

2014-2015 Annual Report

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2014-2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Anne Kremer DePaul University

President-Elect Beth Gilfillan Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart

Treasurer DeVone Eurales Knox College

Treasurer-Elect Courtney Wallace Augustana College

Past Treasurer Patrick Walsh Illinois State University

Secretary Erin Hoover McKendree University

Past President Mike Dunker Retired

NACAC Delegate Directors - Secondary

Allegra Giulietti-Schmitt (Three-Year Term) Niles North High School

Brad Kain (Two-Year Term) Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Tony Minestra (Two-Year Term) Loyola Academy

Amy Thompson (Two-Year Term) York Community High School Lianne Musser (One-Year Term) Lyons Township High School

NACAC Delegate Directors - Postsecondary Stephanie Szczepanski (Three-Year Term) Saint Louis University

DJ Menifee (Two-Year Term) Knox College

Rob Walton (One-Year Term) Northwestern University

National ACAC Delegates Mike Dunker Retired

Anne Kremer DePaul University

Beth Gilfillan (alternate) Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart

Council Team Directors - Secondary Renee Koziol (Two-Year Term) Trinity High School

Drew Eder (One-Year Term) Highland Park High School

Council Team Director - Postsecondary Mike Melinder (Two-Year Term) The University of Iowa

Shawn Wochner (One-Year Term) Western Illinois University

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anne Kremer, DePaul University

Purpose

The President shall preside at the annual membership meeting, all other general membership meetings and all Executive Board meetings. The President shall have overall supervision of the plans for any special general membership meeting. The President, or an Executive Board Member appointed by the President, shall be the official representative of IACAC at meetings of other organizations or on such occasions where representation has been requested or is deemed desirable. The President shall perform such other duties as are provided for in these By-Laws or as assigned by the Executive Board or the general membership and shall submit an annual report to the general membership at the Annual Membership Meeting. The President, if eligible, shall serve as a delegate to the NACAC Assembly in accordance with the NACAC By-Laws.

Summary of Activities

Although the business meeting isn't the most appealing part of the conference (we can all agree that award goes to the free drink tickets at tonight-s reception), this information is important as it tells you where we-ve been and where we are going.

At this point in time some of you may be reliving (or bemoaning) the theme underlying my conference remarks from last year--say YES, say YES, and S'MORE--say YES! In May of 2014 my comments focused on our ability to "say YES!" as an organization emphasizing that it is this mentality and commitment to act and follow through that sets IACAC apart as an organization. For IACAC, saying YES as does not mean we jump into things blindly, but rather are open and intentional about the willingness to try something new.

I am pleased to report the membership of IACAC, our committee members, committee chairs, and executive board "said YES" all year long. This group challenged one another to think differently, brought new and creative ideas to the forefront, and proved determined to make the biggest impact as an organization utilizing our financial and human resources to best serve and educate our membership and our students. This say "YES" attitude is truly indicative of this organization and all that we have accomplished.

Soon after conference my Presidential year kicked off with our transition meeting, followed closely by our Leadership Development Institute, both held at DePaul University. During our time together at the Leadership Development Institute we had the opportunity to hear from a motivational speaker and professional development coach, who spoke with us about leadership and legacy and what this means to us as an individuals and committee leaders. This presentation set the tone for the year giving us the skills and tools we needed to think about how to create a legacy in the short time we had together in our various roles, and how to set goals within our committees that were both attainable and measurable. Results from these conversations have been instrumental in the year that followed and for the development of the new strategic plan. More on this later.

While what follows will only scratch the surface in terms of the committee work and accomplishments, my intention is to share with you some of the highlights of this past year.

- The Admissions Practices Committee continues to be available for all who have concerns/issues and questions about the college admission process.
- The College Awareness and Preparation Committee was very busy this year. The Motivate Me Young Men's Conference, hosted at Loyola University Chicago, continued to grow with over 60 student participants in 2014 compared to 31 in May of 2013. They have over 100 students registered for this year's program. Camp College hosted 39 students last year traveling between Western Illinois and Monmouth College. CAP is excited to have also created an automated application process and as well as introduce a site bid model for both programs allowing more colleges to participate hosting these students on their campuses over the summer.
- **District Seminars** were once again tremendously successful with outstanding attendance from professionals around the state. A special thanks to all institutions who hosted these programs and to everyone who either presented or attended these events.
- The Illinois Regional College Fair Committee launched the 2015-2016 college fair calendar in April in a format that can literally plan a college rep's travel for them! This new format allows individuals to filter fair times, time of year, location, and even allows for counselors to plot their travel on a virtual map and translate their travel into an Excel format. The 2015-2016 IRCF registration will open on June 1 and will include 33 regional programs this year; the two newest to move under the IRCF umbrella are the Kishwaukee College and Niles High School fairs. A big thanks to this committee and Carin Smith, the Illinois Regional College Fair Coordinator for making this happen!
- **Our Delegates** once again made IACAC proud representing our membership at the NACAC Annual Conference and General Assembly. The delegates lead the way within the General Assembly, and it was during this year's Assembly in Indianapolis that we saw one of our own, Gwen Kanelos, Concordia University Chicago, elected to the NACAC Board of Directors. Congratulations, Gwen!
- **Government Relations** did an outstanding job hosting our Advocacy Day in Springfield. With their diligent planning we had over 30 participants (a record turnout!). This group canvased the Hill meeting with 29 legislators, dropping off packets at 24 other legislator offices, and had 4 representatives attend our networking reception the night before. In addition, the Government Relations Chairs attended the NACAC Legislative Meeting in early March 2015 in Washington D.C. where we learned more about how IACAC can be effective endorising state and federal legislation as it aligns with IACAC's mission and values.
- For the past few years the Inclusion, Access and Success Committee has been very successful training college admission counselors on how to present to

underrepresented student populations using the NACAC Step by Step Guides. This year the IAS presentations included a training session for CARR, 4 trainings sessions at various District Seminars, as well as the ISCA conference. IAS members are also responsible for updating and expanding the College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students and are always welcoming new submissions www.iacac.org/undocumented. Please visit this site if you have not done so already to make your institution's update.

- IACAC's media efforts continue to grow improving communication internal and external to the organization. At the beginning of the year the **Media Communications Committee** revamped the online volunteer process notifying committee chairs in real time when new volunteers sign up for service allowing for more member to get involved more quickly. The Admission Essay also underwent a transformation allowing members to sign up for alerts when news about the organization has been posted making the most current updates readily available to our members.
- While **Membership** has already given their report, I would like to offer a shout out to the work they did this spring; I am very excited about the initiatives they have on the docket for the 2015-2016 year.
- The Mentorship Committee is celebrating over 50 total matches for the year between both the high school and college side. This group spent a lot of time this year restructuring the committee into several subcommittees creating opportunities for more ownership and engagement with committee activities. This is such a wonderful program connecting veteran and green IACAC members providing an opportunity to learn and grow from one another. We encourage you to consider being a mentor in the future or joining this great program as a mentee!
- Congratulations on executing an outstanding National College Fair to the **National College Fair Committee** and all of the IACAC volunteers that make this event possible. On September 27th, over 10,000 attendees descended on Navy Pier to meet the 450 colleges and universities in attendance. Students attending the fair came from over 500 high schools representing both the City of Chicago and suburbs. Way to go!
- The Middle Management Institute hosted its 4th consecutive program at Augustana College in July of 2014. This program included 24 participants. Moving into next year MMI is excited to announce a new collaboration with Indiana ACAC and Wisconsin ACAC that will involve rotating this program between these three states sharing ideas and resources for admission professionals with 3-7 years of experience. In addition, MMI received the NACAC Rising Star Award in Indianapolis. As the committee put together the nomination for the award they discovered 43% of participants from the first three years received a promotion post-MMI (as of June 2014) and 91% were still working in higher education. MMI's results certainly speak for themselves in terms of providing new avenues, experiences, and opportunities for those looking to grow within our profession- if interested sign up to join them in July at Roosevelt University!
- **Summer Institute** 2014 was held at Bradley University last summer. This year's program will be held at Knox College offering a track for both new college admission representatives as well as high school counselors. The Bus O'Fun will

also be coinciding with Summer Institute offering a great networking opportunity for all participants.

- The Scholarship Committee continues to operate as an ad hoc committee and awarded five \$1000 scholarships to 5 very deserving students yesterday during our opening session.
- The Micro Bus Tour visited 6 colleges in the St. Louis, MO area last summer with 38 excited counselors in attendance. The Plane O'Fun tour visited the Carolinas visiting 11 schools in 5 days. Highlights included a police escort and standing ovation upon arriving at one campus as well as finding out what a Billiken really is. This committee is grateful to the admission offices for their flexibility and time; without their support and generosity this trip would not be possible.
- **Project Reach** has done an outstanding job this year investigating the best "place" for this committee within the organizational structure as it remains in ad hoc standing. One of their biggest accomplishments was establishing a budget for the coming year that incorporates professional development funding for counselors from our Project Reach schools.

Recommendations for the Future

Like the Presidential teams before me I also encourage the involvement and philosophy of the Presidential Team. A unified leadership approach works well and is essential to continue moving IACAC forward.

As the strategic plan takes shape and is eventually approved in the next year, I recommend that the Presidential team stays engaged with the process of circling back to the plan and the various achievements of the organization. While the responsibility of updating the plan will not be on the Presidential Team, it is important to have a finger on the pulse of how things are progressing and make changes as necessary.

We brought back IACAC Leadership Development Institute as a way to kick off the fall. With the new board structure this was a great way to bring all committee chairs and board members together to discuss a plan for the year. I highly recommend doing this again.

Continue to use the board liaisons as the connection from the board to each committee. It also keeps the board members involved with committee work and pushing up their good ideas and progress to those making decisions during meetings.

Continue frequent conversations with Linda, Sherry, Donna and Carin throughout the year.

Similar to other President's before me, I also recommend the three Presidents get together in March or April to discuss possible committee chair positions and dates/places for the Executive Board meetings. In addition, as these conversations take place, continue to be mindful of developing new leaders and engaging diverse voices from around the state.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Linda Haffner

Purpose

The Executive Assistant provides general support in all aspects of the association. The EA assumes primary responsibilities for membership services, financial management, and conference registration. Additionally, the EA supports the Executive Board, committee chairs, and membership, as each meets the objectives of the association. The Executive Assistant serves as an Ex Officio member of the Executive Board and to attends Executive Board and General Membership meetings of the Association.

Summary of Activities

Membership

- Maintained the IACAC membership database.
- Prepared monthly and annual Membership Reports.
- Produced, along with Sherry Hall, the 2014-15 Membership Directory
- Supplied mailing labels/lists/databases to support the Association activities.

Financial

- Maintained IACAC checking account and Money Market account, paid all bills and processed all deposits.
- Maintained Quickbooks of financial records.
- Prepared monthly and annual Treasurer's Reports.
- Prepared End-of-Year and other financial reports as needed by officers.
- Prepared budgeting spreadsheets and worked with the Finance Committee.
- Submitted financial records to accountant for review and tax filing.
- Prepared 1099s, as needed.
- Worked with insurance agency regarding coverage needs.
- Acted as the Registered Agent for the Association and prepared annual corporate report.

Conference

- Maintained conference registration database.
- Produced nametags for all registrants.
- Prepared various reports for conference committee chairs.
- Assisted in the preparation of the registration packets.
- Assisted in on-site registration process.
- Prepared voting materials.
- Will produce final financial and registration reports.

