

The Monthly Mentor

CREATING A CULTURE OF MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

By: Mentor Year Committee

We are super impressed with all that the Mentors and Mentees have accomplished these past few months and we sincerely thank you for your dedicated efforts to this program. Each of you are making a difference, not only within your profession, but in the lives of students, counsellors, and universities around the globe.

We greatly appreciate the feedback from the mid-year surveys. It is such a joy to celebrate your successes, while reflecting on new developments for the Mentor Year Program. Here are a few highlights from the survey:

"The productive relationship with my mentor who has given me so many insights and suggestions to improve my college counselling career and raise my confidence."

"Working with a mentee is a win-win. It allows me to reflect on my practices as I help my mentee navigate her current position."

"I have had a chance to get out of the day to day work and foster a connection across the sector, sharing higher level discussions, ideas and challenges."

"I enjoy talking with my mentor to understand the bigger picture of international admissions and feel like I'm not alone in the grey spaces of admissions policy!"

"I appreciate sharing specific cases/problems, getting my mentor's feedback on alternate approaches and other options. This broadens my perspective and widens my skills as an advisor."

As the Mentor Year Program evolves, we greatly appreciate your feedback. We are humbled by the positive comments shared with so many useful suggestions. Your group has helped us pioneer the MYP and we are excited to consider all the possibilities in the years to come.

One of areas we are looking to further develop includes professional development for our mentors and mentees. Although we are on the countdown to finishing the MYP in 2021-22, we are working closely with the PD Committee to offer some optional workshops in an effort to support your personal and professional growth on all sides of the desk. Stay tuned for upcoming PD events!

As many of you wind down for spring break, we wish you a restful and rejuvenating holiday.

[MYP Shared Resources](#)



Links of interest:

Insight Into Diversity ([website and newsletter](#))

Need help writing emails? Always finding yourself in the same email writing rut? Why not try working with an email coach.

Check out the **[League of Exceptional Emailers](#)**

For Counselors & IECs

UPenn has created an International College Advising Certificate

[Check it out here](#)

Dutch Research University Consortium is running the Counselor Bootcamp April 6-8 -- **[Info here](#)**

For University Admissions

SEMM Forum - May 2022 (Online)

[Info here](#)

International ACAC

Regional Roundups 2022:

Mar 24: Central & South America, Mexico, & the Caribbean

Apr 29: Europe

May 5: Canada & the US

May 11: East Asia, Southeast Asia & Oceania

Don't forget: **Board Election Voting!**
Check your email for details/ballot
Vote until: March 22 at 11:59 PM ET.

Webinar Week: March 30-April 6
Stay Tuned for More Info

Mentor/Mentee Spotlight: Veronica Regalado de Madianos, College Counselor at Hellenic American Educational Foundation Athens College–Psychico College & Natasha Winnard, Natasha Winnard Consulting Support and Guidance for Mobile Families

I am very grateful to the IACAC MYP for having paired me with Natasha. I could not have asked for a better mentor!

It was lovely to discover how many things Natasha and I have in common during our first Zoom meeting. Firstly, we live and work in foreign countries far away from our birthplaces. Natasha grew up in the UK, and after many years living in Sudan, she is now based in Brazil. I was born and raised in Mexico, and after many years in the US, I am now based in Greece. We both have teenagers, so we are also going through the college admissions process as parents. We are profoundly passionate about our students' well-being.

We both prioritize seeing our students head towards a place where we are confident they will thrive and be happy.

Natasha is a brilliant, dedicated, and experienced counselor who has shared lots of advice and words of wisdom that have proven very helpful in my new role. Before becoming an IEC, Natasha gained extensive experience teaching and counseling at international schools. I am in my first year as a high school counselor, and I am blessed to be navigating these new waters with Natasha's support. Natasha has helped me identify and prioritize clear goals. Not only has she given me great advice for my work with the students, but also she has given me fantastic guidance when it comes to speaking to parents and managing their expectations.

A wonderful, kind, and generous person, Natasha knows how to be there for someone. Her unexpected encouraging notes in the middle of a tough week and congratulatory messages for having "survived" January's deadline madness will stay with me always. As a great role model, Natasha inspires me to give my best every day and become a mentor myself in the near future! Thank you, Natasha!" Veronica



Veronica is fantastic, inspiring and I would love to be on her team!

I love that we are both parents of teenagers, who are either going through, or have been through, the college application process.

This invaluable shared experience, as parents, has reminded me of the importance of committing time to building a holistic approach and partnership between home, school and independent consultant to maximize personalized student guidance and support.

Veronica's previous professional background is in banking and I have only ever worked in schools. I have learned as much from her, as I hope she has from me. Again, a wonderful reminder that when we are guiding and supporting our students it is crucial that we are connecting beyond our schools for continuous learning. The world of work is changing daily.

We cannot possibly know everything, but we can certainly commit time to connecting with those who do know! Finally, when I transitioned from working full time in international schools to becoming an IEC, I realised how much I loved, and missed, my professional mentoring role as a head of department. Veronica has lit that flame again. Thank you!" Natasha



A WARM GREETING FROM:

**Bridget Herrera, Past-president, International ACAC
American International School, Dhaka, Bangladesh**



International ACAC's Mentor Year Program has become something we should take great pride in, and whether we are mentees or mentors, as members of the organization we all ultimately benefit from the rich exchanges that take place.

While I am less of a mentee these days, I have not forgotten the words of encouragement that I've received over the years, words that have kept me moving forward and that help me believe in myself. In our profession, there is so much information, strategizing, and planning that one needs to know about -- much can be learned and found on the internet--but it is wonderful to have someone to reach out to who you know you can ask anything. Believe me, even as a seasoned counselor, it gives me comfort knowing I have others I can call on (and I do this often!).

Still, it is the words of encouragement, the nudges to do more in the profession, that I've received over the past thirty years that have meant the most and it is exactly this that I try to pay forward today. Our interactions with our colleagues in the profession can have lasting impacts--our words of encouragement likely go further than we think and may take place in the most casual of moments. As members of the International ACAC Mentor Year Program, you have many years ahead of you to provide those words that keep us feeling strong and relevant, no matter if you are a mentee or mentor.

Here's to you and the good work you do together!

International ACAC - What's on for March/April

Annual Conference mode continues! [More info updated here.](#)

Can't wait to get "Out of Office", July 12-15.

FYI: Chat Proposal deadline extended until **April 1st.**

