

The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members

Greetings Mentees & Mentors,

Welcome to December! As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've embarked upon together. Since 2021, MYP has blossomed into a vibrant community where colleagues from diverse backgrounds share knowledge and experiences. This fall was particularly special, as I had the opportunity to meet some of you in person during visits and conferences. **Each of you plays an important role in fostering this collaborative spirit, enriching our profession, and enhancing our ability to support one another during this pivotal time in education.**

I am excited to share that the application for the MYP Professional Development grants is open through January 10. These grants offer a fantastic opportunity to invest in your own growth, connect within the MYP network, and continue pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together. You can find inspiration on how to utilize PD funds from previous grant recipients on the next page.

Thank you again for making time to be part of MYP. Your commitment to support each other is what makes MYP so special. I invite you all to remember that each conversation, interaction, and shared experience contributes to our collective growth.

In 2026, let's continue to inspire one another, share our challenges, and celebrate our successes as we navigate the upcoming year together.

Warmly,

San Lee, MYP Co-Chair



TIME TO APPLY FOR ANNUAL PD FUNDS!

The Mentor Year Program is excited to offer grants for both Mentors and Mentees to seek professional development opportunities.

Grants are for up to \$250 USD per person.

Up to twelve grants will be distributed annually, six for Mentors and six for Mentees.

Applications Open Dec 1 and Close Jan 10

MORE INFO and application FOUND HERE



East Asia, Southeast Asia,
& Oceania Regional Institute

April 9-11, 2026

[Register Here](#)

[Proposal submission](#)

Be sure to renew your
International ACAC
Membership today!
(Check your inbox for renewal)

PODCAST:

["Get Down to College
Business"](#) by Sarah Holtan

["The Reeves and Ford Podcast"](#)
by Chris Reeves & Joel Ford

READ:

[Leading Strategically:
Achieving Ambitious Goals in
Education](#)
by Elizabeth A. City & Rachel
E. Curtis

[The Hottest Seat on Campus](#)
by Angel B. Pérez

Save the Date

Feb 3rd, 2026

All Group (mid-year ZOOM)

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



Mentor/Mentee

SPOTLIGHT on 2024-2025 Annual PD Funds!

This month, we will feature some of last year's PD Fund Recipients in order to spotlight how the opportunities were used!

Angela Tang, The American School in Japan, School Counselor

"I used the funds to expand and explore my knowledge of Australian universities and options for international students."

Tiffany Goulet, University Counselor, American Overseas School of Rome

"I used the funds to visit Dutch universities by participating in the DUC tour last March. The tour has a fee to offset the cost of the tour and counselors pay for their own flight as well. It was a great tour and well worth the cost, but the PD funds helped. Many counselors do not visit the Netherlands because of the cost despite the popularity with my students, and now I feel much better prepared to field questions that my students, their parents, and other counselors have. THANK YOU!"

Gabriela Guimarães, Career and College Counselor, Escola Concept - Salvador (Brazil).

"I used the Professional Development funds I received from the MYP program to complete an extension course in Professional and Career Orientation at PUC-Rio (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro). This experience aligned perfectly with one of my MYP goals: to strengthen my skills as a Career Counselor, complementing my work as a College Counselor. My aim was to design and implement a high school program with weekly classes that help students explore their values, goals, and aspirations, while providing them with the tools to make informed career and academic decisions. A key objective of mine during the MYP was to empower students to navigate both career pathways and university options across different countries. Using the MYP funds to pursue this course was an incredible opportunity that proved extremely valuable in achieving that goal."

Michael Brennan, College Counselor, S.A. Escuela Bella Vista, Venezuela

"I used the PD funds to help make attending the AMISA EDCon in Panama last April more affordable. This was a great opportunity for me professionally. First, it provided me with my first experience presenting at a major conference, where I led a session on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This was an incredibly valuable growth opportunity. Beyond presenting, I was able to network extensively with fellow high school and college counselors in the region, which has already led to a much better professional support system and a stronger network for me to rely on, which is very important to me being somewhat on an "island" in Venezuela and was one of my goals in participating in the MYP. I also focused on attending various workshops on college counseling, which allowed me to refine my practice. I came back with strategies that I've been able to embed into our current junior and senior seminars this year. As a result, I now have more polished sophomore and junior interventions for our students."



**A warm message from: Claire Wilkins, German Swiss International School
Head of University Guidance
Vice President for Admissions Practices, International ACAC**

Greetings from German Swiss International School in Hong Kong. I'm delighted to share some thoughts with you in this newsletter to accompany your Mentor Year Program journey.

Mentorship can take many forms, from formal professional alliances where an expert guides a less experienced colleague, to informal learning through casual conversations, shared experiences, and peer-to-peer interactions. Each form offers unique and valuable benefits.

My own journey in this field has been a winding path full of surprises and new opportunities, and I've been incredibly fortunate to have been supported by a wonderful network of colleagues, friends, and even strangers who have provided various forms of mentorship. I've had incredible mentors (both formal and "accidental") some of whom were bosses and supervisors, helping me to see my strengths and areas for growth, and enthusiastically offering me opportunities to develop my skills.

Others were inspiring colleagues. **One taught me the powerful concept of 'charitable assumptions' encouraging us to approach every conversation with grace, assuming the best intentions in others, and refraining from quick judgment.** Another helped me adopt a student-centered approach by always asking first: 'is this good for the student?' And there were colleagues who, during tough professional moments, helped me to stay positive and keep pushing forward. Now, I'm trying to actively seek out and learn from 'young mentors,' those who are younger than me, to gain a fresh perspective on connecting with young people.

Anyone can be a mentor. Whether you're in a formal program, lending a listening ear, setting a positive example, or simply sharing your insights, you have the power to help people grow. We all have valuable knowledge and experience to share. Mentorship is about providing guidance and advice, but it's also about being a cheerleader, encouraging others to believe in themselves and pursue their goals.

Being a mentor and a mentee are not mutually exclusive roles. In fact, I believe that to find true success and fulfillment in our careers and lives, we need to constantly be active in both, always open to learning from others, and continually sharing what we have learned. International ACAC is the perfect community for this exchange. Our colleagues are always ready to support each other and share valuable information. My sincere hope is that through your time in the Mentor Year Program and as a member of International ACAC, you will encounter a myriad of inspiring mentors, and just as importantly, that you will knowingly or unknowingly be that mentor who positively impacts someone else's journey.

Sincerely,
Claire Wilkins



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