Scholarship

- Respond to questions via email and phone regarding requirements and deadlines
- Collect and open all scholarships received
- Sort, scan, file all scholarships

- Match all scholarships and credentials on Google Drive
- Send checks and congratulatory letters to recipients after conference
- Maintain all scholarship applications for one year

Committee

- Produced the College Admission Update.
- Participated in the Annual Conference Committee and Credentials Committee .
- Sorted, scanned matched and filed all scholarships for the IACAC Scholarship committee

Office

- Responded to IACAC telephone, email and web site inquiries.
- Maintained IACAC's post office box and responded to mail inquiries.
- Produced correspondence to support above activities.
- Sorted, reorganized and continue to maintain historical records for the Association.
- Attended Executive Board, LDI, NACAC Conference and other meetings, as needed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MOTION LOG

Erin Hoover Secretary McKendree University

On June 27, 2014 at DePaul University, the Executive Board:

- 1. Called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. (A. Kremer)
- 2. Motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes (A. Menifee, M. O'Rourke). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to create Strategic Plan Ad-Hoc committee (M. O'Rourke, S. Wochner). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to create High School Professional Development Ad-Hoc committee (A. Menifee, A. Giuletti-Schmitt). Motion carried.
- 5. Motioned to adjourn the meeting (S. Szczepanski, E. Ruiz). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

On September 8, 2014 at Illinois State University, the Executive Board:

- 1. Called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. (A. Kremer)
- 2. Motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes (D. Eder, C. Wallace). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to approve the conference budget (A.Thompson, L. Musser). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to adjourn the meeting (S. Szczepanski, A. Giuletti-Schmitt). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

On November 7, 2014 at Northwestern University, the Executive Board:

- 1. Called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. (A. Kremer)
- 2. Motioned to approve the September board meeting minutes (S. Szczepanski, D. Eurales). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report (A. Thompson, L. Musser). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to approve Sharing the Dream Conference proposal (S. Wochner, S. Szczepanski).
- 5. Amended motion to approve funding up to \$4,000 (S. Wochner, C. Wallace). Motion carried.
- 6. Motioned to cover expenses for Annie and Beth to attend District Directions. (M. Dunker)
- 7. Amended motion to cover registration and travel expenses. (D. Eurales, A. Thompson) Motion carried.
- 8. Motioned to adjourn the meeting at (S. Szczepanski, L. Musser). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

On January 9, 2015 at DePaul University, the Executive Board:

1. Called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. (A. Kremer)

- 2. Motioned to approve the November board meeting minutes (C. Wallace, S. Wochner). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to approve to give the Government Relations Committee the autonomy to endorse items that come across their radar that clearly fall within one of IACAC's legislative priorities--access to quality counseling, need-based financial aid, and rigorous curriculum--and related to lowering the student-to-counselor ratio, increasing MAP grants, student protection, and anything else endorsed by NACAC (S. Wochner, S. Szczepanski). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to approve and fund Bill Morrison's air, hotel, and food travel expenses to attend the NACAC GRC Advocacy Day (S. Szczepanski, M. Melinder). Motion carried.
- 5. Motioned to approve the addition of an Inclusion, Access, and Success award to be given every year at the Annual Conference as selected by the IACAC President per the recommendations of the IAS committee (A. Minestra, M. Melinder). Motion carried.
- 6. Motioned to adjourn the meeting (R. Koziol, S. Szczepanski). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

On March 17, 2015 at University of Illinois-Springfield, the Executive Board:

- 1. Called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. (A. Kremer)
- 2. Motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes (S. Szczepanski, R. Koziol). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to approve DePaul University's bid to host Summer Institute 2016 (D. Eder, L. Musser). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to approve the proposed 2015-2016 budget to be prepared for the Membership approval at the Annual Conference (A. Thompson, S. Wochner). Motion carried.
- 5. Motioned to approve proposed by-law changes (S. Wochner, L. Musser). Motion carried.
- 6. Motioned to adjourn the meeting at (S. Szczepanski, A. Thompson). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

On April 30, 2015 at the Westin Hotel in Itasca, the IACAC Membership:

- 1. Called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. (A. Kremer)
- 2. Motioned to adopt agenda and special rules for meeting (J. Nelson, S. Szczepanski). Motion carried.
- 3. Motioned to approve the 2014 annual membership meeting minutes (S. Wochner, C. Smith). Motion carried.
- 4. Motioned to adopt the 2015-2016 proposed budget (D. Eurales, P. Harker). Motion carried.
- Motioned to amend Article I Membership. The new language to be added is: #6. Persons who were employed at a voting members institution or organization during the current year or immediately preceding membership year who are no longer employed by any member or membership-eligible institution (M. Dunker, T. Burrell). Motion carried.

6. Motioned to amend Article I – Membership. The new language to be added is: #1. Any organization, agency, or institution which is not-for-profit, maintains an educational facility in the State of Illinois, and provides postsecondary counseling, admission and financial aid services at the state or local level.

#2. Any organization, agency, or institution which is not-for-profit, maintains an educational facility in the State of Illinois, and provides postsecondary counseling, admission and financial aid services at a multi-state, national or international level (M. Dunker, M. Rogers). Motion carried.

- 7. Motioned to recess until Friday, May 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., at which time the remaining business of the meeting will be concluded (D. Eurales, J. Paar-Gross). Motion carried.
- 8. Reconvened meeting Friday, May 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. (A. Kremer)
- 9. Motioned to adjourn the meeting (M. O'Rourke, N. Bargar). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Admission Practices

Chair

Carlene Klaas, DePaul University

Purpose

The AP committee's primary mission is to educate counselors and colleges/universities in their efforts to serve students and families about compliance with the Statement of Principles and Good Practices as part of the admissions profession.

Summary of Activities

It has been a busy year for the AP Committee. More violations have been reported, it seems, especially related to May 1 deadlines and colleges recruiting already enrolled students. As well, we started the process of learning the history of IACAC's Statement of Practices & Courtesies, contacting Mary Lee Hoganson who has authored NACAC's past on its website. We presented at the District Seminar at Dominican University, as well as at the IACAC Annual Conference--all received strong evaluations. As well, we will continue to present at the Summer Institute.

Recommendations for the Future

The committee is quickly moving toward a smaller size of 6 total members: 3 high school and 3 college. This smaller size will mean that committee members share their thoughts and opinions more openly than in the past, and be strong advocates for the SPGP. We are excited about the new direction of our committee. As well, the committee needs to examine the usefulness to the membership of the Statement of Practices & Courtesies, and make some recommendations to the Executive Board. Continued education of IACAC members, especially newer members, is a priority.

Committee Members

Amy Belstra, Libertyville High School Carlene Klaas, DePaul University David Bennett, Lake Forest College (now Legal Prep) Gwen Kanelos, Concordia College Chicago Deb Michelini, College of Lake County Margaret Miranda, St Ignatius Prep Michelle Schlack, Niles North High School

Annual Conference

Chair

Beth Gilfillan, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart

Purpose

Through a team of dedicated volunteers and staff members, the Annual Conference Committee organizes and manages the largest IACAC professional development opportunity for IACAC members.

Summary of Activities

On April 29-May 1, 2015, 832 individuals convened at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, IL for the IACAC Annual Conference: Imagine Possibilities. The overall evaluations, as well as individual session and program evaluations were overwhelmingly positive!

Throughout the three days of conference, attendees had the chance to participate in 63 sessions, attend various receptions hosted by IACAC committees, give back to IACAC and Project Reach, and take a break to visit with other members while discussing ways we can better serve students. There were also opportunities to socialize, enjoy meals together, and unwind with some great entertainment options.

The conference was made possible by the 32 conference committee chairs, the IACAC Exec Board and standing committee chairs, and our IACAC staff – Donna Epton, Linda Haffner, Dan Saavedra, and Sherry Hall. Without these individuals, specifically the conference committee chairs and IACAC staff, the conference could not have been a success! We would like to thank them, as well as the committee members who all so graciously agreed to help out, think creatively, work hard, and imagine the possibilities. Thank you!!

The annual conference is always a huge success, and this year was no different. In addition to the amazing opportunities typically present, there were a few new initiatives: an increased focus on first timers, including a first timers program track; a conference app; an endnote panel; and a special guest speaker – the Illinois Attorney General. Details about each aspect of conference are below.

We had some amazing speakers at conference! Jon McGee was the keynote speaker, presenting his engaging and thoughtful take on "Educationomics" – examining the interaction and oversight of mission, market, and management in the context of economic, demographic, and cultural change. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was also a special guest speaker, sharing her Office's work and concerns regarding the student loan crisis. NACAC President-Elect, Phil Trout, offered inspiring words and celebrated the importance of IACAC and how much great work our association has done! Finally, we concluded the conference with an endnote panel of industry greats – Aliza Gilbert, Patrick O'Connor, Jon Boeckenstedt, and Jim Cotter. Each offered his or her

perspective on where our profession has been, where it's going, and what areas might be up-and-coming.

The conference receptions were also a success. We hosted several: Retirees, Graduate Students, Exec Board, Scholarship, IAS, Exhibitors, and Mentorship/First Timers. These continue to be great ways to socialize with different groups of people. The Retirees also had a separate lunch on Wednesday, which was well attended, and the Retirees committee chairs were able to conduct some committee business at the same time.

Five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to high school students. The scholarship chairs and committee did a great job evaluating the applicants and have streamlined the process very well! The recipients were honored at the conference, then they and their families were treated to a reception in the President's Suite.

An exciting part of conference is always the awards presentation. This year, the James A. Alexander Newcomer Award was given to: Emma Adebayo, Patrick Harker, Kato Gupta, and Sarah Goldman. We also congratulated seven deserving Molly K. Arnold President's Service Recognition Awards winners: Drew Eder, Traci Flowers, Erin Hoover, Kathy Major, Julie Nelson, Omar Solomon, and Jason Swann. The IACAC Friend to College Counseling Award was presented to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. We were happy to give this to the Illinois Attorney General while she was present for her remarks at the opening session. The Patricia A. Kasowski Recognition Award was given to Naomi Ewing, a very deserving recipient! Her family and colleagues were present for the surprise, which was incredibly touching. Finally, a new award was added this year: the Inclusion Access and Success Award. The inaugural recipient was Eric Ruiz, an incredible advocate for students!

The communications and social media committee, along with Dan Saavedra, did an awesome job with the general communications to our members for information about the conference, registration, and a huge new job – the conference app. Overall, 291 people used the app. The committee was charged with not only communicating information before and during conference, but also generating "hype" via social media and the app. The Click app game was very fun for many attendees! In the evaluations, 61% of respondents said that emails are the best method of communication for conference information. Of the respondents who rated the app (259), 91% said it was "excellent" or "good".

Entertainment was a huge success! They coordinated with on-site and the hotel to ensure their programs would work, and also with communications/social media to advertise. On Wednesday, we had trivia, which was so much fun! Then we had a comedian Thursday, followed by a DJ and pub games. The committee did a great job offering various entertainment options so that there was something for everyone!

Evaluations is such an important, yet thankless job! So thank you to the chairs and many volunteers! Four hundred eleven attendees filled out the overall evaluation. This year, the committee also thought of wearing buttons to promote volunteering. The buttons said

"Ask me how to volunteer". This was a great idea to capture some of the energy attendees have and get them to volunteer right in the moment! The overall evaluation asked about: registration, duration of the conference, schedule/format, conference website, network opportunities, knowledge and ideas gained, value, and mobile app. The results are available in detail; they are overwhelmingly positive! The individual session evaluations were also shared with the presenters.

We had a record number of exhibitors this year at 31. The exhibitor form was revamped, making it easier for them to register, and easier for the committee to work with the information. The committee did a great job coordinating exhibitors, sponsors, and advertisers. The exhibitor fees brought in \$18,895; sponsors brought in \$20,850; and advertising brought in \$3,250. This conference would not be possible without the generous support of our exhibitors, sponsors, and advertisers, so thank you!

The First Timers committee had three new chairs and they made the first timers' experience amazing! This year, in addition to the first timers lunch, we had a first timers program track, identifying sessions that would be of the most use to first timers. They also hosted welcome tables for first timers on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, helped host a First Timers/Mentorship reception, and presented a session on Wednesday and Thursday during the first session slot each day, called "Tips for IACAC First Timers". The response from first timers about the entire focus on this group has been extremely strong!

On-site committee is another thankless job, so thank you to the chairs and committee members! They helped the conference run smoothly and trouble-shoot any and all issues that came up. They were incredibly detailed and organized, which is difficult to do with 63 sessions and over 800 people.

