7AM Town Hall BreakOut Notes Group #1
Kathleen Schultz, moderator; Michelle Chow-Liu, note-taker

What 3 things do we want our members and the institutions we serve to say about our organization in terms of diversity inclusion and regional engagement? Was originally asked.

Question became who are you and speak about how you want someone to join International ACAC?

- Many long time members here in this breakout room (previous from OACAC)
- We are focused on finding "best fit" universities for all types of students around the globe. (I assume we focus on English language bachelors). Question is - do we focus on English language bachelor?
- And our students are not always looking at English language programs because of the diversity in their backgrounds
- One of the best things - is we all work in different areas - it is so important to understand the context of the high school. We have a network of people with resources. The FB page is a great resource.
- Connection to the rest of the world.
- It's a globally connected professional organization that is comprised of school counselors and admission counselors with the focus to assist students in their higher education pursuits
- College Counseling can be a very lonely experience - so it's a motivation for others to join to have a network of colleagues. Some parts of the world there is no one in the region that is in this field and may not have the opportunity to network and get the resources you need.
- One reason for joining is the desire to give the best and impartial advice to students. The organization advocates for helping students.
- People share willingly and competently. It is a sharing community.
- No one works in a bubble - and to be part of this network that is so warm and helpful to everyone else. One of the things that do come across is that it is very US centric. This is from Canada. We need to work towards away from the US system.
- Learned a lot from the conference and also the virtual conference. Focus on the US is quite high. IC3 conferences in India seem quite diverse.
- Key benefits are the community, the engagement and network. Knowledge sharing is phenomenal. Advocacy piece - when you represent so many, it is hard to gain consensus. The role of International ACAC in the challenges of backward thinking.
- Why to join ? Despite challenges in voicing - has the expectations to challenge the different lens. There is an intent and urgency to listen to our members and to also VOICE. To get our members to move away from the western thinking.
- Global network, open, transparent, student-centered.

- Network with the knowledge and get more advice from the association. She was contacted from the university reps from the membership directory for International ACAC.
- Students were able to send students overseas and abroad after joining - his students have also gained scholarships from the association.

7AM Town Hall BreakOut Notes Group #2
Shilpa Gupta, moderator; Zoe Losada, note-taker

1. What three things do we want our members and the institutions we serve to say about our organization in terms of diversity, inclusion and regional engagement?
2. There have been a number of regional engagement opportunities. What has worked for you and what else can you recommend?
3. What three measures allow for additional leadership and professional development for our members and continuing involvement?

Discussion about #1:

- Sometimes the members seem more focused on member issues and less on students.
- There needs to be a balance from different areas.
- Regional ambassadors who can do things like recruit membership from local/national schools,host local PD training sessions, gather resources and share them in the region.
- As a person who works on transfers from a 2-year in Malaysia, one member has the impression that IACAC is very U.S,-college focused: Is IACAC's goal to help students attend colleges in selective colleges in the U.S.
- Think about what else we could do to increase access among middle-income students (super-rich students already have access, lower-income have some specific resources, but there are less resources for middle-income students).
- Support higher education in general--including local universities in different countries.

Discussion about #2:

- Free webinars are very welcome and useful.
- Networking among professionals is an important goal for IACAC
- 1st year discount or free 6-month membership?
- #3 - Shorter term engagements, consultancies, International ACAC Regional Ambassadors
- 1st year discount or free 6-month membership?
- Reach out to individual members to ask them to volunteer for different committees or services--it sometimes seems that IACAC leadership roles are accessible for only a special in-crowd, an impression that might discourage volunteering.
- Information on the website about universities in diverse countries and regions.

7AM Town Hall BreakOut Notes Group #3
Jacquelynne Modeste, moderator; Sam Wickham, note-taker

Q1 - "What three things...:"

- Authenticity in considering issues of diversity and equity is important. Often lip service is paid to these things by organisations but tangible outcomes are important. Authenticity and tangible outcomes might be:
    - More regional representation on committees. Committees tend to have a North American (US) bias. Even if committee members aren't based in the US, they tend to be from the US or have a predominantly US-school perspective.
    - Ensuring all members feel heard. A member referenced feelings of censorship from some members previous years.
- Recognition that diversity has differing definitions in different contexts. That university members have discussions with institutional leadership about diversity which focuses a lot on diversity from a national context (e.g. UK widening participation agenda) but not necessarily from an international student perspective. Does IACAC have a role to play in highlighting and promoting the importance and benefit of broad and diverse student populations from international backgrounds?
- A look at the different types of membership in the IACAC event and the differences in access to things like voting and decision making. For example, we have school, university, independent, profit, non-profit membership types which all have different access. A member highlighted that the 2020 virtual conference was very freeing due to the lack of lanyard colours. It enabled engagement without preconceived notions of importance of member types to other members. A consideration of the use of, and issues with, lanyards of different colours at future conferences would be welcomed.
- Technical considerations - how do we keep members engaged with DEIJ and feel they have something to offer to the discussion in a safe and inclusive way, without fear of judgement. How do we ensure communication to all members on these issues?
- IACAC has traditionally been the domain of private schools and international schools but is slowly gaining traction in some national curriculum schools (Greece was an example provided) With a focus on DEIJ, is there scope for connecting with more national curriculum schools? How can we do more of this? How can our membership body be empowered and encouraged to engage with local schools?

Q2. Regional Engagement

What works:
Events and workshops like this Town hall are welcomed and are positive. More opportunities to connect with no set agenda (e.g. like the upcoming CIS "hangouts") that will allow connection, sharing of thoughts & opinions in a safe space would be welcomed.

What would we like?

Can there be social engagements (with bring-your-own wine or tea or coffee?!) which have been missing so much from this year?