

WELCOME

International ACAC

First Timers' Online Hype Session

June 16, 2026

Agenda for today



Carnegie
Mellon
University



Welcome

Opening remarks and introductions



Leadership Team

Welcome from Daniel Marschner



First Timers' Committee

Meet your committee members



Ways to Connect

Networking and platforms



Schedule & Special Events

What to expect during the week



College & Counselor Fairs

Details on exhibition sessions



Get Ready

Final preparations for the conference



Tips & Tricks

Insider advice for a great experience



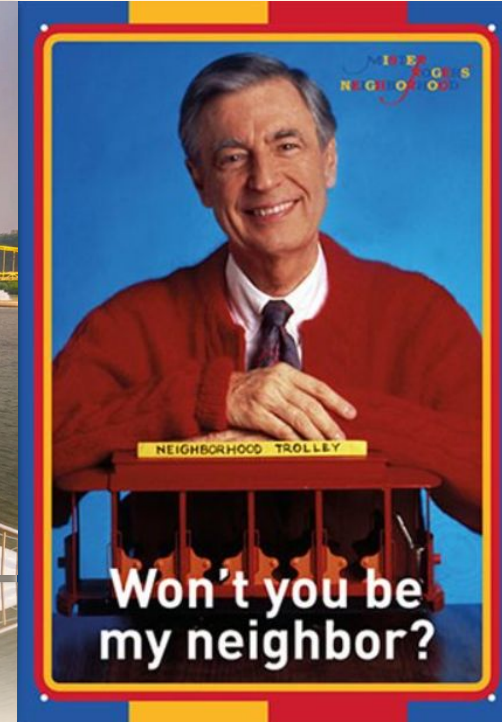
Mentor Year Program

Ongoing support and mentorship



Breakout Rooms

Open time for chat and questions

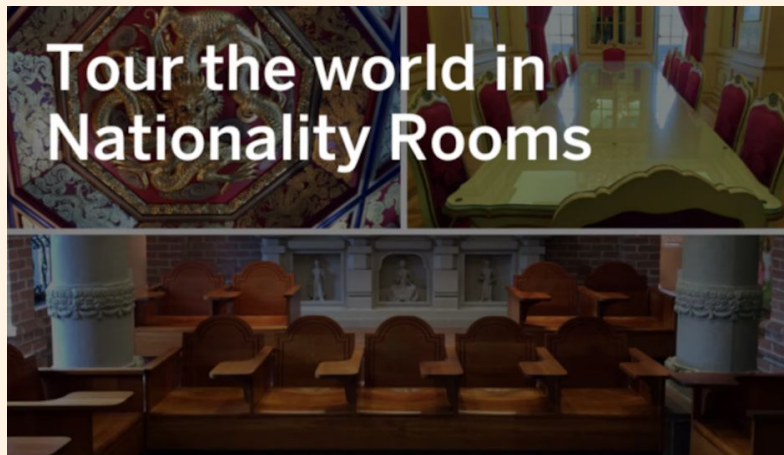


Get ready for Pittsburgh - 28 days to go!

Pittsburgh Experts!



Tour the world in
Nationality Rooms



International ACAC Leadership



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Wilson Lee

Immediate Past President

Singapore American School
Singapore



Liam McCartney

President

Boston University
United States



Daniel Marschner

President-Elect

Loyola Marymount University
United States



First-Timers' Committee Welcome & Goals



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Our Mission & Objectives

- We are here to serve as a resource
- Connect first-timers to the International ACAC community
- Navigate the conference for the best experience
- Encourage new ideas
- Facilitate conversations and new ideas

Getting in Touch

The next slides provide the names and emails of the First-Timers' Committee Members. You can also search for us in the **International ACAC Member Directory**.

A screenshot of the International ACAC Member Directory web application. The interface is dark-themed. At the top, a user profile shows a woman's photo and the text "Logged in as Petra Orent - Fordham University". Below this is a vertical menu with icons and labels: Home, My Info, My Billing Info, My Directory Listing(s), My Subscriptions, Events, Discussion Forum, and Member Directory (which is highlighted with a blue bar). To the right of the menu is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search...". Below the search bar is a list of member profiles, each with a small profile picture, a name, and an affiliation. The visible members are: Deejay A. Albert (Alice Smith School), Kathleen Abels (Haverford College Haverford PA), Wadih Abou Aziz (Arab International A Doha), and Salwa Abu Rayyast (Emirates National S).