The program committee presented 63 educational sessions throughout the 3 days. They ensured a wide variety of topics, in terms of years of experience, type of institution, and role within our profession. We had three tracks that people could choose to follow: Guiding the Way to Inclusion, Transfer, and First Timers.

Project Reach received six nominations, and chose two schools this year: East Aurora High School and Kelly High School. This year, they created a rubric to help them choose from the nominated schools. They received generous donations from Knox College for the 5K (\$1500), Colleges that Change Lives (\$1000), Marquette University (\$750), and Chicago Area Regional Representatives (\$375). The committee successfully organized the 5K again, with 81 participants and T-shirt sales, and raised another \$2013. The committee also expanded the restaurant options for attendees to patronize, then the restaurants gave a portion of proceeds to Project Reach. The Ram contribution was \$394 and Good Tequila Mexican Grill was \$127. We are grateful to all the donors as well as our members who contributed and participated! We were able to donate 14 boxes of school supplies and \$1,000 to each school, \$1,000 in student scholarships to each school, and offer IACAC memberships, registration for Summer Institute, and professional development opportunities for the selected schools. The committee presented the two

schools at the conference opening session, including videos from each one. It was an excellent presentation!

Raffle committee chairs and members were diligent in their collection of items for the silent auction and raffle items ahead of conference. During conference, that diligence continued in their encouragement of attendees to donate in order to win a raffle item, silent auction item, or 50/50 cash. This year, they successfully added another 50/50 raffle pull on Wednesday, which raised \$414 for IACAC (\$828 total, half going to the winner). The second and third raffle pulls brought in \$1000 then \$511 to IACAC. Altogether, the various opportunities presented by the raffle committee brought in \$5,668.

Registration and hospitality does a great job of organizing the registration process ahead of time, as well as continuing this during conference and welcoming everyone. While registration was down this year, we still had a strong showing of members at our conference.

Tellers had three new chairs this year, and they worked hard to ensure they ran the voting and election portions of conference ethically and thoroughly. They were well-organized and meticulous in the details leading up to conference, and again at conference.

The Annual Conference came to an end with the conclusion of the General Membership meeting. This meeting served as an opportunity to thank Mike Dunker, Past President, for his service and time to the association. As well, Anne Kremer was recognized and passed the gavel to Beth Gilfillan who will take over as President on June 1, 2015.

Recommendations for the Future

Keep the enhanced programming for First Timers. This was one of the best new features of conference, and the chairs did an amazing job thinking about many different ways to make people feel welcome and take advantage of all of conference's offerings.

Nominations and Credentials – they've always been listed as a conference committee, so they are requested to fill out conference reports and come to meetings, and also treated as a standing committee in terms of writing reports and attending meetings. I suggest we stop listing them as a conference committee to avoid confusion and duplicate requests to the Past President (Chair). This year, in the conference program, I just listed them in the standing committees list, rather than in both.

Project Reach is an ad hoc committee. Similar to Nominations and Credentials, they were being treated as both a conference and a standing committee. This created some confusion in terms of communication and reports. Since we are exploring the possibility of becoming a standing committee, as well as the possibility of merging with the new Professional Pathways program, it makes sense for them to be included with the standing committee. They will still continue their participation in conference (5K, restaurant agreements, presentation of schools) and communicate with the Conference Chair about these.

Two of the evaluations "themes" were to explore a different time of year (especially not May 1) and also explore alternating locations so that more people outside of the Chicago area can benefit from conference. With the addition of PARCC testing in Illinois this year, we may continue to have issues with high school counselor attendance, so it would be worth it to at least explore other options for the future. One other concern that is commonly brought up is the wi-fi issue. Perhaps at another location, we could provide wi-fi throughout the conference facilities to all attendees. In this day in age, we are doing a disservice to our members and attendees by not providing this.

For the second year, we held a Candidate Meet & Greet. This year, we moved the time, since the attendance was very low last year (it was early in the morning). It was held in conjunction with the Mentorship/First Timers Reception. It seems like a great idea, but again it was poorly attended. Perhaps this can be redesigned to be more formal or offered as a session, or it might not be worth it to hold this again.

Another group of comments from the evaluations were that there should be more opportunities for the high school and college sides to meet and mingle, both formally and informally. I think this is a great point. I think we spend a lot of time creating programming for the different "categories" of our members: high school, college, transfer, retirees, etc. that we forget to also focus on coming together in different ways.

This year, the Program committee did not have immediate access to the conference evaluations. I recommend that the Program chairs have access to and take a look at these early on, as well as the attendance at each session, to help guide them in their selection and recruitment of presenters.

I worked hard to try to have equal representation of college and high school members as conference committee chairs, as well as people who chaired committees in the past along with bringing in new people. Although this can be tough, I encourage future Conference Chairs to continue to bring a diverse group of chairs to the committee.

The entertainment after Thursday's dinner might not be necessary. Attendance at the comedian was better this year than the improv group after last year's dinner (because of the efforts of the committee), but it still seems that people might want a break between dinner and entertainment. This might save some money as well as give people a short break.

Continue to offer the conference app. It was a great way to engage attendees in a new way, and the responses were great! We have a two-year contract with Crowd Compass, so we will at least have it for next year.

Explore the possibility of enhancing sponsorship opportunities through the app. We may get more interest from sponsors if they know that their information will be posted on the app, especially if we share how many downloads it had this year.

The endnote session was also highly regarded. One suggestion was to have the speakers up on a platform so they could be seen by everyone – I think this would be helpful. I recommend having something like the endnote session, to try and keep people around on Friday, rather than another session.

In addition to these suggestions, Donna Epton, Dan Saavedra, Linda Haffner, and the committee chairs all submitted thoughts for future conferences. These can be viewed in the committee reports submitted to President, Anne Kremer.

Committee Members

Donna Epton, Event Coordinator, IACAC Linda Haffner, Executive Assistant, IACAC Sherry Hall, Publication Specialist, IACAC

Communications & Social Media Ryan Downey, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Mike Melinder, University of Iowa Laura Stetson, Lake Forest High School

Entertainment Sue Sanders, Glenbard West High School Omar Solomon, Eastern Illinois University Sean Warren-Crouch, College of DuPage

Evaluations

Wallace Holder, Grand Valley State University Dan Miller, Adlai E Stevenson High School Robert Yerkan, Rolling Meadows High School

Exhibitors, Sponsorship & Advertising Michelle Adams, Elmhurst College Kristen Doktor, Deerfield High School William Morrison, Highland Park High School

First Timers Traci Flowers, Loyola Academy Patrick Harker, University of Wisconsin-Platteville Sylvia Hernandez, University of Arizona

On-Site Mike Ford, Michigan State University Christine Grotzke, Michigan Technological University Cindy Kasten, Hinsdale Central High School

Program Kato Gupta, Plainfield North High School Michael O'Connor, New Trier Township High School Sheila Schechinger, University of Iowa

Project Reach Emma Adebayo, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Marsha Hubbuch, College Counseling Services Chris Wolf, DePaul Prep

Raffle

Rachel O'Connell, Missouri University of Science & Technology Andrea Postiglione, Lawrence Technological University Stacey Schlaud, West Leyden High School

Registration & Hospitality Diane Bourn, Prospect High School Nancy Davis, John Hersey High School

Tellers Suzanne LoSasso, Beacon Academy Eric Ruiz, University of St. Francis Kim Wiley, James B. Conant High School

College Awareness & Preparation

Chairs

Brian Hodges, University of Illinois Springfield Emily Johnson, Augustana College Kasey Mather, City Colleges of Chicago

Purpose

The mission of the College Awareness and Preparation (CAP) Committee is to provide the students and families of Illinois with practical, timely and accurate information on the college process. Its work focuses on improving student, family and community awareness of the wide range of college selection and admission processes. The committee will make service and outreach to nontraditional, under served and underrepresented populations a particular emphasis of its work. CAP is a cooperative effort of IACAC, the Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA), the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and select lending institutions.

Summary of Activities

Camp College 2014

- 37 attendees from 7 counties and 25 high schools
- All 34 students who responded to the survey question about overall experience rated the program a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale; 20 of the 34 gave it a full 5
- 34 of the attendees agreed with the statement "I am now prepared to take ownership of my college search process" (the other 3 responded "neutral")

Motivate Me 2015

- Shifted to registration process rather than application
- Developed online registration with the help of Betadac Media
- Continued increase in attendance, with 73 young men
- 85% of attendees would recommend the conference to a friend next year, and 84% thought the conference was worthy of their time

Camp College 2015 preparation

- Developed more thorough online application process with the help of Betadac Media
- Two committee members raised a total of \$520 by running the Shamrock Shuffle in Chicago this year
- Introduced site bid proposal system for Camp College, resulting in a new hosting partnership. Camp College 2015 will be held at University of Illinois-Springfield, Illinois College, Millikin University, and Illinois State University.

Recommendations for the Future

- Continue to expand the geographic diversity of Camp College
- Continue to strengthen the mentorship component of Camp College

- Explore shifting Motivate Me back a week so that programs fall near each other in the same fiscal year, and Motivate Me falls five months after its budget is requested rather than 17 months after the budget request
- Improve alumni engagement in both programs
- Revise and better utilize Camp College host site bid process
- Find ways to engage more high school partners in the committee's work

Committee Members

Emma Adebayo, University of Nebraska Viviann Anguiano, Loyola University Rhonda Bell, Upward Bound - Gary Comer Youth Center Yaneth Bello, Northwestern University Ziggy Blackwell, Illinois College Reuben Burnley, Dominican University Christopher Chiakulas, Round Lake High School Tiffany Dallas, Southern Illinois University Torrey Eason, University of Arkansas Andriana Esparza, Oakton Community College Aseret Gonzalez, Eastern Illinois University Gil Gutierrez, Central Michigan University Marsha Hubbuch, College Counseling Services Sparkle Hunt, Loyola University Liz Hutchinson, Youth Guidance Joel Johnson, Western Illinois University Jalena Jones, Thornwood High School Jesus Magana, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Dave Marcial, Golden Apple Foundation Thea Meierkort, Oak Lawn Community High School DJ Menifee, Knox College Ashlee Mishler, Oakton Community College Maureen Mohan, York Community High School Lauren O'Connor, Westmont High School April Ponte, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Stephanie Shanahan, Round Lake High School Omar Solomon, Eastern Illinois University Roberto Suarez, Homewood-Flossmoor High School Glenda Townsend, Bremen High School Brian Vaughan, Joliet Catholic Academy Sydni Williams, The University of Alabama at Birmingham Chelsea Woodard, Eastern Illinois University Briana Wright, Saint Louis University Kelvin Yarrington, Governors State University

Credentials

Chair

Mike Dunker, Western Illinois University

Purpose

The Credentials Committee is comprised of IACAC members on both the secondary and post-secondary side whose main responsibility is to review the IACAC by-laws and make recommendations to the Executive Board. In addition, the committee reviews the by-laws to help maintain consistency with the NACAC and any updates related to NACAC changes. The committee is tasked with providing feedback regarding by-law questions throughout the IACAC year. For example, the committee will assist in determining membership questions. This committee meets once a year in January and has various follow up via email and phone calls.

Summary of Activities

The Credentials Committee met on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Concordia University. At this meeting, the committee reviewed all IACAC by-laws and made the various updates based on information submitted by the Executive Board, the committees, and other appropriate changes.

In addition, the committee discussed the IACAC policy and procedures manual. This ad hoc committee was appointed by the IACAC President in August. This committee is an ad hoc committee that will work on this new manual over the next year. The manual and updates will be approved by the board and will be placed on the IACAC website.

Once the Annual Conference is complete, the updated by-laws will need to be shared with Linda Haffner and Dan Saavedra, to send to NACAC and put on our website. This should be done by the end of May.

Recommendations for the Future

The Credentials Committee should be established early in the IACAC year in order to assist with various questions that may come about regarding our by-laws. The committee should then review the by-laws prior to January of the IACAC year so that updates can be shared prior to the one meeting each year. This will allow for a more productive and efficient meeting.

