



Application for Vice President of Support, Access, & Success

Name: Danielle Wolfberg

Professional Title: Community Building Coordinator

Institution/Organization: SHE-CAN

Institution/Organization Location: United States

Membership Type: Non-Profit Organization

[Candidate Video](#)

International ACAC Volunteer Experience:

Explain your motivation for pursuing a leadership role with International ACAC as well as why this position in particular. Highlight how your leadership experience and involvement with the organization make you a strong fit for the role.

I have volunteered on the Support, Access, and Success (SAS) Committee for six years. My interest began at the 2019 Conference when I met James Okaba in person after offering one of his students, through Open Dreams, a full scholarship. James shared how his experience as a Scholar enabled him to attend the Conference, which inspired me to volunteer for this committee.

During my six years on the committee, I have helped select the Scholars, serving on the Final Scholar Selection Team for two years, and have coordinated travel to the Conference for the Scholars, serving as the Scholar Orientation Co-Chair for four years. As a Scholar Orientation Co Chair, I work closely with the visa team and Wren International to book flights once visas are issued. I also work closely with the Bus Tour Coordinators to plan travel, meals, and accommodations after the conference. My primary role is to lead the Orientation Team, ensuring that all Scholars are greeted at the airport, transported to campus, provided with welcome bags and meals, and supported throughout the entire Conference and Bus Tour.

It was especially meaningful to celebrate the program's tenth anniversary a few years ago and to witness its continued growth over the past six years. As Vice President of the SAS Committee, my vision is to continue to enhance the Scholar Program, strengthen Scholar alumni engagement, and collaborate with the other committees to best support the Virtual Scholar Program.

On February 9th, I will start a new role as Community Building Coordinator with SHE-CAN, a nonprofit that develops global female leadership by equipping talented women from low opportunity, post-conflict countries with education, mentorship, and leadership skills to transform their communities. Many individuals within SHE-CAN's network would be excellent candidates for the Scholar program. For example, SHE-CAN works closely with Abraham Barry, a former Scholar and recipient of the Rising Star Award. I believe my work with SHE-CAN will directly enhance my effectiveness as Vice President of the Support, Access, and Success Committee.

This year, I am also serving as faculty for the 2026 East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania Regional Institute in Hanoi.

Previous Experience in Leadership:

Please describe your leadership experience, including your leadership philosophy, strategies for managing and supporting a committee, and the approaches you use to foster communication, collaboration, accountability, and recognition. Highlight any accomplishments that demonstrate your leadership effectiveness.

During my time at Gettysburg College and Oklahoma State University, I implemented and supervised both a student ambassador program and an alumni volunteer program, and at Oklahoma State University, I also supervised two full-time employees.

Through my volunteer work with the Support, Access, and Success Committee, I have led application readers through the Scholar Application Review and co-chaired the Scholar Orientation Team for four years. In these roles, I emphasized consistent communication, clear expectations, and collaborative feedback. I regularly seek input from both volunteers and Scholars to improve the Orientation Program and ensure we are meeting the Scholars' needs.

I recognize that all committee members are volunteers, so it is essential to inspire passion by connecting their work to the Scholars' experiences and impact. Flexibility, recognition, and appreciation of individual contributions are central to my leadership approach.

To foster communication, I use multiple platforms, including email, WhatsApp, and Zoom, and schedule meetings based on committee members' availability. Meetings are structured to foster collaboration, encourage feedback on processes, and recognize outstanding contributions. To promote accountability, I would rely on the responsibilities document and conduct individual check-ins to track progress and provide support as needed.

This approach would allow me to build a strong, engaged team that is committed to the committee's mission and the success of the Scholars. My leadership philosophy is built on transparency, inclusion, and recognition, ensuring every member feels valued while advancing shared goals.

Previous Experience in Volunteering:

Please outline your previous volunteer involvement and the skills, insights, or perspectives you have gained through service. Explain how these experiences have prepared you to contribute meaningfully to the work of this organization.

In addition to volunteering with the Support, Access, and Success Committee for six years, I have contributed to other organizations, including SHE-CAN since 2021 and the Gazan Student Support Network (GSSN) since December 2023.

Through these experiences, I have learned what fosters volunteer success. At SHE-CAN, consistent virtual meetings connect volunteers, clarify roles and responsibilities, invite feedback, and highlight veteran volunteers' success stories. As Co-Chair of the Scholar Orientation Team, I have applied a similar model for our Pre-Departure Virtual Orientation, inviting past Scholars to share their Conference experiences and personal tips. This approach inspires our Scholar Orientation team and excites incoming Scholars while also building their networking community. It also reinforces my goal of expanding engagement with our Scholar Alumni community.

Across all my volunteer experiences, I have gained valuable insights into leadership and organizational effectiveness, including the importance of fostering communication, collaboration, recognition, and community. These lessons inform my approach as a volunteer leader and equip me to contribute meaningfully to the work of the SAS Committee.