Meet the First-Timers' Committee



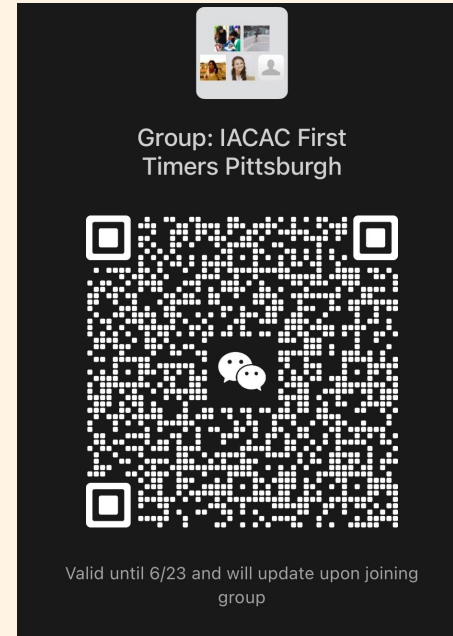
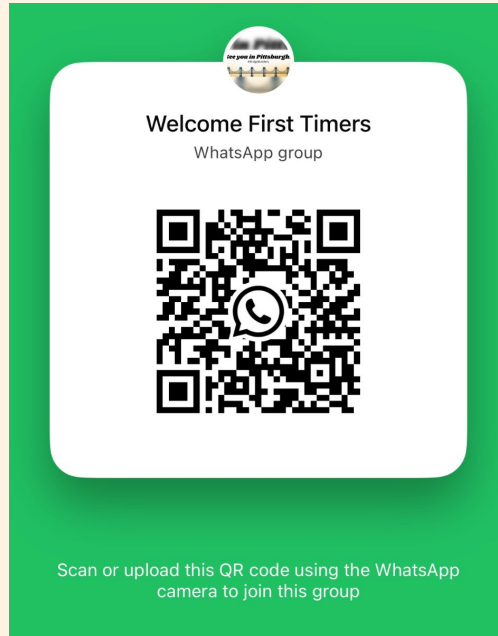
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Name - Institution - Organization Country

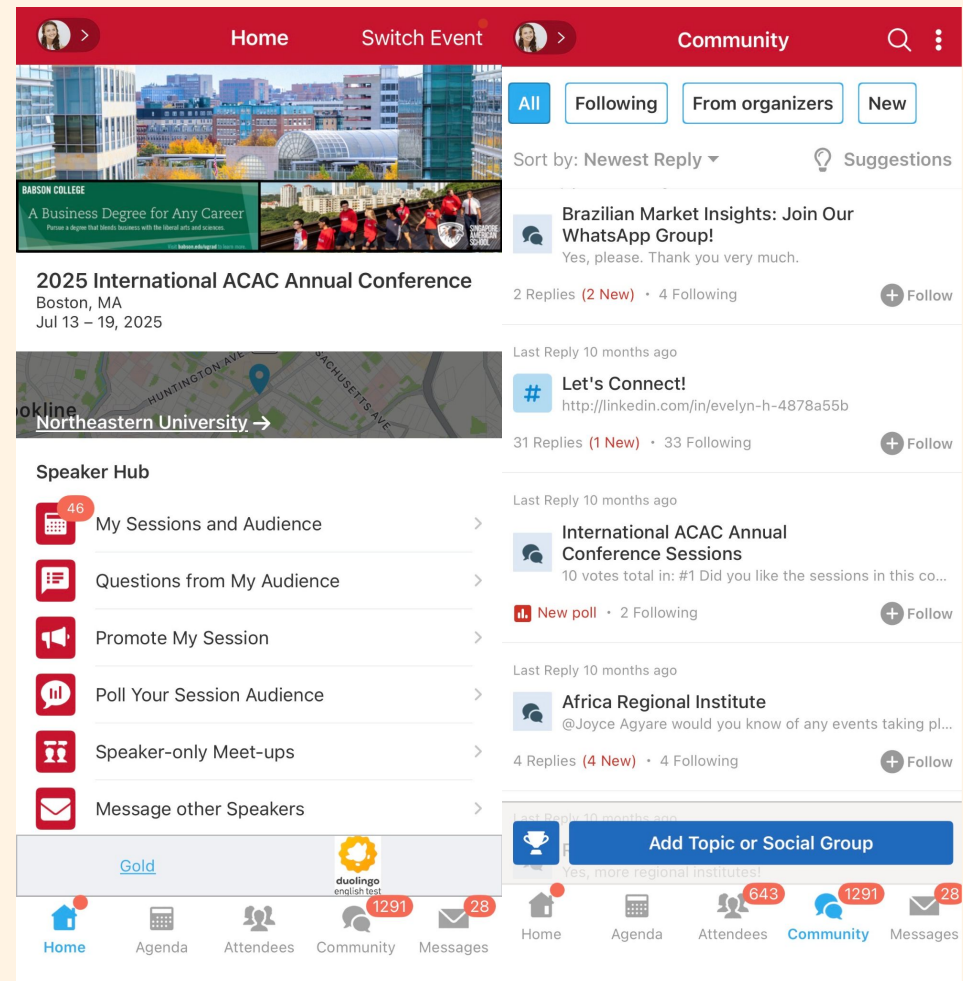
Cassandra Ford (Co-Chair)	Alexandria City High School, United States	Petra Orent (Co-Chair)	Fordham University, United States
Lena Adely	Sarah Lawrence College, United States	Christina McDade	American Intl School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Sierra Anderson	San Domenico Upper School, United States	Brandon McLaughlin	Brent International School, Philippines
Michaela Beatty	Fairgreen International School, UAE	Lisa Mortini	NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
Cate Brennan	Babson College, United States	Casey Nolen Jackson	UWC USA, United States
Holly Buttrey	Amherst College, United States	Curt Nichols	International School Bangkok, Thailand
Christina Chandler	Chandler Educational Consulting, Australia	Asuman Okman	The Koc School, Turkey
Jennifer Cheong	Crofton House School, Canada	Abdul Oladipo	Alice Smith School, Malaysia
Karel De Cock	Bangkok Patana School, Thailand	Brandon Quay	The Pennsylvania State University, United States
Douglas Dworak	Asociación Escuelas Lincoln, Argentina	Karla Reigosa	Baylor University, United States
Amy Hummel	The Ohio State University, United States	Jade Saybolt	Lafayette College, United States
Qianjiao Lei	Xi'an Hanova International School, China	Aly Stewart	University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Veronica Martinez	Loyola Marymount University, United States	Cynthia Yu	University at Buffalo, United States
		Matthew Zonis	Drew University, United States

