



## 2025 Executive Board Election Candidate

### President-Elect

**Name:** Daniel Marschner  
**Title:** Director of International Admission  
**Institution:** Loyola Marymount University  
**Location/Region:** United States/Canada & U.S.  
**Member Group:** Post-Secondary

### Applicant Questions

**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.**

International ACAC has been an essential part of my professional growth and development, and being part of the Executive Board as Vice President for Advocacy and Outreach for four years has been a great privilege for me. International ACAC members inspire me in countless ways as our community continually provides incredible support and encouragement. To be President-Elect of International ACAC would be a great honor and responsibility, especially as international student mobility is under threat around the world currently. Our mission to support students and families find the best option for their future and to facilitate intercultural exchange has never been more vital.

I have been privileged to participate in myriad International ACAC events that have grown my professional network, enhanced my knowledge about global educational systems, and facilitated my efforts to support students and families as they pursue their best option for higher education. One particular highlight of my tenure in the role was navigating through the challenges that International ACAC faced during the COVID pandemic and emerging with well-timed and impactful Regional Institutes. I have also prioritized efforts to ensure that the International ACAC Executive Board evolves to better support our members, such as the proposal for restructuring the Representative role and create a Regional Council that our members will consider in March 2025.

I am a strong fit for President-Elect of International ACAC because it has been my essential professional network for over a decade. The organization has never been more relevant and has a bright future, especially in regard to formalizing more opportunities for voices from around the world to be elevated within International ACAC and magnified around the world. Leading International ACAC as President-Elect would be a fantastic way for me to support our members and organization as it evolves into a more representative, diverse institution better equipped to address global challenges.

**Detail experiences that have equipped you with skills and insights applicable to the position you're applying for, including your leadership philosophy and strategies for effectively managing and leading a volunteer committee, emphasizing communication, collaboration, and recognition, and transferable accomplishments.**

Volunteering for International ACAC in a wide variety of capacities has been a highlight of my professional career and I have been privileged to participate in a plethora of programs that the organization offers. These include being a panelist on several International ACAC webinars, presenting at the Annual Conference and at Regional Institutes, and joining multiple ad-hoc committees. During my tenure as Vice President for Advocacy and Outreach, I have led initiatives to re-invigorate our Regional Institutes after the COVID-19 pandemic to make them more timely and relevant events for our members, and supported the Executive Board's work to reimagine the role of Representatives to the Board.

Additionally, I joined NACAC's Ad-Hoc Committee focused on the NACAC-Affiliate relationship and the inaugural cohort of the NACAC NEXT leadership development program. International ACAC and NACAC conferences, professional development workshops, and networking opportunities have been invaluable to me. In addition to my role with International ACAC, I am Director of International Admission at Loyola Marymount University where I supervise a team of 15 professional staff and student workers. I believe that effective leadership requires dedication, open communication, and reliability to ensure that colleagues feel confident that their contributions are valued and appreciated.

I have also participated in several other impactful leadership roles and volunteer opportunities outside of NACAC, International ACAC, and university admission offices. These include participating as a Jesuit Volunteer where I lived and worked in Arica, Chile for 2 ½ years; teaching four years of Spanish language classes in two different secondary schools; and completing a doctoral degree in Educational Studies. These roles required cultural immersion, second language acquisition, commitment to independently completing complex projects, and understanding of available resources to ensure success in my endeavors. They also taught me great humility and appreciation for colleagues when I made mistakes and learned how to better approach challenging situations. As a result of these experiences, I have gained many impactful transferrable skills to serve in a leadership role for International ACAC.

**Outline your comprehension of the role you are applying for, specifying priority areas, overall vision and challenges that you would like to address, and innovative solutions you would like to implement, while acknowledging current practices or programs you feel are effective.**

Being part of the International ACAC Executive Board for four years in three different terms provides me with broad perspective about how the organization has evolved to better serve its members. In particular, I strongly support the initiatives to provide additional leadership opportunities and engage more directly with members around the world indicated in the proposal to reimagine the Representative role and establish a Regional Council. If chosen by members as President-Elect, I would continue to foster relationships with partner organizations around the world such as the College Board, Council of International Schools, and International Baccalaureate in addition to further exploring opportunities to collaborate with our member organizations.

