are as strong as ever, with 155 institutions represented across 55 countries a true reflection of how dynamic and diverse our community is. This program wouldn't be the same without your perspective

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In addition to the individual connections you will build, don't forget to take advantage of everything the program has to offer. Keep an eye on your email for information about $250 professional development grants available to MYP members, as well as online meetings in February and June. We had a greatk kick off meeting with some fantastic suggestions to grow the program. Thank you to those who could join and shared. Keep an eye out for updates moving forward!

This industry is special because of the relationships we build. I absolutely would not be the professional that I am today without the mentors who have supported me along the way. Mentorship relationships give us the space to explore, grow, and think beyond the day-to-day demands of our offices. In a field as complex and ever-changing as international admissions, that kind of connection matters more than ever.



Thank you for saying yes to this program. We hope this year brings you meaningful connection, fresh perspective, and at least one conversation that changes the way you think about your work. That's what this program is all about!

Christie Ruggieri, MYP Co-Chair

Don't forget to add your pair's Agreements and Goals to our Shared MYP Google Folder

Missed our MYP Kick-Off Meeting? A recording can be found here

Upcoming & Recommendations

2026 South & Central Asia Regional Institute
Oct 18-20

2028 International ACAC Scholar Program Nominations
Due Oct. 31st

2027 Europe Regional Institute
April 29-May 1
Register Here

Renew your International ACAC Membership!
Check your inbox for details soon!

New Podcast Series
"Leaders are Humans" hosted by NACAC President Angel B. Pérez

Article: Penn Dean of Admissions: Sorry, Mom and Dad, Your College Admissions Experience Was WAY Different! by Whitney Soule

A Warm Message From
Margaret Andrade
Executive Director, International ACAC

Hello from International ACAC HQ! My name is Margaret Andrade, and I am the Executive Director of the organization. As full-time staff, I am uniquely positioned to provide administrative and operational support for International ACAC's various programs, initiatives, and events, while working alongside the many members who volunteer their time and energy to support the mission of the organization.

When the Mentor Year Program was founded in 2021, many of our colleagues still felt disconnected due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without in-person interactions, including International ACAC events such as the Annual Conference and Regional Institutes, it was difficult for new members and those new to the field to make meaningful connections within our community. We are so grateful to the program's founders—Skyler Bentley Hall, Wilson Lee, Dan Seneker, and Malissa Takacs—for working diligently to create this space. The International ACAC community is so relationally-focused, and aims to facilitate global interactions (part of our mission statement!) and the MYP was established and cultivated during a time when our members needed this connection most. A massive and heartfelt thank you to Skyler, Wilson, Dan and Malissa!

I started as staff with International ACAC in the summer of 2016. During this time, it was clear that many of the members I met were well-established in both the organization and the field, possessing strong personal and professional relationships with their peers. While this was intimidating to me, it didn't need to be. As a reminder, at some point, we have all been "new". While it is important to seek mentorship, one must also be open to actively receving it. The International ACAC members that I worked closely with on the Board and in Committees assumed the role of mentors for me, and in turn, gave me the advice and confidence to take on this new position as Executive Director with the organization. To me, good mentorship is vulnerable, intentional, and inclusive. Encourage the sharing of fears and mistakes, have purpose-driven conversations with active dialogue, and create a space that is both welcoming and empathetic.



International ACAC has become a professional home for so many around the world because of its collaborative and purposeful community. The organization offers an array of resources and networking events, but a recurring theme of community-building with like-minded individuals makes it feel different. As current cohort members of the MYP, you are at the heart of this concept, engaging in professional mentorship in a relational setting. Continue to prioritize this unique opportunity! It benefits the mentor, the mentee, and the foundation of International ACAC.

Thank you to those that could join us at the MYP & Pre-Conference Reception at this year's annual conference!







Events & Links

- NACAC - Continuing Education and PD Events
- International ACAC Events Calendar
- International ACAC Annual Conference Info
- International ACAC Facebook Group

If you and your mentee/mentor would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, please email: mentoryearprogram@internationalacac.org