Committee Members

Kelli Allen, Iowa State University Michael Bendorf, Illinois College David Bennett, Lake Forest College Todd Burrell, SIUE Angela Cooksey, Bradley University Alison Crowley, NMU Emily Johnson, Augustana College Gwen Kenelos, Concordia University DJ Menifee, Knox College Kathy McSherry, Eastern Illinois University Jennifer Paar Gross, University of Denver Joe Prieto, Retired member Michelle Rogers, Saint Louis University Ellen Rostker, Chicagoland Jewish High School Carin Smith, Lawrence University Jessice Talbert, University of Wiswconsin at Whitewater Shawn Wochner, Western Illinois University

District Seminars

Chairs

Megan Koester, McKendree University Kathy Major, Joliet Catholic Academy Jason Swann, Rend Lake College

Purpose

Brilliantly and smoothly execute district seminars for all locations. Provide support to help with the transition of new chairs so they love the position and will fight to keep it for years to come.

Summary of Activities

Committee Timeline has been amended this year to a more timely one that we will implement this upcoming season in order to remain on top of the different areas. This was the finalized timeline which was used for the 2014-2015 year: August and September

Connect with District Seminar Chairs

- Introduce yourself
- Discuss need for committee; also committee members registered IACAC members
- Remind them of the plan to provide session topics and descriptions by early December.

Request District Seminar details

- Committee names, institutions, titles
- Location
- Dates

Discuss any changes to the process: committee formation, district seminar format, pricing, registration, evaluation

- Discuss plan for fundraising/donations
- Provide Board contact with update by September board meeting

October

- Send Save the Date to IACAC list serve
- Work on mailing list for non-IACAC members for each seminar
- Provide Board contact with update by early November board meeting

November

- Get updates from committees.
- Attend Exec Board meeting update on cadre and seminar development
- Touch base with committees about final seminar session descriptions

December

• Receive seminar session descriptions and review carefully

- Provide to past president, president and president-elect for changes
- Submit final text to Webmaster
- Verify and tweak registration process
- Verify and tweak confirmation process
- Contact sponsors (ACT usually sponsors each year)

January

- Review website
- Review proof of postcard.
- Verify District Seminar Coordinators are prepared to send confirmations
- Contact Media Relations to post to Facebook and also in the newsletter
- Discuss Project Reach outreach
- Discuss Membership outreach at Seminars
- Discuss budgets and reimbursement plan

February

- Registrations start to arrive. Enter into spreadsheet, save hard copy and store checks in safe and secure location.
- Send registration lists to seminar chairs once/week, or as requested.
- I recommend sending confirmation via email only Attach agenda, map and parking pass if needed.
- Send project reach reminders

March

- Registrations continue to arrive, but slow down significantly.
- Send final lists
- Numerous correspondence with district chairs and participants who have questions about the program
- Consider evaluations
- Attend programs, seek input from chairs as to what time to arrive and what to bring
- Send Thank you notes to all District Seminar Coordinators

April

- Submit Annual Report
- Wrap up any loose ends
- Plan District Seminar Coordinator get together at IACAC Conference?

May

- Submit newsletter article.
- Continue wrapping up loose ends, etc.

Recommendations for the Future

1. Overall attendance at many District Seminars was slightly down. In many cases, weather played a crucial role in this as many professionals had to choose the days

which they used in for professional development. With that being said, we received many positive reports on the content of the seminars and the participation of the groups involved.

- 2. This marked the first year that the University of Illinois at Springfield hosted a District Seminar and we are happy to report that at this time, they are planning to do so again next year. They will however, be using a different coordinator as Noelle Bourne has taken a position elsewhere leaving us with no true contact at the University to host. Her suggestion was to utilize Brain Hodges and work with him to see whom he may recommend. Jason Swann will follow up on that suggestion.
- 3. Suggestions that were evident through the feedback from various Seminars were issues with the PARCC testing conflict as a couple of the Seminars were offered during that week. This undoubtedly hurt attendance. Also, conflicting dates with other District Seminars. It appears that we have more and more educational professionals who want to attend multiple seminars and we feel this is a positive trend. Perhaps in the future we can be more cognizant as to when they are offered regionally so that they back on one another allowing school counselors and others to attend more than one seminar.
- 4. We are looking forward to meeting with the site coordinators this August and speaking with them personally. Hopefully the winter will not be so harsh and plans will go much more smoothly for everyone. Overall, we feel the District Seminars were again a huge success in Illinois and for IACAC and that this program is extremely worth continuing.

Committee Members

April Bauer, Bradley University Annette Braden, Norris City - Omaha - Enfield High School Karen Dahlstrom, Augustana College Kassie Daly, WIU-Quad Cities Elyse Rench, McKendree Michelle Adams, Elmhurst College Jon Tomaso, Dominican University Andrea Puleo, Elmhurst College Noelle Bourne, University of Illinois at Springfield Jill Diaz, Aurora University Katy Saalfeld, Northern Illinois University Brad Kain, Homewood-Flossmoor High School Sean Witten, Lewis University

Event Coordinator

Chair

Donna Epton, Retired, Schaumburg High School

Purpose

One of the roles of the event coordinator is to research sites and negotiate contracts at properties for future IACAC Annual Conferences. In addition, the event coordinator works with the current president-elect in developing the annual conference budget and with the on-site chairs, executive assistant and other conference committee chairs regarding the entire conference planning. The event coordinator has assisted all three presidents with a myriad of tasks related to the conference. Throughout the conference planning, the event coordinator is the primary liaison between the president-elect, the conference committee chairs and the conference hotel.

Summary of Activities

In 2012, the Executive Board requested the event coordinator look at negotiating contracts for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 IACAC Annual Conference. A presentation was made to the board regarding potential locations and dates based on past history of the conferences and predicted dates for other events, which impact IACAC members. It was clear the board wanted to maintain a spring conference to be held at a hotel and avoid as much as possible conflicts arising from Advanced Placement Testing, May 1 deadline, Prairie State Testing (now PARCC testing), the annual AACRAO Conference, spring breaks and graduations. The board was presented with a number of date options and a recommendation the location continue to be at The Westin Northwest Chicago. Once dates and location were approved, contracts were negotiated. At the January 11, 2013 Executive Board Meeting the contracts were approved.

The IACAC Annual Conference will be held on the following dates at The Westin Northwest Chicago, Itasca:

- May 4 May 6, 2016
- April 26 April 28, 2017

Recommendations for the Future

It is important for the association to plan a number of years in advance for conference sites in order to acquire the best dates and prices. A continuing relationship with one property is very advantageous in keeping cost increase to a minimum. It is important to note that the cost of attendance at the conference has been for quite a few years below the actual meal cost at the conference. This is possible due to the money generated by sponsors, exhibitors, advertisers and raffle. Additionally, estimating actual meals consumed vs. ordered, is a great savings to the bottom line of the conference.

It is very helpful to have the consistency of an ongoing event coordinator to develop relationships with a property, become familiar with contracts and help the president-elect understand how to develop a budget and plan a successful conference. As an appointed position, rather than elected one, this can be more effectively accomplished.

Finance

Chair DeVone Eurales, Treasurer, Knox College

Purpose

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to annually review the IACAC Fiscal Policy and advise the Executive Board on recommended changes in the best interest of the organization. The Committee reviews the financial wellbeing of IACAC and discusses ways to increase income and decrease expenses while continuing to support the mission of IACAC, IACAC members, and the students the organization serves. The Finance Committee is charged with developing a budget for the next fiscal year to be approved by the Executive Board and the entire membership at the annual conference.

Summary of Activities

The Finance Committee met twice during this fiscal year, the first at the NACAC Conference in Indianapolis, IN on September 18, 2014 and the second in Mt. prospect, IL on February 5, 2015. Having the treasurer elect position as a voting board member has helped with managing activities and with communication between the finance committee and the board. The following items were discussed this year: 2015-2016 fiscal year budget, annual review of contractual & stipend staff, possible increase of professional development funding available, and possibly utilizing a financial advisor.

At our first meeting, the finance committee discussed the possibility of adding one of the treasures to the annual conference budget conversations, possibly increasing the amount for reimbursement for travel to national conferences, more training for committee chairs and liaisons on budgeting and grant funding for professional development. These conversations were vital and shaped the vision for the committee.

In November the treasurer reached out to committee Chairs for changes to their expense and income operating budgets for the next fiscal year. Committee chairs were asked to provide recommendations to the finance committee to assist in the development of proposed fiscal year 2015-2016 budget at the February finance committee meeting. The finance committee with the endorsement of the executive board also asked committee chairs to incorporate media communication (internally known by the executive board and committee chairs as Betadac) services into their proposed budgets.

In February, the Finance Committee met and developed a proposed budget that was approved at the March 17, 2015 Executive Board Meeting. The approved budget was proposed and voted on during the Membership Meeting at The Annual Conference on April 30, 2015. We also discussed possibly having a financial advisor.

The Finance Committee also reviewed and updated staff contracts & stipends and discussed the removal of the IACAC fax line at the January Finance Committee Meeting.

Recommendations for the Future

While we were able to further progress on training committee chairs and liaisons, presenting the annual budget and increasing the professional development grant dollars, we recommend continuing conversations on increasing reimbursement for travel to national conferences and utilizing a financial advisor.

The Finance committee is researching utilizing a Financial Advisor. In the past, our affiliate utilized a financial advisor and we have reached out to other affiliates and have received some great insight from Pennsylvania ACAC. They have been using a Financial Advisor for 15 years and have both aggressive and safe investment accounts. There would likely be a cost associated with using a Financial Advisor based on the investment amount. The Treasurers will continue exploring and will report back in the future.

The Finance Committee has a positive outlook for the future of IACAC. The Committee should continue to scrutinize expenses and look for new opportunities to maximize revenue. A thorough review of the fiscal policy is needed on an annual basis. The committee recommends that the contracts of IACAC staff be continue to be updated each year along with job descriptions.

Committee Members

Mike Dunker, Past President, Western Illinois University Beth Gilfillan, President-Elect, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart Linda Haffner, Executive Assistant Anne Kremer, President, DePaul University Courtney Wallace, Treasurer-Elect, Augustana College Patrick Walsh, Past Treasurer, Illinois State University

Government Relations

Chairs

Steven Landgraf, Concordia University Chicago Bob Skorczewski, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Paul Welsh, Fenton Community High School

Purpose

The purpose of the IACAC Government Relations Committee is to inform IACAC members of pertinent public policy issues and upcoming legislation that affects counselors and students. Government Relations members also promote the goals of IACAC to government officials at both the state and federal level.

Summary of Activities

Attendance at the Annual Federal Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

The IACAC presidents and GRC chairs attended NACAC's Legislative Conference and Lobby Day. The group met with staff from Illinois Congressional delegation:

- Senator Mark Kirk
- Representative Robin Kelly
- Representative Tammy Duckworth
- Representative Bob Dold
- Representative Jan Schakowsky
- Representative Luis Gutierrez
- Representative Danny Davis

Additionally, the IACAC members delivered information packets to several other members of the Illinois delegation:

- Senator Dick Durbin
- Representative Mike Quigley
- Representative Mike Bost
- Representative Rodney Davis
- Representative Aaron Schock

Coordination of and Attendance at the Annual Springfield Advocacy Day

This year's Springfield Advocacy Day was very successful. 25 IACAC members attended the event, which included a brief training session followed by meetings and information drop-offs at the capitol. 25 meetings occurred between IACAC members and legislators (or their staff). 24 information packets were dropped off at the offices of legislators where we were unable to secure meetings.

This year the Government Relations Committee wanted to expand efforts to raise the profile of IACAC in Springfield. A few legislators stopped by the evening happy hour reception held the night before Advocacy Day. The IACAC group was also recognized from the floor of the Illinois House of Representatives.

Presentation of Session at the IACAC Annual Conference

At the Annual Conference the GRC chairs presented on the year's activities and some notable legislative issues. The session featured guest panelist Katharine Gricevich from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She offered her insights on the particular issues the committee has been following, as well as giving her take on the atmosphere in Springfield.