WhatsApp and WeChat Groups



Whova App

- Set your Agenda
- Connect with others
- Join Community
- Start a conversation
- Ask questions



The screenshot displays the Whova app's Home screen. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Switch Event', and 'Community' options. Below this, a large banner image shows a cityscape with the text '2025 International ACAC Annual Conference Boston, MA Jul 13 - 19, 2025'. To the right, there's a 'Sort by: Newest Reply' dropdown and a 'Suggestions' button. Below the banner, there's a 'Speaker Hub' section with a list of items: 'My Sessions and Audience' (46), 'Questions from My Audience', 'Promote My Session', 'Poll Your Session Audience', 'Speaker-only Meet-ups', and 'Message other Speakers'. On the right side, there are several community posts, including 'Brazilian Market Insights: Join Our WhatsApp Group!', 'Let's Connect!' with a LinkedIn link, 'International ACAC Annual Conference Sessions', and 'Africa Regional Institute'. At the bottom, there's a navigation bar with icons for 'Home', 'Agenda', 'Attendees', 'Community', and 'Messages'. The 'Community' icon is highlighted, and there are notification badges for '1291' on 'Attendees', '1291' on 'Community', and '28' on 'Messages'.

Pre-Conference Institute



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The Pre-Conference Institute offers members the opportunity to strengthen specific knowledge sets and professional relationships in a smaller, more intentional setting before the conference begins.

New Professionals (0-3 years in current role)

Designed for members new to their role in international admissions wishing to deepen their skill sets and networks.

Session Topics Include:

- Advocating for and supporting students
- Knowledge regarding rec letters & application essays
- Creating school profiles and transcripts or reviewing them
- Managing and reporting data
- Planning for the year for school counselors

Mid-Career Professionals (3+ Years in Current Role)

Designed for members with substantial experience in international admissions wishing to augment their professional practice.

Session Topics Include:

- Advocating for and supporting students
- Building effective teams
- Maximizing professional opportunities
- Presenting yourself professionally
- Top issues in the profession

Late Registration: June 3 - July 1 (\$275 USD)

Special Events



5K-3K Run/Walk

Wednesday, July 15



Time: 6:30 AM
Cost: \$35 USD if paid by July 14
Day-of Registration will be \$40 USD, payable only by card.



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Spin Class

Thursday, July 16



Good Morning Yoga

Thursday, July 16



Time: 7:00 AM
Cost: \$25 USD

Silent Auction



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The International ACAC Silent Auction supports the **Global Fund** through member donations from around the world.

How to Donate an Item

- 1. Submit Information:** Use the Auction Item Donation Form.
- 2. Deadline:** Information must be submitted by **Monday, July 13.**
- 3. Bring Your Item:** Do not ship items in advance. Please bring them with you to the conference.