I would also prioritize regional engagement, focusing on thinking globally while acting locally. The Regional Institutes should become even more impactful, so that members have more formal opportunities to interact on a regular basis in addition to the Annual Conference. I also feel that the proposed Regional Council would be a fantastic addition to International ACAC, creating a formalized structure to ensure constructive and consistent dialogue with our members around the world. I would also continue conversations with secondary school counselor driven organizations such as China Institute of College Admission Counseling, Global University Counselor Connect, Network of Indonesian School Counselors, and Swiss Plus to improve our communication and collaboration efforts, including the possibility of formal affiliation partnerships.

A third priority area would be supporting the annual conference in 2026 held at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. As President-Elect, I would ensure that the event provides a fantastic environment for our members, and showcases the best that the institutions and their surrounding communities can offer. I would prioritize the facilitation of logistical concerns for our members arriving at the conference, and ensure that the event provides innovative, invaluable professional networking opportunities for our members. I have been privileged to attend the annual conference every year since the University of Denver hosted in 2012, so I would use my personal experiences from these events to ensure that members benefit greatly from their interactions. I also look forward to additional opportunities to expand the impact of our organization that have not yet emerged.

**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.**

Leading the Advocacy and Outreach Committee has been a highlight of my experience on the Executive Board because it engages with challenging discussions about access to higher education, equity for students regardless of their socioeconomic status, and the tremendous benefits of intercultural exchange. As a leader amongst this group, it is essential for me to provide realistic expectations of their time commitment, clear goals for each year, and regular updates about and appreciation for the progress of our committee's work and accomplishments.

In a time of increasing hostility and xenophobia around the world, International ACAC's work to advocate on behalf of students and families seeking their best opportunity for higher education has never been more crucial. As Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach, I visited the US Capital to meet directly with US congressional offices and demonstrate the

tremendous benefits that international students provide from an economic and cultural perspective. As President-Elect I would strengthen our relationship with NAFSA: Association of International Educators to speak with a unified voice. Additionally, I would seek opportunities with other organizations around the world such as the British Council, Erasmus+, and Ministries of Education in various countries to support international student mobility.

Additionally, International ACAC's efforts to support High Achieving Low Income students should be continually highlighted, and responses to students in crisis who are impacted by events far outside their own control need to be strengthened. International ACAC members need additional resources to more capably support students in crisis as well, especially emphasizing the incredible work that many of our partner organizations and members do regularly. I also will work to highlight disparities that impact international students, such as access to standardized testing, challenges to obtain student visa appointments, and restrictive caps on international student enrollment in many countries. International student mobility provides fantastic benefits to communities around the world, and International ACAC should be leading the conversation with strategic partners to make those benefits more evident.

**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.**

International ACAC has a bright future ahead, and its strategic plan offers a bold vision to enhance the experience of our members. As a member organization whose energy and momentum comes directly from volunteers, International ACAC must continually strive to enhance members' experiences and increase the resources and experiences available to members. Member experience globally can be enhanced via more direct engagement with members closer to where they reside around the world; providing additional resources for professional development at an accessible cost to members; and providing them with a seamless infrastructure to access member resources.

As International ACAC expands its footprint around the world, differentiating ourselves as a premier organization to support international student mobility is essential. Our members seek additional opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue, and methods to promote ethical and responsible behavior with students around the world. International ACAC should seek to leverage its sterling reputation to foster effective partnerships, enhance the value of membership, and promote professional standards amongst its members and peer organizations.

International ACAC has made good strides in improving the technological tools available to our members, and can continue to improve upon the resources available for dialogue. For example, International ACAC should explore opportunities for engagement on social media outside of our established Facebook page, including enhancing capabilities on the International ACAC website. We should also focus resources to facilitate the membership application process, and to provide access to International ACAC professional resources to a broader audience.