Tracking and Endorsing Legislation

In January 2015 the IACAC Exec Board agreed to give GRC expanded authority to vet and endorse legislation and other legislative actions that clearly align with IACAC priorities. The GRC chairs identified several issues that fell within the guidelines adopted by the board.

Federal Issues:

• IACAC signed on to a letter opposing budget sequestration cuts to education

State Issues:

- Endorsed HB 0143: IL DREAM Fund Tax Check-off
- Endorsed SB 1455 (With witness Testimony): Requires one assessment be administered to high school students that is valid for college admissions
- Endorsed SB 672: Adds higher education student loan information to Consumer Education curriculum in high school

Recommendations for the Future

It is recommended that the Government Relations Committee continue to track and endorse legislation that falls within the guidelines identified by the IACAC board.

GRC should also seek opportunities to help build the IACAC profile among legislators and agency leaders. This might include inviting additional legislators to the pre-Advocacy Reception. GRC may also wish to consider coordinating visits to the district offices of legislators so that their contact with IACAC members occurs throughout the year.

Committee Members

Amanda Hiltunen, DePaul University Becca Foley, Illinois Tech Bianca Reynoso, City Colleges of Chicago Bill Morrison, Highland Park High School Bob Skorczewski, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Bob Zigmund, New Trier High School Chassy Golz, Elmhurst College Elizabeth Parades, DePaul University Erin Updegraff, DePaul University Evan Wilson, Illinois College

Gwen Kanelos, Concordia University Chicago Jason Swann, Rend Lake College Jennifer Sloan, Cornell College Jim Rohde, DePaul University Jose Alferez, College of Dupage Josephine West, Ohio State University Josh Binder, Aurora University Laura Docherty, Fenwick High School Lisa Hikes, Hinsdale Central High School Melissa Champs, City Colleges of Chicago Michael Ryan, Bradley University Zac George, DePaul University Nick Sanders, Eastern Illinois University Paul Welsh, Fenton High School Robert Freitag, St. Charles North High School Shaun Keating, Roosevelt University College of Pharmacy Shawn Wochner, Western Illinois University Steffani Schneider, Concordia University Chicago Steve Landgraf, Concordia University Chicago

Illinois College Fair

Chair

Carin Smith, Lawrence University

Purpose

The College Fair Committee is responsible for establishing the IACAC College Fair schedule, overseeing policy and procedures, and promoting the College Fair Calendar. Beginning in September 2010, the Committee also took on overseeing the planning and implementation of the Articulation Unplugged program, held each fall at Illinois State University. The Regional College Fair Coordinator shall be the chairperson and the committee shall consist of nine members, each of whom shall serve a three-year term. Efforts will be made to include a member who serves on the Chicago NACAC Fair committee and at least one committee member will also serve as one of the chief organizers of Articulation Unplugged.

Summary of Activities

- Added the Peoria Area, college of DuPage and spring Rock Valley College programs to the 2014-15 ICE Schedule, bringing total Regional programs to 32; will add Niles schools and Kishwaukee College to the 2015-16 schedule.
- Added even more enhancements to the college fair list available on the IACAC website: fairs can appear in map, list or calendar form; fairs can be filtered by date, type, schools invited and recent updates.
- Launched a social media (Twitter) campaign with some of the spring fairs, this will expand in 2015-16
- Offered a college fair workshop in June at Rend Lake College (spearheaded by Melanie Coffman and Drew Eder) in order to offer support and best practices ideas for Regional College Fairs; may expand to District Seminars in 2016.
- Presented at IACAC Conference on history and future of Illinois College Fairs

Recommendations for the Future

- Investigate development of online fair evaluation
- Investigate college fair scanner options (again)
- Offer Regional Fair posters and postcards in electronic as well as print form

Committee Members

Sue Biemeret, Stevenson High School Kristi Bonn, North Central College Melanie Coffman retired from Barrington High School Michele Darnell, Illinois Wesleyan University Drew Eder, Highland Park High School Erin Hoover, McKendree University Debbie Lamb, Illinois State University Kim Myers, Marist High School Timmi Turley, University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign Courtney Wallace, Augustana College, IACAC Treasurer-Elect Shawn Wochner, Western Illinois University

Inclusion, Access, and Success

Chairs

Traci Flowers, Loyola Academy Dan Gin, Niles West High School Luke Kerber, Aurora University

Purpose

The Inclusion, Access and Success Committee shall advance the association's commitment to inclusion for underserved students and the educational professionals who guide them. The IAS Committee strives to heighten awareness, consciousness and sensitivity to the issues of culture, race, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender, age and other differences as they pertain to post-secondary access. The IAS committee develops educational programs for counseling professionals working with students who, for reasons of disadvantaged experiences, are often denied access to post-secondary educational opportunities.

Summary of Activities

Submitted Articles for the new IACAC Newsletter format to keep IAS issues in the spotlight:

- Eric Ruiz quoted in NY Times about financial aid for undocumented students. 2.27.2015
- Focusing on undocumented student access in Chicago, Luke Kerber 2.21.2015
- Free Webinar Holistic support for undocumented students 2.5.2015
- #FirstGenofficehour tweet chat 12.1.2014
- IAS reception at Annual Conference, Sparkle Hunt 5.20.2015

IAS submitted sessions to ISCA Conference

April 24, 2015 Skokie: College Options for Students with Disabilities, presented by Liz Hannon.

IAS promoted and publicized the NACAC Step by Step Guides (CARR & District Seminars)

IAS offered a NACAC step by step training for the CARR Professional Development Day on 2.19.2015, Luke Kerber presented. About 20 CARR members attended

IAS presented the NACAC step by step guides at the following District Seminars to reach counselors outside of Chicago:

- Western IL University, 3/6/2015, Emily Johnson, Augustana College
- Lewis Univ, 3/6/2015, Farrah Ellison-Moore Marian Catholic High School & Matthew Sheahan, East Aurora High School
- McKendree Univ, 3/13/2015, Luke Kerber, Aurora University
- NIU, 3/13/2015, Jessica Rosenberg, Lake Forest Academy

Created Resources for Counselors working with Homeless Students: Currently waiting Website Approval

Created Resources for Counselors working with LGBTQ Youth: Currently waiting Website Approval

Both were added to High School Counselor Toolkit as well.

Offered sessions at IACAC annual conference to heighten awareness, consciousness and sensitivity to the issues of culture, race, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender, age and other differences as they pertain to post-secondary access.

i.e. GWI: Surviving Privilege: A panel on low income first generation college students i.e. GWI: From DACA to College Diploma

i.e. GWI: Keeping the Dream Alive

Future Focus: Continue utilizing social media and technology to reach members who are not able to partipate in professional development events in person (i.e. Twitter Chats)

Recommendations for the Future

IAS will follow up with IACAC president elect - Michelle Rogers to make sure GWI is a consistent thread each year. IAS was unsure if GWI track was officially adopted as part of the annual conference.

Virtual Professional Development Events -removing barriers to financial and geographic limitations: All IAS members agreed that the biggest barrier for counselors is getting district approval to leave the office. IAS would like to continue to advocate for these members who could benefit for more virtual events. Can IACAC conference stream sessions? IAS will push this to the board, even having the Keynote, Endnote sessions or various GWI sessions streamed, maybe even for a possible lower cost option? This would also be a way to serve members south of I-80. Dakota ACAC organizes podcasts in order to serve two large geographic areas. This is something IAS would like to explore along with the following:

- Twitter Chats
- Recorded Conference Calls/Podcasts
- Webinars or streaming from IACAC conference

How can IAS foster growth among young admission professionals of color? How can we become more intentional?

- Ideas: Promote MMI to professionals of color and possible GWI tracks.
- Could we propose "IACAC fellows" can IACAC sponsor a few graduate students to attend conference or encourage offices to send their top student ambassadors to conference as a way to continue to promote the profession with a special interest in underrepresented professionals in mind.

IAS would like to support growing the IACAC High School toolkit: specifically in the section: special populations: Asian Americans, Black & African Americans, First

Generation, Hispanic & Latino, Homeless, Immigrant, LGBTQ, Low Income, Middle School, Special education, Undocumented.

Committee Members

Ebony Baker, Naperville North High School Audrey Barrientos, Western Illinois University Ziggy Blackwell, Illinois College Paris Brown, Lawrence University Tanya Cabrera, Illinois Institute of Technology Luke Chitwood, IIT-Boenings Scholars Academy Nicci Cisarik, Oakton Community College Robert Cook, Waubonsee Community College Mark Crawley, Governors State Farrah Ellison-Moore, Marian Catholic Andriana Esparza, Oakton Community College Gabrielle Feldman, Feldman College Consulting Traci Flowers, Lovola Academy Alicia Funes, Maine West High School - Intern Rachel Georgakis, Fenton High School Zachary George, Depaul University Aliza Gilbert, Highland Park High School Dan Gin, Niles West High School Sarah Goldman, Knox College Aseret Gonzalez, Eastern Illinois University Jenn Gross, University of Denver Chuck Gutman, Waukegan High School Elizabeth Hannon, Libertyville High School Wallace Holder, Grand Valley State University Sparkle Hunt, Loyola University Chicago Emily Johnson, Augustana College Luke Kerber, Aurora University Mayra Lagunas, Golden Apple Lucia Lopez, Depaul University Thea Meierkort, Lewis University Tony Minestra, Loyola Academy - Delegate Luis Narvaez, Chicago Public Schools Danielle Nightingale, Young Women's Leadership Charter Jerry Pope, Niles Township High School District 219 Shevon Porter, Northern Illinois University Jessica Rosenberg, Lake Forest College Matthew Sheahan, East Aurora High School Dana Whittaker, Willowbrook High School

Media Communications

Chairs

Sarah Goldman, Knox College Mike Melinder, University of Iowa Megan O'Rourke, Marquette University

Purpose

The Media Communications Committee serves IACAC and its members by providing news, information and additional relevant updates with regards to our organization and the counseling profession. Through the means of a quarterly electronic newsletter, website development and social media outlets, we strive to provide members with accurate and timely information to maximize membership benefits and provide resources and professional development opportunities to best serve our students and institutions.

Summary of Activities

The media communication committee continues to administer the fully electronic newsletter, "The Admission Essay." New this year, we formatted to provide real-time updates in a blog format. A quarterly review and wrap-up was sent like we've done in the past. We continue to work on maintaining updated information on the website by revising committee board reports to include updates for the website. The committee also implemented the Summer Programs Directory which provides a resource to high school counselors and the community on summer programs that are available for students to pursue at a wide variety of institution from Illinois and as well as neighboring states. The Summer Programs Directory currently boasts more than 80 summer enrichment programs for students to take advantage of to continue developing their interests.

This year was the second full year for the High School Counselor Toolkit. This resource provides high school counselors with resources in a variety of subjects, and its all available through the IACAC website.

Social media was a big part of many committee's plans this year, and the Media Communications committee continues to work with providing support in assisting with social media plans. New this year was a hashtag project through the Illinois College Fair committee to further connect with admission professionals and attending students and families.

Finally, Media Communications is responsible for maintenance of the job board and listserv management.

Much of our work comes through partnerships with other committees and groups. As always, the media communications committee provides assistance to any committee interested in pursuing new and different ways to reach the IACAC membership. The work the committee does varies from year to year, as IACAC is always implementing new programs and resources for its members. This is one of the strongest components of IACAC, and our hope is that will continue in the future. We are happy to be of service to

the board and the various committees, as part of our goal is to make this organization stronger.

Recommendations for the Future

With two new committee chairs this coming year, there will be many changes, additions, and edits to how the Media Communications committee works. The goal will be for more meetings with the committee, more involvement with the committee, and hopefully a stronger plan for transitioning committee members to committee chairs.

Other recommendations would include dividing responsibilities among committee chairs, sub-committees within the overall group and possible categories of articles for the newsletter. As the new group takes on their roles, these goals will evolve and change with their skills and talents.

