

The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members

Dear MYP Community,

As we wrap up the 5th Year of the Mentor Year Program, we would like to take a moment to honor the journey each of you has undertaken - and the meaningful connections you've built along the way.

Endings do not always mean closure, but an opportunity to reflect on how far you've come. We encourage every mentee-mentor pair to review the goals you set at the start of the year and celebrate the progress made. Ask: What were your three most significant learnings from this experience? Why did they matter, and how have you already begun applying them?

This is also a moment to acknowledge your shared accomplishments and examine what you've each learned - not just professionally, but about yourselves. The relationships formed through MYP are built on mutual respect, trust, and a genuine exchange of ideas; those bonds don't have to end here.

For mentees, please consider paying it forward by stepping into a mentor role in the future. For mentors, we hope the lessons from this year inspire you to continue growing and sharing your expertise in the next year and beyond.

Thank you for your commitment, your openness, and your investment in one another. This MYP year may be ending, but the growth you've experienced is just the beginning.

We encourage you to stay in touch with one another, and we look forward to seeing you at our last online meeting in June and hopefully at the annual conference in Pittsburgh!

With gratitude,
San & Scott

International ACAC Summer Conference

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 14-16

Hosted by Carnegie Mellon University and
The University of Pittsburgh

Conference registration is [now open!](#)

Take a look at the [Conference Website](#) for
more information #BridgeBuilders



International ACAC
Pre-Conference Institute
Monday, July 13

[Register Here](#)

2026 The America's Regional
Institute at Lincoln School,
San José, Costa Rica
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

[Register Here](#)

PODCAST:

[International Student
Experience Podcast](#)

from Swansea University

[International Student
Guide Podcast](#)

from University of Twente

READ:

[The Golden Ticket: A Life In
College Admissions Essays](#)

by Irena Smith

[A Student of Colleges:
Fundamentals of Independent
Educational Consulting](#)

by Steven R. Antonoff, Ph.D.



June 2nd, 2026

All Group

(last ZOOM of the year)

9:00 am Eastern Standard
Time (NYC), 3:00 pm CEST,

9:00 pm SG



MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT

Mentee: Luiz Rosa, High School Counselor, Colégio Etapa Valinhos, Brazil

Mentor: Harmeet kaur, Career & College Counselor Inventure Academy, Bangalore, India

The year 2025 was a definitive milestone in my professional development. My journey began at the Regional Institute Americas in São Paulo, where I had the privilege of learning from a diverse group of experts, followed by the International ACAC Conference at Northeastern University in Boston. These experiences significantly expanded both my technical knowledge and my professional network. Returning to Brazil, I felt a surge of energy and a desire to maintain that momentum. When I discovered the Mentor Year Program (MYP), I knew it was the perfect next step for my growth. From our very first meeting, my mentor, Harmeet, and I hit it off immediately. Our sessions have that rare, comfortable quality of an old friendship—the kind where, even if you don't speak for weeks, you pick up exactly where you left off without missing a beat. Although I have been counseling for just over two years and have learned a great deal from my colleagues, I recognized that there were still gaps in my expertise. Harmeet has been instrumental in identifying these needs. Our dynamic is a true exchange: I bring forward questions and real-case scenarios that reflect my current reality, while Harmeet introduces broader topics she deems essential for my growth. This balance has built a continuum of development, allowing me to acquire new competencies while honing the skills I already possess. Despite being on opposite sides of the world, it has been fascinating to discover the similarities in the challenges we face while supporting our students; this shared experience has been the foundation of our strong bond. Generosity is the backbone of our industry, and participating in the MYP has been a transformative experience, helping me evolve into a more capable and confident professional. I am deeply grateful to Colégio Etapa, International ACAC, and especially Harmeet.



**Luiz Rosa,
from Brazil**

Having served as an educator and entrepreneur for over 20 years, and as a career counselor for the past decade, I was keen to find an international platform where I could both learn and contribute. Joining the International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) in 2025 provided that opportunity, along with the privilege of mentoring an emerging college counselor. Luiz and I connected on a friendly note from our very first meeting. We exchanged perspectives on the common expectations of parents and students, and discussed how we, as college counselors, enjoy guiding and supporting students as they prepare for their dream universities. Luiz's journey as an educator has been truly interesting, and his commitment to exploring the college guidance process in depth made our interactions productive and engaging. Together, we delved into various aspects of effective college counseling, including college essays and letters of recommendation, while also understanding the student profile Luiz works with and the prestigious school he represents. Mentoring Luiz has been a rewarding experience, reminding me that meaningful professional connections across borders enrich both learning and the shared mission of helping students realize their aspirations.



**Harmeet Kaul,
from India**



A warm message from: Aileen Lee, International ACAC Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Mentorship has always been a meaningful part of my professional journey; first as a mentee, and now as a mentor.

Having my own mentor was deeply grounding. She became a steady touchpoint I could rely on to make sure I was seeing the full picture, especially while navigating complex student cases or career decisions. Those quick messages or short calls might have been brief, but they were intentional and powerful. Having someone outside my immediate context, someone who listened, asked thoughtful questions, and encouraged me to slow down amid the pace of school life gave me both confidence and humility.

“Knowing there’s a trusted colleague to widen your lens can make all the difference.”

From Beijing to Canada and now Hong Kong, each mentoring experience has deepened my belief that intention matters more than distance; every relationship begins with showing up thoughtfully. I try to offer my mentees that same steady rhythm of connection. Working across time zones and calendars has shown me that intention matters more than proximity. In a city that moves fast and works late, mentorship becomes its own kind of pause: a space to reflect, reset, and reconnect. Scheduling regular touchpoints, clarifying communication habits, and co-creating goals keep the relationship purposeful and balanced. It truly takes two to make mentorship work.

“Good mentorship isn’t about having spare time; it’s about making time.”

What makes it all worthwhile are those small, affirming moments such as when a mentee shares that a suggestion helped reframe a family conversation or approach a challenge with new confidence. Each of these exchanges reminds me that mentorship benefits both sides.

Ultimately, mentorship is about connection, creating space for honest dialogue, shared growth, and mutual learning. Amid the motion and momentum in today’s world, it serves as a quiet reminder that progress often begins not with answers, but with thoughtful questions and genuine care.

As we look ahead, here is to celebrating the Mentor Year Program and the many quiet, powerful ways it shapes our work and our community. If you have not yet taken part, I warmly encourage you to join us whether as a mentor or mentee, and experience firsthand how these connections can support, challenge, and inspire you.

Best wishes,

Aileen Lee

Director of Strategic Initiatives & Special Projects

Canadian International School of Hong Kong



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 MYP newsletter, please email: mentoryearprogram@internationalacac.org