



INTERNATIONAL ACAC 2026

Carnegie
Mellon
University



Conference Update #3

January 29, 2026

In This Issue...

1. Greetings from President-Elect Dan
2. Call for Session Proposals - Final Reminder
3. Pre-Conference Institute Faculty Application - Final Reminder
4. Counselor Bus Tour
5. Sponsorship Opportunities
6. Exhibit Hall
7. Guidelines to Hosting an Off-Campus Event
8. Conference Volunteers & Committee Chairs
9. #BridgeBuilders Photo Challenge

Greetings from the President-Elect

Happy New Year to our members who have already celebrated the beginning of 2026 and to those who will be celebrating the "Year of the Fire Horse" shortly - I hope that you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of your friends and family. Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Pittsburgh are preparing for an incredible annual conference week, and I encourage you to learn more about submitting a session proposal (due February 11!), sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, and our **#BridgeBuilders** photo challenge in the rest of this newsletter.

Your incredible efforts to support students and families as they pursue higher education continue to inspire me, and I am excited to see you in a few months in Pittsburgh!

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

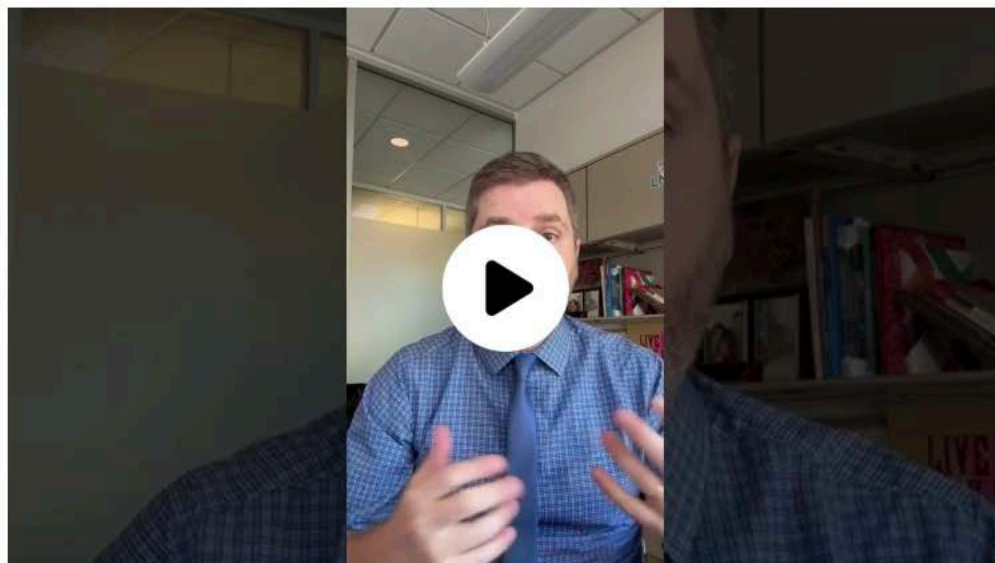
Coming Next Update...

- Conference Registration!

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](#).



Call for Session Proposals - Final Reminder

***Reminder!** Don't forget to submit your session proposals before the upcoming **Wednesday, February 11** deadline. The 2026 Conference theme is **#BridgeBuilders**,

Conference Registration opens
March 18, 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.
 - See examples of [previous Conference Chats](#).

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.

Pre-Conference Institute Faculty Application - Final Reminder

Members are invited to serve as Faculty for the 2026 Pre-Conference Institute. This special programming takes place prior to the conference on Monday, July 13. Those interested can apply by submitting the form below.

Pre-Conference Institute Faculty Application

Deadline to Apply: Friday, January 30 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Counselor Bus Tour



Apply now to join the post-conference [Counselor Bus Tour](#)! The tour will explore universities around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia from **July 17-24**.

[Counselor Bus Tour Application](#)

Deadline to Apply: Friday, February 13 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Do you know of other bus tours happening around this time of year? [Let us know about the event](#) and we will promote it as an [Additional Tour](#) for members to consider.

Sponsorship Opportunities

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are still available for the 2026 Conference! 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 or apply below.

[Sponsorship Application](#)

Exhibit Hall

Apply now for a table in the [2026 Exhibit Hall](#)! Tables are available to organizations and companies, with applications reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. And don't forget, [conference sponsors](#) receive a discounted space - maybe this is the year you consider doing both?!

[Exhibitor Application](#)

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

Guidelines to Hosting an Off-Campus Event

If you or your organization are interested in hosting an event off-campus during the

If you or your organization are interested in hosting an event off-campus during the annual conference, **please refer to the [suggested guidelines](#)**. This helps ensure all conference programming and additional events are as successful as possible!

Please email Admin@InternationalACAC.org with the details of your event.

Conference Volunteers & Committee Chairs

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered to serve on a [Conference Committee](#). We also want to extend a special thank you to our Committee Chairs; the 2026 Conference will be incredible because of you and the work you do!

Bursaries: Andrew Palmer, Sonia Soni

College and Counselor Fairs: Nathan Mack, Natalie Smith

First-Timers': Cassandra Ford, Petra Orent

Special Events: Ryan Naughton

Sponsorship Chair: Adam Wu

#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

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 of:

1. Your favorite local bridge; or
2. You and others **building bridges between cultures**. Think...
 - Eating at a fusion restaurant;
 - Visiting a new place with a local friend being tour guide;
 - 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.

#BridgeBuilders