Committee Members

Sarah Colangelo, Knox College Angie Cooksy, Bradley University Rob Galarza, DePaul University Zak George, DePaul University Erin Hoover, McKendree University Emily Johnson, Augustana College Joel Johnson, Viterbo University Lauren O'Connor Westmont High School Carin Smith, Lawrence University Jessica Talbert, University Wisconsin-Whitewater Jamie Lynn White, Northwestern University

Membership

Chairs

Carl Krause, Lake Zurich High School, Kim Wiley, James B. Conant High School

Purpose

The Membership Committee promotes membership within IACAC and NACAC. The Committee is involved with the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members through a variety of activities.

Summary of Activities

In November 2014, we sent a survey to ex-IACAC members whose memberships had lapsed in the past four years. There were 1,078 people who received the survey, and 139 responded. Most of the respondents indicated that they had left college admission counseling or the state. There were 109 survey recipients who renewed their membership shortly after getting the survey. We plan incorporate the survey into our communication/recruitment plan every fall.

In February 2015, the Membership Committee sent out a different survey to individuals from various organizations, including community colleges, high schools, CBOs, graduate programs, and colleges. Our goal is to find ways to broaden IACAC's reach and values, especially to those from historically underserved and underrepresented groups, but also to get feedback from current members. We had 236 total responses, 64% of whom are current IACAC members. As a result of the survey, the Membership Committee is exploring a partnership with ISCA, as well as a possible move toward an institutional model for membership.

The Membership Committee has updated the Membership Brochure that highlights membership benefits and professional development opportunities, including but not limited to Middle Management Institute, District Seminars, Summer Institute, and Annual Conference.

Recommendations for the Future

On the basis of our survey results and a push from IACAC leadership, we recommend finding ways to increase high-school membership, as well as downstate and community-college representation. We would also recommend establishing a communication plan for current members to reach out to new or returning members in the spirit of inclusiveness and camaraderie.

Committee Members

Traci Flowers, Loyola College Prep Alexander Hughes, CPS Julie Marlatt, College of DuPage Pat Cannon, retired Torrey Eason, University of Arkansas Shawn Wochner, Western Illinois University Sarah Esslinger, DePaul University Janine Laverdiere, Northern Illinois University

Retirees Part of the Membership Committee

Retiree Leaders

Sandie Gilbert, Highland Park High School, Retired George Kazluzsky, Hoffman Estates High School, Retired Maryanne Kelly, Maine South High School, Retired

Purpose

The IACAC retirees purpose is to share opportunities post-retirement, mentor new professionals, and provide professional development for underserved counselors and their students.

Summary of Activities

The committee chairs met separately to set goals and develop the IACAC Speaker's Bureau. The full retiree committee met three times this year to share their activities and confirm both the speaker volunteer and request forms for the IACAC website.

To date, 37 IACAC members have volunteered as speakers.

Both forms are presently active on the website. Mike Dessimoz and Kaz presented at Thornton Fractional High School this fall.

The committee also hosted a conference session for current and future retirees outlining the myriad of activities available post-retirement.

The committee chairs met with Project Reach chairs and will contact Project Reach applicants to ask if they would like speakers for the next school year.

Recommendations for the Future

Send an IACAC email blast out to membership explaining the Speakers Bureau and encouraging schools to request a speaker from the website form.

Continue to partner with Project Reach chairs and contact former Project Reach applicants to encourage them to request an IACAC speaker

Committee Members

Donna Epton, Schaumburg BC Juettner, Schaumburg Marsha Hubbuch, Riverside Brookfield Donna Virklan, Niles North Mike Dessimoz, Roosevelt University Mike McGuckin, Pontiac High School Pat Cannon, Highland Park Kathy O' Dell, Conant High School Kathy Faber, Glenbard East Kathy Holmberg, Glenbard South Nancy Stires, Conant High School Maxine Levy, Buffalo Grove High School

Mentorship

Chairs

Kato Gupta, Plainfield North High School, Kenya Taylor, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Purpose

The Mentorship Committee serves as an outreach committee of IACAC to provide new and veteran members with the opportunity to form professional partnerships, thus offering a comfort zone for problem solving and support in a profession that is constantly presented with new challenges. In addition to matching mentors and mentees, the mentorship committee hosts socials and networking opportunities for professionals to engage in a social setting. The members of the Mentorship committee also typically volunteer to work with the First Timer's committee as table hosts for the First Timers-Luncheon and also host a reception at the annual conference. All IACAC members interested in further developing relationships amongst colleagues are urged to join the Mentorship committee/program.

Summary of Activities

One of the goals of Mentorship this year was to create a sense of ownership amongst the committee to fully engage our members and generate excitement for helping to carry out the legacy that the Mentorship program can bring. To carry out this goal of actively engaging our current members, we created the following subcommittees: Social, M&M, Mentorship Outreach, and Liaisons.

Over the year, we saw committee members stepping up to help with distributing M&M's at 8 fairs and by planning and attending a total of 6 socials to engage colleagues from all around the state. Our liaison subcommittee helped to follow up with matches to track the effectiveness of the mentorship program and the matches that were made, while our Mentorship Outreach subcommittee made themselves available to speak with Graduate students or other individuals interested in learning more about our profession who didn't meet the qualifications to be in an official match.

We hosted four meetings throughout the year in various locations around Illinois (Illinois State-Articulation Unplugged, Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University, and Plainfield North High School). We made matches during the four meetings and were able to make a total of 51 Mentorship matches from the High School, College and Middle Management areas.

At the suggestion of our previous chairs, we also found creative ways to advertise the Mentorship program and to engage colleagues especially from the high school side. We placed a Mentorship flyer in the folders of all of the participants in the Illinois state articulations at SIU Edwardsville, SIU Carbondale, Illinois State and Governor's State.

During conference this year, we hosted one of the most highly attended Mentorship receptions yet. We partnered with the First Timer's chairs to intentionally invite First

Timer's to attend the reception and learn more about how they could become a mentor or mentee. We also partnered with the Executive Board to have a meet and greet for Executive Board candidates during the reception. The reception was a wonderful place for fellowship and for us to reflect back on the many relationships that have been built within our profession through the Mentorship program. We crowned our match of the year and played a rousing game of Mentorship BINGO.

During conference, we also had an opportunity to give the Mentorship program a plug during the First Timer's conference sessions on Wednesday and Thursday which I believe boosted interested in attending the reception, but also for completing the mentorship program application. We are looking forward to seeing how the mentorship program will continue to grow throughout this next year because of the efforts of our committee.

Recommendations for the Future

This coming year, we are looking forward to continuing on with our legacy of having our committee members take ownership over their time on the committee. To help with this, we are planning to ask all committee members to re-volunteer if they plan to continue on with us in hopes to only have members on the committee who are active and contribute to our goals.

We are also looking forward, in addition to hosting our normal socials, to asking committee members to host "Mentorship Meet-ups" around the state. The idea of this is to give matches an intentional time to casually get together to initiate contact and break the ice within a new match. Our hope is that the individuals would feel compelled to come to the Mentorship Meet-up and that the match can flourish from there.

We would also like to initiate a social media hashtag that matches can use when they meet up (whether at a Mentorship meet-up or during an individually planned meet-up) to post about their experiences within the Mentorship program. We hope this will generate some free marketing of the program and make more people interested in signing up to be a part of a match!

We are also recommending some changes on the Mentorship application. There are sections of the application that were taken away in the past that would be helpful information to know when trying to make matches. We especially would like to make sure to add back the question, "What are you hoping to gain from having a mentor/mentee?" We also would like to try to make more educated matches this coming year by matching people by geographic location for easier meet-up opportunities.

We are excited about another successful year in the Mentorship committee!!!

Committee Members

Kevin Bab, Gordon Tech College Prep Kate Brendel, Triad High School Quinton Clay, University of Illinois Ryan Downey, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Mitch Dunham, Lake Forest College

Torrey Eason, University of Arkansas Zak George, DePaul University Allegra Giulietti-Schmitt, Niles North High School Sarah Goldman, Knox College Patrick Harker, University of Wisconsin-Platteville Kato Hinden, Plainfield North High School Brian Hodges, University of Illinois Springfield Nora Hynes, DePaul University CJ Jones, DePaul University Jalena Jones, Thornwood High School Shaun Keating, Roosevelt University Shannon Kennedy, University of Illinois at Chicago Kristina Luster, Elmhurst College Mike Melinder, The University of Iowa Tony Minestra, Loyola Academy Julie Nelson, Xavier University Megan O'Rourke, Marquette University Rosa Reiber, Concordia University Jessica Rosenberg, Lake Forest College Kimberly Ross, Brimfield High School Eric Ruiz, University of St. Francis Nick Sanders, Eastern Illinois University Tiffany Stallone, Niles North High School Emily Stevens, Northwestern University Kenya Taylor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Jennifer Troupis, Purdue University Annabelle Vinson, University of Iowa Courtney Wallace, Augustana College Rob Walton, Syracuse University Mary Ward, Truman State University Josephine West, The Ohio State University Cerra Wilson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Middle Management Institute

Chairs

Paris Brown, Lawrence University Zachary George, DePaul University

Purpose

The IACAC Middle Management Institute (MMI) is based on NACAC's AMMI. The aim of our MMI program is to help groom future leaders in college admissions. The program curriculum includes sessions on DiSC leadership assessment, leadership and communication strategies, advice from a panel of deans and directors, enrollment management, tips on how to lead, and resumes and interviews. MMI faculty has included vice presidents, deans and directors of admission, as well as a variety of enrollment managers from various institutions of higher learning, including several from NACAC affiliates. A diversity of perspectives is always a priority when putting together each year's program.

We have had 30 attendees in each of the first three years; 30-35 is the targeted range for the total number of participants in this program.

Summary of Activities

- The 2015 MMI will be held on July 23-24th at Roosevelt University, Chicago. The date of MMI was moved from early June to late July to accommodate our host location and committee chair calendars.
- The 2014 MMI was awarded the NACAC Rising Star award. The 2014 Committee worked diligently to report on the successes of past MMI attendees. From 2011-2013, 46% of attendees received a promotion (as of June, 2015) and 91% are still in higher education.
- The 2014 MMI was held at Augustana College on June 5-6, with 24 participants.

Recommendations for the Future

- Continue to engage with Indiana ACAC, Wisconsin ACAC, and any additional partner ACAC's for speakers, promotion, attendees, and location.
- Be flexible with the date and location of each year's MMI, varying the time during the summer and the location of the program.

Committee Members

Ken Anselment, Lawrence University Stephanie Szczepanski, St. Louis University Will Patch, Manchester University Jazmine Ross, Roosevelt University Shaun Keating, Roosevelt University Angela Cooksy, Bradley University Katie Schmidt (no longer member)

NACAC Delegates

Chief Delegate

Lianne Musser, Lyons Township High School

Purpose

Provide information to delegates regarding issues relative to NACAC and to participate in the assembly and election process at the NACAC conference.

Keep board up to date on current issues and concerns of NACAC members.

Inform IACAC of roles and leadership opportunities in IACAC and encourage engagement.

Summary of Activities

Inform membership of opportunities for service and explain the roles of the Delegates through a panel discussion at the IACAC conference. The committee put together a presentation at the IACAC conference to encourage members to consider becoming a board member, or at least have a better understanding of what the board does. The panel was well received, though the participation level was low.

Provide information to incoming Chief Delegate to NACAC General Assembly and explain preparation for delegate meetings. I have discussed the responsibilities of the Chief Delegate with Brad Kain and the timeline for the upcoming conference.

Recommendations for the Future

Brad Kain will set up delegate meetings in San Diego in preparation for the NACAC conference and will keep delegates up to date this summer on issues of note that will come through the NACAC listserve.

September: Brad will train delegates at the fall Executive board meeting at Illinois State. September 29th: 1st Delegate meeting in San Diego to prepare for Meet and Greet on Sept. 30th and upcoming NACAC assembly.