How to Bid on a Prize

View Prizes: In person or on the Silent Auction Website.

- **Bidding Opens:** Tuesday, July 14 at 4:30 PM
- **Bidding Closes:** Thursday, July 16 at 11:30 AM
- **Collection:** Thursday, July 16, 12:00 – 5:00 PM

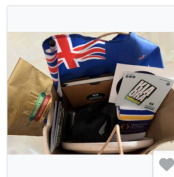
**Items not collected by 5:00 PM will be forfeited.*



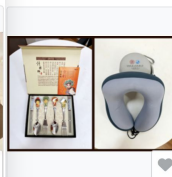
Handcrafted Golden
Beaded Net Necklace
\$10.00
value: \$110.00



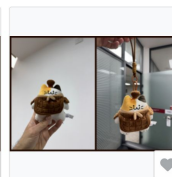
J Cole Nanjing
Monkey Kings Jerse...
\$10.00
value: \$99.00



New Zealand Goodies
\$10.00
value: \$35.00



Peking Opera
Tableware Set &...
\$10.00
value: \$15.00



Terracotta Warrior
Cat Mini Plushy
\$10.00
value: \$10.00

Book Drive



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The annual book drive encourages members to bring just one book that represents their culture, themselves, or the country where they currently reside. Those books are then donated to a local charity in our host city. Our 2026 donations will be going to Reading Ready Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization supporting families to foster a love of reading.

How to Participate:

Bring a book that represents your culture, heritage, or unique identity to the 2026 Conference.

Donate your book while checking in to the conference - look for the Special Events table.

If you miss your chance at conference check-in, you may bring the book to the Silent Auction Room at any time throughout the week.



Conference Schedule: Tuesday, July 14



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Morning

Organization Updates

9:00am – 11:30am

45 min informational updates from Cambridge, College Board, and IB.

Midday

Committee Meetings

11:30am – 1:00pm

Lunch provided for committee volunteers.

Afternoon

Session Block 1

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Affinity & Group Discussions. 45 min conversations.

Special Events & Receptions

- 12:00 – 2:00pm: Past Presidents' Lunch (Invitation)
- 1:00 – 4:00pm: Exhibit Hall Open
- 1:00 – 4:00pm: Silent Auction Prize Room Open
- 2:00 – 3:00pm: Past Board Members' Reception (Invitation)

Evening Program

- 2:45 – 4:00pm: First-Timers' Session & Reception
 - Auditorium, Lawrence Hall
- 4:30 – 5:45pm: Opening Ceremony
- 6:00 – 8:00pm: Opening Reception

Conference Schedule: Wednesday, July 15



Morning

Active & Academic

6:30am – 12:00pm

- 6:30am: 5K-3K Run/Walk*
- 8:30am: US University Fair
- 10:30am: Networking Break
- 11:00am: Education Session 2

Midday

Lunch & Meetings

12:15pm – 2:45pm

- 12:15pm: Lunch
- 1:30pm: International ACAC Membership Meeting

Afternoon

Final Sessions

3:00pm – 5:30pm

- 3:00pm: Education Session 3
- 4:00pm: Networking Break
- 4:30pm: Education Session 4

Evening Hospitality & Social Events

- 6:00 – 9:00pm: Hospitality Events
(Dinner, Beer Garden, Drag Bingo, Trivia)
- 7:00 – 9:00pm: Late-Night Dodgeball Tournament

Dodgeball open to all levels!

Register with a team or on your own and we'll match you with a team.

Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction

- 8:30am – 1:30pm: Open Hours
- 2:45pm – 5:45pm: Open Hours

Conference Schedule: Thursday, July 16



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Morning

Wellness & Fairs

7:00am – 10:30am

7:00am: Yoga & Spin Class*

8:30am: Global University Fair

10:30am: Networking Break

Midday

Sessions & Lunch

11:00am – 2:30pm

11:00am: Education Session 5

12:15pm: Lunch

1:30pm: Education Session 6

Afternoon

Fairs & Reception

3:00pm – 10:00pm

3:00pm: Counselor Fair

6:00pm: Closing Reception

Silent Auction & Exhibit Hall

8:30am – 12:00pm: Prize Room Open

8:30am – 3:00pm: Exhibit Hall Open

12:00pm – 5:00pm: Prize Pick-Up

Evening Highlights

The Closing Reception (6:00 – 10:00pm)

Held at the **Heinz History Museum**.

Join us for a final celebration!