Understanding of the Role & Sharing Innovations & Vision:

Please outline your understanding of this role by identifying your top three priorities, why they matter, and how you would address them. Include any innovative ideas, how you would measure success, and current practices you feel are effective.

My top priority in this role would be to continue strengthening the Scholar Program. This includes increasing nominations, attracting more qualified applications, involving alumni, enhancing the Pre-Conference program, supporting Scholars at the Conference, and raising awareness of the program within the broader International ACAC community. To encourage nominations and applications, the committee could host a webinar on the Scholar Program, the nomination process, and the application submission. To expand awareness, the committee could encourage more Scholar alumni to present at the Conference and participate in Regional Institutes.

My second priority is to better engage our Scholar alumni community. Currently, alumni engagement is limited to a Facebook page and separate WhatsApp groups by Scholar year. I would explore additional platforms for community-building, highlight alumni success stories through International ACAC channels, and encourage alumni participation in webinars, Regional Institutes, and collaboration with current Scholars. Strengthening this community will inspire volunteers and showcase the program's impact.

Finally, I would work to expand the Virtual Scholar Program in collaboration with other committees. While some volunteers feel hesitant to focus on a new program before improving current programs, I

would integrate the Virtual Program into existing webinars and resources and explore ways to educate applicants who are not admitted about opportunities such as Regional Institutes and webinars available on the International ACAC website.

Across all priorities, I would also focus on improving morale within the SAS Committee. I aim to foster a collaborative, inclusive environment where every volunteer feels valued, motivated, and energized to contribute. By prioritizing communication, recognition, and engagement, I hope to bring renewed energy to the committee and support the continued growth and impact of the Scholar Program.

Advocacy Priorities in College Admissions or International Education:

Identify and articulate a critical issue in college admissions for international students that you would like to or have championed, emphasizing its importance and potential impact on the community.

A critical issue in college admissions that I have championed throughout my career, volunteer work, and upcoming role with SHE-CAN is access. Many students face barriers that limit their ability to pursue higher education opportunities that align with their goals.

In the Scholar application process, we see access challenges when counselors report that school location prevents college visits, students lack knowledge of financial aid or scholarship opportunities, or parents restrict study choices to certain professions. I have observed similar barriers firsthand in college admissions, including limited access to standardized or English proficiency tests, difficulty obtaining information about colleges, inability to pay application fees, and lack of guidance on the application process.

Through GSSN, students face additional hurdles caused by unstable internet, missing transcripts, educational gaps, or even destroyed passports due to war. At SHE-CAN, female scholars experience barriers including financial constraints, limited guidance on applications, insufficient test preparation, and a lack of knowledge about institutions they can apply to.

Since beginning my career in college admissions nine years ago, I have worked to expand access globally. I have partnered with organizations such as Hope Fund, Open Dreams, UWC, Sutton Trust, and SHE-CAN to provide full scholarships to high-achieving, low-income students. I have offered webinars through EducationUSA and other organizations to reach and educate students. I have also advocated at my institutions to be more flexible in the application process, such as accepting the Duolingo English Test, offering fee waivers, and accommodating students with incomplete or missing transcripts.

The work of the SAS Committee aligns directly with this advocacy, as it empowers counselors with the knowledge and tools to guide students who face access barriers. Supporting the Scholar Program allows me to continue championing equitable opportunities and ensuring that talented students worldwide have pathways to higher education.

Supporting International ACAC's Strategic Plan:

Explain how you would leverage the position to contribute to International ACAC's strategic plan, aligning your goals with the organization's three pillars: enhancing member experience globally, clarifying the international brand, and optimizing internal operations.

In this role, I would leverage my position to advance International ACAC's strategic plan across all three pillars.

Enhancing member experience globally: I would expand the Scholar Program and alumni engagement, providing members with more opportunities to connect, collaborate, and learn from Scholars' experiences. Initiatives such as webinars, alumni panels, and Scholar-led presentations at Conferences and Regional Institutes would increase member interaction with our past and present Scholars and provide practical examples of the impact of our work.

Clarifying the international brand: By highlighting the successes of past and present Scholars across International ACAC channels, we would strengthen the visibility of our programs and the organization's commitment to equitable access and global leadership in higher education. Sharing these stories would also reinforce the value of International ACAC to members and external partners, demonstrating our unique role in connecting students, counselors, and institutions worldwide.

Optimizing internal operations: I would focus on improving communication, collaboration, and recognition within the SAS Committee to create a more efficient and engaged volunteer team. By establishing clear processes, encouraging collaboration, and building a culture of feedback and recognition, the committee can operate more effectively while supporting Scholars and alumni. I would also integrate the Virtual Scholar Program into existing workflows to maximize resources without overburdening volunteers.

Through these strategies, I aim to strengthen the Scholar Program, elevate International ACAC's global reputation, and build a collaborative, high-performing volunteer team, ensuring the organization's initiatives continue to have a meaningful impact on students and members worldwide.