



# INTERNATIONAL ACAC 2026

Carnegie  
Mellon  
University



## Conference Update #2

December 12, 2025

### In This Issue...

1. Greetings from President-Elect Dan
2. Call for Session Proposals
3. Sponsorship Information & Application
4. Exhibit Hall Information & Application
5. Volunteer Registration Reminder
6. Pre-Conference Institute: Faculty Application Still Open
7. #BridgeBuilders Photo Challenge

### Coming In January...

- Counselor Bus Tour Application
- Conference Committee Announcements

### Quick Links

- [2026 Conference Webpage](#)
- [Conference Schedule](#)
- [Registration Costs & Timeline](#)
- [Registration Policies](#)
- [Invitation Letter Request Form](#)

**Renew your membership for 2026** to ensure you don't miss any conference news. Renewal instructions can be found in your [Info Hub](#).

## Greetings from the President-Elect

Hello amazing International ACAC members,

I hope you are looking forward to the last few weeks of 2025 and some well deserved rest before the start of the new year. We are thrilled to invite you to Pittsburgh in 2026!

Pittsburgh is an incredibly welcoming community with an extensive history that has re-invented itself in recent years, bridging its past and future. We encourage you to watch the [Future Forged For All](#) video to learn more about what makes this city an ideal home for our annual conference, featuring both Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Happy holidays and have a wonderful start to 2026!

Daniel Marschner, Ph. D.  
President-Elect, International ACAC  
Director of International Admission, Loyola Marymount University



## Call for Session Proposals

Submit a proposal today for an Education Session! We are seeking new faces, fresh voices, and a range of sessions that can serve the diverse needs of our membership.

The 2026 Conference theme is **#BridgeBuilders**, recognizing the ways we come together to collaborate every day in this profession; start working with your colleagues now on topics and ideas for sessions. **The deadline to submit a proposal is February 11, 2026.**

Submit a Session Proposal Here  
Password: *Bridge26*

**\*NEW THIS YEAR\***

In an effort to diversify conference programming and allow additional opportunities for speakers, International ACAC will be offering three distinct session formats:

- **Affinity & Discussion Groups**
  - Targeted discussions focused on specific topics or around identify groups. The conversation is led by one or two facilitators and does not require a formal presentation.
  - 45 Minutes
  - To be delivered on Tuesday, July 14.
- **Education Session**
  - Traditional format in which a panel offers a presentation on a dedicated subject, followed by Q&A time.
  - 60 Minutes
  - To be delivered on Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 16.
- **Conference Chats**
  - TED-style talks delivered by one person on inspirational and educational stories, visionary-focused concepts, and/or personal experiences.
  - 10 Minutes
  - To be delivered on Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 16 within a Session Block.

***Want to present on a topic but not sure where to start?*** Collaborate with other members [here](#). This working document allows you to find co-presenters or sign up for sessions that need additional panelists.

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## Sponsorship Information & Application

We are excited to announce our 2026 Conference [sponsorship opportunities!](#) Sponsoring an item or event is a great way to publicize your company or institution, while also supporting the organization. Find more information on our website, including the application when it becomes available **next Thursday, December 18 at 8:00 AM ET.**

Please note that sponsorship opportunities are open only to International ACAC members and will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## Exhibit Hall Information & Application

The [2026 Exhibitor Application](#) is now available. Interested organizations are invited to apply today. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and those approved will be notified starting in mid-January.

Find additional information, including hours, fees, and policies on the [Exhibit Hall webpage](#).

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## Volunteer Registration Reminder

Members are invited to contribute to the 2026 Annual Conference by joining any of the following Conference Committees:

- Bursary Committee
- College & Counselor Fairs Committee
- First-Timers' Committee
- Session Review & Selection Committee
- Special Events Committee

If you are interested, [complete the volunteer registration form](#) (before midnight ET!) **December 12**. We thank you in advance for volunteering your time and making next year's conference a success.

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## Pre-Conference Institute: Faculty Application Still Open

Members are invited to serve as Faculty for the 2026 Pre-Conference Institute. Interested International ACAC members can apply by submitting the form below by **Friday, January 30 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**.

[Faculty Application](#)

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## #BridgeBuilders Photo Challenge



Building bridges is what International ACAC is all about. Our members bridge cultural differences, connect communities around the world, and traverse myriad challenges to promote international student mobility.

Show us how you are a **#BridgeBuilder**! We want to highlight our community and celebrate the ways in which we work together. Email your photos to [Admin@InternationalACAC.org](mailto:Admin@InternationalACAC.org) of:

1. Your favorite local bridge; or
2. You and others **building bridges between cultures**. Think...
  - o Eating at a fusion restaurant;
  - o Visiting a new place with a local friend being tour guide;
  - o Learning a dance from a culture that isn't yours.

Your photo may be featured on our [website](#), in upcoming conference updates, and at the annual conference in Pittsburgh.