Committee Members

Brad Kain, Homewood-Flossmoor High School Delorean Menifee, Knox College Anthony Minestra, Loyola Academy Allegra Giuletti-Schmitt, Niles North High School Stephanie Szczepanski, St. Louis University Amy Thompson, York High School Rob Walton, Syracuse University

National College Fair

Chairs

Mike Ford, Michigan State University Erin Updegraff, DePaul University

Purpose

The Chicago National College Fair (NCF) will serve the entire IACAC student body with excellent hands on experience to successfully navigate the college selection process, obtain financial aid and institutional scholarship information, test preparation strategies and personal assessment activities to enhance the student strength in the college search process. The Chicago NCF serves the experienced family as well as the first generation college bound communities in our top national market. The Committee is eager to serve NACAC & IACAC in surpassing our overall goals at the Chicago national college fair. We will have national representation from a vast array of constituents.

Summary of Activities

Committee Timeline:

- November Met to debrief and celebrate success of 2014 fair
- January Planning meeting Budget request submitted
- March Follow up conference call date tbd sub committees begin to coordinate specific task
- May Meet to go over plan for the summer months follow up on March meeting
- September-Meet to finalize fair details
- 2015 fair will be held on Saturday, September 26th at Navy Pier

Work in progress/upcoming activities:

Our committee is currently enjoying a brief hiatus as we recently wrapped up the 2014 Chicago National College Fair. Overall, the 2014 fair was a huge success, and the committee has been such a huge help in the planning and implementation of the event.

Some highlights of the 2014 fair are below:

- Over 10,000 attendees, with 9,209 attendees registered online
- 33 Buses of students were brought to the fair
- 453 Colleges and Universities were in attendance
- Students attending the fair came from over 500 different high schools, representing both city of Chicago schools as well as suburban schools
- 16 educational workshops were offered and attracted 442 attendees
- Over 40 volunteers staffed the Counseling Center and the Information Booth, facilitated bus arrival and student registration, and provided general support to ensure that the fair ran smoothly

Recommendations for the Future

- Continue to work with NACAC to explore venues that might be more logisticallyfriendly.
- Moving to a tri-chair format will work well in the future.

• Work with the Illinois Regional College Fair committee to ascertain the needs of exhibitors at the NCF and the students outside of the city of Chicago. Continue to explore a second NCF.

Committee Members

Drew Eder, Highland Park High School - Council Team Director Brad Novak, Curie High School Barbara Karpouzian, Chicago Public Schools Chris Merle, Lincoln Park High School Lianne Musser, Lyons Township High School Eric Ruiz, University of St. Francis Kato Hinden, Plainfield North High School Dan Miller, Adlai Stevenson High School Megan O'Rourke , Marquette University Jamie Simon, Loyola Academy Mike Melinder, University of Iowa Luis Narvaez, Chicago Public Schools Jeremy Smith, Concordia University Sylvia Hernandez, University of Arizona

Nominating

Chair

Mike Dunker, Past President, Western Illinois University

Purpose

The Nominating Committee is comprised of the two most recent Past Presidents with the most recent Past President serving as the chair. In addition to these members, at least two additional members should be selected to serve on the committee representing both the secondary and post-secondary side. This committee's main responsibility is to gather and review nominations for candidates for the offices for the Executive Board. In addition, this committee works with the nominations for the IACAC awards and honors. This committee meets once a year in January and has various follow up via email and phone calls.

Summary of Activities

- By October 31, 2014, the call for nominations was opened on the IACAC website. Then, on this date an email went to all IACAC members informing them of this call for nominations. In addition, a few days later, this was posted on the IACAC listserve.
- Reminder postings on the list serve were sent in November, December, and then one week prior to the deadline in January (January 7, 2015).
- Upon receiving each nomination, a committee member contacted the candidate to ensure their interest in being slated. If they agreed, the candidate was sent an information questionnaire to fill out and return to the committee.
- The Nominating Committee then physically met on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Concordia University. At this meeting, the committee reviewed the nominations for the various positions open for this coming year. After much review, the Nominating Committee selected the slate of candidates for this year.
- The candidates selected were then notified. After receiving approval from each candidate, the candidates submitted a consent form, a statement, and a photo for inclusion in the special edition of the Admission Essay sent at the beginning of April (April 3, 2015 4 weeks prior to the Annual Membership Meeting). All candidates were encouraged to be present at the March IACAC Executive Board meeting for candidate training from 10:00 am-11:00 am and then stay for the Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board then approved the slate of candidates prior to presenting to membership.
- In addition, the committee discussed the Patricia A. Kasowski award at the meeting.
- Finally, prior to the Annual Conference, the committee chair (Past President) sent information to all committees about their roles at the conference. Nominating Committee presented a meet and greet in conjunction with the Membership reception on Wednesday afternoon. It is recommended this be built into the schedule again for the future.

Recommendations for the Future

- The Nominating Committee should be established early in the IACAC year in order to help encourage and solicit members for the open positions.
- In addition, the call for Nominations should be ready by the end of October.
- A list of nominations should be kept by the Past President and if none or not enough nominations are received for various positions, the committee members should help with encouraging members to be a part of the slate. The committee should be able to finalize the slate to be presented at that January meeting.
- A meeting agenda should be provided for the March meeting and Executive Board meeting.
- At the conference, all candidates should come to the front of the room to be recognized, both at the opening session and the Annual Membership Meeting.
- The "Meet the Candidates" should be continued. For the coming year, this should be built into the schedule that is published.
- To "thank" the candidates, a gift bag should be provided. This should include a Starbucks gift card, candy, snacks, etc. These can be given out on Wednesday at the opening session. This was not done this year.

Committee Members

Michele Brown, Oakton Community College Todd Burell, SIUE Alison Crowley, NMU Sandra Gilbert, Retired Laura Docherty, Fenwick High School DJ Menifee, Knox College Tony Minestra, Elmhurst College/Loyala Academy (March 2014 and on)

Professional Development Grants

Chair

Courtney Wallace, Treasurer-Elect, Augustana College

Purpose

The purpose of the Professional Development Grants Committee is to promote opportunities for professional development within IACAC and NACAC for IACAC members. The Committee evaluates the Grant Policy, reviews grant applications, and awards grants for Annual Conference, NACAC Annual Conference, NACAC's Guiding the Way to Inclusion (GWI), IACAC's Middle Management Institute (MMI), IACAC District Seminars, IACAC Summer Institute (SI). We also reviewed grant applications for two AACRAO conferences targeting professional development for our members with specialty in transfer and international populations.

Summary of Activities

The Professional Development and Grants Committee met in November, January, February, and April to review grant applications for the professional development opportunities described above. Our Committee recognized a professional development need for members with international and transfer specialties and opened up 2 new grant opportunities from AACRAO and also NACAC's Midwest Transfer Forum in April. We also changed several of the grant deadlines to allow more time for members to apply throughout the year. A total of 28 grants were awarded, with 17 for Annual Conference, 3 for the NACAC Annual Conference, 4 for District Seminars, 1 for Summer Institute, 1 for Guiding the Way to Inclusion, 1 for AACRAO's Transfer and Technology and 1 for AACRAO's International Conference. We did not receive grant applications for Middle Management Institute or for NACACs Midwest Transfer Forum. In addition to the 28 grants offered by IACAC, the Committee also reviewed applicants for the NACAC Public High School Counselor Grant. Two IACAC members were awarded funds to attend the NACAC Conference in San Diego, CA in October of 2015. The Committee awarded \$12,283 in grant funds for IACAC members to take part in professional development opportunities plus \$2,500 for public High School Counselors. Our final recommendations and victories included increasing the grant amounts and the overall PDG budget for the 2015-2016 year. We increased the Professional Development Grant reimbursements for out of state conferences from up to \$900 to up to \$1,200. The membership also approved a \$5,000 budget increase for our committee for the 2015-2016 year to account for the increase in grant amounts as well as to research additional grant opportunities for the future.

Recommendations for the Future

The Committee recommends a meeting to review the grant policy in the early fall for revisions. This would familiarize the Committee with grant policy and allow for changes to occur before the grant applications open. The committee also recommends to continue to modify grant deadlines as necessary to be more user-friendly to IACAC members. We would also recommend continuing to explore other professional development opportunities and making grants available. We would love to see NACAC's Critical Components make the grant application list next year! Continue to find a great balance when awarding to both high school and the college side and finding offerings to meet the needs of all members.

Committee Members

Robbin Cooley, Arizona State University Renee Gomez, St. Ignatius College Prep Kristen Graf, Notre Dame College Prep Danielle Nightingale, Young Women-s Leadership Charter School Mike Pettis, Augustana College Jennifer Rucker, Lincoln Park High School Annabelle Vinson, University of Iowa Patrick Walsh, Past Treasurer, Illinois State University

Professional Liaison

Professional Liaison

Amy Thompson York Community High School

Purpose

I spoke with Annie about morphing this role into a more expanded vision and to bring people on as committee members. She was going to reach out to another S/R Affiliate with a Professional Liaison Committee to connect me to them. I would like to see how their committee is structured and will develop a plan based off of their framework.

Since there has never been a committee before, this will be a new development but somethjing I'm excited to help lead!

Summary of Activities

I did reach out to the Leadership in ISCA, ISAC, and CPS. They wanted to wait until summer to try and meet/conference call. Now that summer is here, I will attempt to set up a meeting with these groups to understand our common goals.

After I speak with the S/R affiliate that has a Professional Liaison Commitee, I will develop a plan to start a committee for IACAC while communicating with current IACAC leadership.

Recommendations for the Future

Develop a new structure for a Professional Development Committee.

Summer Counselor College Tours

Chairs

Matt Kirby, St. Charles North High School Natalie Rubino, Glenbard West High School

Purpose

This committee is responsible for developing and planning professional development opportunities for post-high school counselors. The summer tours committee is made up of two sub-groups: Micro Tour & Plane/Bus O'Fun. The Micro Tour runs every other summer during the Plane O'Fun Tours (even numbered years). The Bus O'Fun runs on alternating summers as the Plane O'Fun on odd numbered years. The committee goal is to put together a professional tour that visits colleges in different regions of the United States.

Summary of Activities

- Plan and execute the Plane/Bus O'Fun and the Micro Tour.
- Work with the Summer Institute committee to plan/coordinate the visit with each group.
- Maintain the IACAC Summer Tours webpage and online registration information.
- Update IACAC members through social media outlets on events, programs and news.

Recommendations for the Future

- Continue online registration. Make changes regarding membership and limiting the registration type to give priority to high school counselors.
- Continue to collaborate and organize events with the Summer Institute chairs during the tours.

Committee Members

2015 Bus O'Fun Scott Lilly, Glenbard East High School Bart Sinks, Marion High School Kara Dollaske, York High School Carl Krause, Lake Zurich High School Tim McGrath, Glenbard South High School

2016 Micro Tour Committee members will be updated in the upcoming months.

Summer Institute

Chairs

Angela Cooksy, Bradley University Sarah Goldman, Knox College Ben Wetherbee, Knox College

Purpose

- First and foremost, we aim to educate new admission professionals from both the college and high school side by providing information, best practices, and networking opportunities for the newest members of our profession, and do so in a socially just manner
- We aim to retain admission professionals within higher education through the initial formation of collaborative relationships
- We aim to provide an opportunity for veteran and newly emerging professionals to hone their presentation and leadership skills in the service of new professionals
- We aim to introduce new professionals to the IACAC board structure and provide opportunities for them to get involved within the organization
- We aim to serve as a model SI for other affiliates

Summary of Activities

- Summer Institute is scheduled for July 15th-17th, 2015
- Bus O' Fun tour is scheduled to be visiting Knox on Thursday, July 16th to coincide with Summer Institute
- Summer Institute will include 25 new counselors on the high school side with a dedicated track of sessions for them.
- We will implement new sessions into this year's program and rework the structure of sessions to incorporate more case studies, small group break-out sessions, and opportunities for attendees to problem solve and engage with other attendees and faculty members.

Recommendations for the Future

We would encourage future committees to place a great emphasis on assessment in order to make sure that clear goals are set on the front end, and that attendees are reaching these goals both through the event of SI and then later during their careers as high school and college counselors.