External Events



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DET's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 · 8 - 11 PM

The Maverick by Kasa

120 S. Whitfield St, Pittsburgh, PA

[REGISTER NOW](#)

All Sides of the Desk Reception Hosted by EAB, JCT4Education, Guidewell Global, and Anywhere Uni

We look forward to hosting you for a reception on Wednesday, July 15 at 8:00 p.m.. Location details have been included below for reference.

Spirits and Tales
5130 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA
15213



Co powered by:

BridgeU **EXPLORE**

SAVE THE DATE

14 July 2026 8:00 pm Onwards

The Church Brew Works, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

EduFusion
by **CIALFO**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

College and Counselor Fairs



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Wednesday, July 15

US University Fair

8:30 – 10:30 AM

For post-secondary institutions
located within the United States.

Thursday, July 16

Global University Fair

8:30 – 10:30 AM

For post-secondary institutions
outside the United States.

Thursday, July 16

Counselor Fair

3:00 – 5:00 PM

For high school counselors,
Independent Educational Consultants,
and CBOs.

Preparation for the Fairs



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Things to Bring

- **Pen & Tote Bag:** For notes and items you collect.
- **Business Cards:** Pack extra! They run out fast.
- **Table Decor:** Banner or tablecloth (shared tables).
- **Planner:** For scheduling visits and appointments.
- **Comfortable Shoes:** You will be standing for a while.

Items for Your Table

- **Pennants & Swag:** Stickers, pens, and pins.
- **Local Flavor:** Unique sweets or candy from your region.
- **QR Code:** For easy contact and information lookups.

Brochures & School Profiles

Bring only 10-20 table copies. Most attendees won't have room to take bulky materials home. Focus on digital connections via QR codes instead.



Get Ready for the Conference



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Conference Essentials

- **What to wear:** Casual-professional attire.
- **Climate/weather:** Check local forecasts before packing.
- **Phone/Data plans:** Consider Airalo or other e-sims for connectivity.
- **Campus Security:** Familiarize yourself with local safety protocols.

Logistics & Socials

- **Getting around:** Maps and info for campus and city navigation.
- **Staying on Campus:** Key details for those in university housing.
- **External Socials/Events:** Explore activities beyond the official program.

Note on Accommodations: For those staying on campus, ensure you have received your check-in instructions. You will not receive housing assignments prior to arrival.

THE 2026-27 ANNUAL TIMELINE



The Mentor Year Program is a formal mentorship program where members build relationships with members in support of their professional development.

Applications are released in April, due in May, and pairs are made & announced by June in advance of the Annual Conference

JUNE

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

JULY

Apps close, MYP Matching

AUGUST

Mentor/Mentee Pairs announced!

Prep for the annual mentorship program (Mentor and Mentee training materials sent)

SEPTEMBER

All Group Session- Kick Off

OCTOBER

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

NOVEMBER

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

DECEMBER

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

JANUARY

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

FEBRUARY

1:1 meetings & All Group Mid-Year Session & PD

MARCH

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

APRIL

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

MAY

1:1 Mentor/Mentee meetings

JUNE: FAREWELL!

Last 1:1 meetings & Final All Group Session



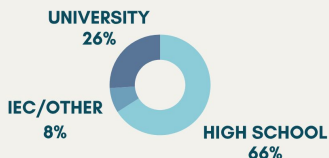
Mentor Year Program



Mentors & Mentees
2025-26 Cohort

139 Matches

Industry
Sector



Mentor Avg Years in Role: 14
Mentee Avg Years in Role: 3

Representing:
61 countries
259 Institutions



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INTERNATIONAL ACAC



1:1 RELATIONSHIPS

Minimum 1x monthly check-in with your mentor/mentee
The MYP is ALL about relationships

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual all-group sessions include professional development opportunities tailored to the goals of our Mentees



BUILD COMMUNITY/NETWORK



Within an expansive global network, MYP gives members access to a smaller place to meet and get to others on your "side of the desk"

EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

Through the sharing and exchange of knowledge and ideas, members' skills and the programs at their institutions are strengthened



SHARE RESOURCES



Mentors and Mentees can rely on each other to ask for support and to exchange reliable resources; YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



Just joined IACAC? Starting a new role? Need support? Thinking of your next career move? Want to give back? IACAC Mentor Year Program is for you!



Apply by July 29
at 11:59 PM EST

TIPS from our Committee Members

BreakOut Rooms

Introduce Yourself

- Name
- Institution
- Location

Chat!

Connect with your peers

See you in Pittsburgh

First-Timers' Session: Tuesday, July 14 • 2:45 - 4:00pm