



SUPPORT, ACCESS, & SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Overview

The Support, Access, & Success (SAS) Committee advances International ACAC's commitment to inclusion for underserved students and the educational professionals who guide them.

The committee oversees all aspects of the International ACAC Scholar Program; collects and distributes professional development resources that support underserved students and educational professionals who guide them; and promotes inclusion and diversity within the membership and organization as a whole by working closely with the PD and Membership Committees.

Responsibilities

International ACAC Scholar Program - This program brings upwards of 15 high-impact counselors working with academically talented, low-income students to the annual conference.

- Nomination Process: Each year, we make sure we have a robust pool of nominations to ensure a deep application pool.
- Application Reading & Selection: We read and evaluate applicants against a rubric, discuss applicants' strengths within regional committees, and send recommended finalists to the leadership team for final selection.
- Bus Tours: We secure post-conference bus tour places for all participating scholars.
- Scholar Orientation Team: We serve as active resources for scholars before the conference.
- Scholar Mentor Program: We oversee a year-long mentorship program that pairs International ACAC scholars with seasoned International ACAC members for support before, during & after the conference.
- Scholar Alumni Network: We make sure the 100+ scholar alumni remain interconnected while engaging them in productive and meaningful ways to contribute to the International ACAC community.
- Virtual Scholar Program: The Committee offers professional development and mentorship to applicants to the Scholar Program who are unable to attend the annual conference.

Professional Development

- We facilitate sessions on financial aid, access, and inclusion at our annual conference.

Resources

- We collect and distribute resources that advance International ACAC's commitment to inclusion for underserved students and the educational professionals who guide them.

Membership Diversity

- We seek to increase diversity within International ACAC's membership - with a particular focus on regional diversity and underrepresented populations.

Level of Commitment

Each committee member is asked to support at least two SAS initiatives/sub-committees. This typically means you'll dedicate 20-40 hours over the course of the year. Most committee members are asked to read and evaluate scholar applications in December and January—we read independently, so there's certainly flexibility when you do this. You'll need to dedicate 5-8 hours to reading and reviewing these applications.

Necessary Traits or Qualities

- First and foremost, a passionate belief in access to higher education for all student populations, regardless of socioeconomic background, and a belief in the need for more diverse student populations on university and college campuses
- A demonstrated commitment (professional and/or personal) to underrepresented and/or low-income student populations.
- A "do-tank/think-tank" mentality. This team needs individuals willing to translate ideas into action.
- A willingness to roll up your sleeves and do the behind-the-scenes work required to implement high-impact programs for counselors and students around the world
- Self-initiative and self-management: the ability to build up, develop, and help a program grow without constant oversight
- Flexibility, collaboration, and a sense of humor

Growth Areas and Challenges

- Creating awareness among our membership about inclusion and access challenges for low-income international students
- Figuring out how to offer support to under-resourced counselors around the world who do not have access to PD
- Measuring and articulating the impact of the Scholar Program and the Virtual Scholar Program to various constituencies.
- Advocating for greater diversity within our affiliate in terms of regional diversity and underrepresented demographics

Goals

- Review our practices and improve our processes for scholar selection/review

- Create new programs to meet SAS's goals of Support, Access and Success
- Support International ACAC's inclusion agenda by seeking out under-represented professionals and creating opportunities for them to engage with us.

Term Length

Three Years. Each person is an active member of the committee for three years, with the term beginning on July 1 of the first year and ending on July 31 of the third year.

Last Updated: January 2026