Committee Members

Beth Arey, Evanston Township High School Jessica Avila-Cuevas, North Central College Amy Belstra, Libertyville High School Anita Carpenter, Downers Grove South High School Bobby Castillo, Illinois Weslyan University Quinton Clay, University of Illinois Kevin Coy, Homewood Floosmoor High School Nancy Davis, John Hersey High School Stephanie Fore, Knox College Zachary George, DePaul University Beth Gilfillan, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart Kristen Graf, Notre Dame College Prep Brian Hodges, University of Illinois Springfield Stephanie Maksymiu, Maine South High School Mike Melinder, University of Iowa Christopher Merle, Lincoln Park High School Julie Nelson, Xavier University Megan O'Rourke Marquette University Rosa Reiber, Concordia University Chicago Courtney Wallace, Augstana College

High School Counselor Professional Development (ad hoc)

Chairs

Beth Gilfillan, President-Elect, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart Stephanie Maksymiu, Maine South High School Chris Merle, Lincoln Park High School

Purpose

Committee Goals: This ad hoc committee seeks to research the training and professional development available to high school counselors in Illinois, and expand upon these opportunities if determined that this would be beneficial. There are three main areas we are working on:

- 1. Compiling a list of workshops, resources, and professional development opportunities that are already available for high school counselors in the college counseling area ideally, this is something that will be easy to navigate and available on the IACAC website. It will include a short description, target audience, website, cost, and typical timeframe.
- 2. Working on filling in gaps where we see a need we're going to offer a high school track to Summer Institute this year. It'll be a great way to offer an introduction to college counseling to those new to the profession, and also expose people to a college campus, form a network of other high school counselors they can rely on, and give them a chance to get to know a group of college admission counselors. Basically, take all the wonderful aspects we know SI has had for the college side and give that to a group of high school counselors! We applied for a NACAC Imagine Grant so we're hoping to have some funding for SI.

Another area we're -filling the gaps- is through the First Timers track at our annual conference. Our committee will be presenting several sessions geared towards newer high school counselors at the conference.

3. Research and advocate for a college counseling course to be required for the IL School Counseling certification. Michigan is currently working on this, and they've made great progress. We're working with NACAC as well. Timing is great right now as NACAC has a new initiative to look into this issue, and there has been much buzz around school counseling with regards to college access and attainment by the First Lady!

Summary of Activities

In the fall, we spent some time brainstorming what we wanted this committee to accomplish, recruited members, and planned for the year. The main activities included: developing and running a high school counselor track at Summer Institute (July 2015), developing a list of currently offered professional development programs already available to high school counselors, then promoting the committee and its resource list at conference, advocating for and working with other ACACs to advocate for further training in the college counseling arena for all high school counselors in Illinois.

Recommendations for the Future

We will work on further advocacy work for goal 3 (see above) next year, including working closely with Michigan ACAC, who has made great progress in this area already. We will also use this committee to potentially develop a program similar to the one that Western ACAC runs - District Directions. Next year, one of the High SchoolCPD committee chairs will be dedicated to this task, as will several of its committee members. We will also work with the Project Reach committee to see if this is something we can combine or collaborate with them for.

Committee Members

Beth Arey, Evanston Township High School Laura Docherty, Fenwick High School Christine Eischen, Lycee Francais de Chicago Sara English, Barrington High School Eliza Freedman, Evanston Township High School Beth Gilfillan, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart Rene Gomez, St. Ignatius College Prep Kristen Graf, Notre Dame College Prep Lisa Hikes, Hinsdale Central High School Brad Kain, Homewood Flossmoor High School Scott Lilly, Glenbard East High School Stephanie Maksymiu, Maine South High School Chris Merle, Lincoln Park High School Dan Miller, Stevenson High School Stacey Schlaud, West Leyden High School Jamie Simon, Loyola Academy Paul Welsh, Fenton High School

Leadership Manual (ad hoc)

Chair

Mike Dunker, Past President, Western Illinois University

Purpose

IACAC has an active and thriving membership. With many programs, events, and ways to support students, it became apparent that this information should be passed down and kept for historical purposes, and also to help future leaders within the organization. Many state and regional affiliates have a leadership or policy manual, which provides more details to the various committees, events, and programs they offer. This document will provide IACAC more flexibility to be more specific with committees and their events, so as not to overwhelm the by-laws currently in place. Ultimately, the goal for this ad hoc committee is to create a working document that provides answers in regards to the past, and clarity for future endeavors.

Summary of Activities

- During summer months, Past President names committee members.
- In July, committee compiles similar documents from other affiliates around the country. Decision made to model our document after Wisconsin's.
- In preparation for August Board meeting, committee compiles pages from other affiliates to present to committee chairs.
- At August Board meeting, all committee chairs and elective officers were charged with developing their own pages. Pages were due at January Board meeting.
- After January Board meeting, committee met in February to start editing process.
- First rough draft presented to Board at March Board meeting.
- Manual to be on the IACAC web page in June.

Recommendations for the Future

- Keep three members on this committee each year.
- At August Board training, committee chairs, liaisons, and elected officers should review their pages for any needed changes, overlap with by-laws, and updates.
- Past President and Credentials committee will serve as overseers of the Manual.
- Changes in manual should be presented to Board throughout the year.
- Board should consider dissolving this committee after 2015-2016 year.

Committee Members

Nate Bargar, University of Cincinnati Megan O'Rourke, Marquette University Eric Ruiz, University of St. Francis

Project Reach (ad hoc)

Chairs

Emma Adebayo, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Marsha Hubbuch, College Counseling Services Chris Wolf, DePaul College Prep

Purpose

The Project Reach Committee oversees the nomination and selection of Illinois high schools in need of resources to promote college access.

Summary of Activities

This committee facilitates the collection and distribution of donated school supplies, college counseling items, and monetary awards to benefit students in selected schools. Ongoing professional development to support college access for selected nominees is currently being pursued. The selected high school(s) are recognized at the IACAC Annual Conference.

Recommendations for the Future

- Our biggest change which we anticipate within the next year is that we hope to become a standing committee.
- Work with the Scholarship and Retirees Committees to provide scholarships and develop professional development for nominated schools.
- Work with Speakers Bureau to give priority toward Project Reach Schools once we have over 20 schools give priority to the last 4 cycles.
- Collaborate with the CAP and IAS Committees.
- Streamline the selection rubric to make it easier for the committee to score.
- Notify the recipients and prepare conference presentation sooner (as described above in the timeline).
- Lock in the Wednesday evening restaurants earlier in order to begin advertising.
- Have a fall fund-raising event in conjunction with one of the college fairs.
- Clarify budget earlier
- Finalize scholarship process
- Prepare a calendar for the year late summer/early fall which includes shared responsibilities for co-chairs and committee members.
- Confirm that all committee members attending the conference (plus other volunteers as needed) understand their assignments.

Committee Members

Jean Burke, Marquette University Andriana Esparza, Oakton Community College Jennifer Sloan, Cornell College Jessica Talbert, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Scholarship (ad hoc)

Chairs

Timmi Turley, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Dave Shafron, Niles North High School

Purpose

The Scholarship Committee is in charge of administering and reviewing all scholarship applications. The committee selects the top five candidates to receive a \$1,000 scholarship after a comprehensive evaluation. We are looking for students who exhibit a commitment to learning and have demonstrated leadership skills and/or community service involvement. Each applicant's high school must be a member of IACAC.

Summary of Activities

June

• Met as committee chairs to set up timeline and next steps

August

• Sent out a call via the IACAC listserv for Scholarship Committee volunteers

October

- Set agenda for scholarship committee meeting
- Reminded committee members about November meeting

November

- Conducted one committee meeting at Niles North High School on November 14, 2014 to discuss the application and review process.
- New essay prompts were discussed at the committee meeting and later voted on by the entire committee
- IACAC bought lunch for committee members at this meeting
- New online application was completed by Dan and set to have all submitted online materials directed to a specified Scholarship committee Google doc folder

December

• Application went live December 1, 2014 and an announcement was sent via the IACAC listserv

January

• Collected applications

February

- Email list serv that deadline was approaching
- Application deadline was February 20, 2015

March

- Linda scans any hardcopy applications and places them in the Scholarship Committee google doc
- Committee conference call on March 5, 2015 to go through scholarship matrix, scholarship teams and review process
- March 6-20, Committee conducts the initial review of applications and enters ratings in a google doc
- March 31, Committee meeting by phone to discuss all candidates moving forward in the process. The goal was to review 50 or less in second round.

April

- April 7, Committee conference call to identify and discuss the top candidates to move forward for final review
- April 14, Committee votes to finalize recipients, via a Google form blind vote (form created by Dave Shafron)
- April 15-April 24th Assign committee members to contact recipients and their counselor to obtain a brief bio and serve as a liaison and conference host for student, counselor and invite to conference
- Notify Donna Epton in order to create scholarship certificates
- Work with Dan on slide show for conference
- April 29, Presented scholarship recipients at the annual IACAC conference
- April 29, Past President hosted reception for recipients, their family and committee members

May

- Sent award certificates to students who couldn't make it to conference to be presented at their high school honors night
- Submit admission essay article about recipients
- Linda sends checks to students directly

Recommendations for the Future

- Refine the application review process so that we are more efficient with team creation and the narrowing of the applicant pool
- Reach out to the recipients' colleges to give a positive reference, let them know that they would be a good ambassador for their University

Committee Members

Andrea Bernardi, St. Xavier University Andriana Esparza, Oakton Community College Anita Carpenter, Downers Grove South High School Anthony "Tony" Minestra, Loyola Academy Audrey Barrientos, Western Illinois University Bonnie Jessee, Augustana College

Colleen Corcoran, Saint Louis University Dave Shafron, Niles North High School Denise Dalton, Lemont High School Derek Babson, Morris Community Emily Johnson, Augustana College Emily Schubert, Boylan Catholic High School Eric Ruiz, St. Francis University Heather Chase, Miami University Heather McCowen, The Chicago High School for the Arts Holly Allen, Garcia High School Iris Schrey, retired James Peltzer, Saint Xavier University Jenn Gross, University of Denver Jennifer Rucker, Lincoln Park High School Jennifer Sloan, Cornell College Jessica Talbert, Univ of Wisconsin - Whitewater Joseph Prieto, Retired Kara Dollaske, York Community High School Kari Gibbons, Benedictine University Keegan White, Western Michigan University Kelli Allen, Iowa State University Kimberly Stabosz, Illinois Wesleyan University Lauren O'Connor, Westmont College Lindsey Cheney, Bradley University Mark O'Rourke, Glenbrook North Matt Liberatore, Huntley High School Michael Usher, Loyola University Michelle Rogers, Saint Louis University Molly Shock, Bradley University Paige Buttels, Northern Illinois University Pat Cannon, Retired - Highland Park High School Rachel Behren, Trinity High School Rachel Georgakis, Fenton High School Rachel O'Connell, Missouri University of Science and Technology Renee Koziol, Trinity High School Robert Becker, Highland Park High School Robyn Moreth, Independent Consultant Ryan Cockerill, Lewis University Samantha Meranda, Illinois State University Sarah Daugherty, Bradley University Shawn Wochner, Western Illinois University Stephanie Szczepanski, Saint Louis University Tanuja Rothi, Independent Consultant Tara Brewer, Michigan Tech University Ted Campbell, Northern Illinois University Timmi Turley, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Todd Burrell, SIUE Wallace Holder, Grand Valley State University Zachary George, DePaul University

Strategic Plan (ad hoc)

Chairs

Anne Kremer, President, DePaul University Julie Nelson, Xavier University

Purpose

The Strategic Planning Committee will develop the strategic plan for the organization. The plan will cover the three subsequent years and evaluated and updated annually. The process for evaluation and who is responsible for updating this document is yet to be determined.

Summary of Activities

Below outlines the activities and accomplishments of this first year for the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee. The intention is for this committee to delegate the updating and evaluation of this document to the executive board and disband after the 2015-2016 year once the plan has been adopted. A process for updating and review will be included in the plan.

Below outlines the timeline for the 2014-2015 year:

June: Worked with President to determine how to best work with committees at LDI in order to evaluate committee events/progress/programs in light of larger and committee specific goals and objectives. Set committee meeting dates for the year.

September: Held meeting at NACAC to evaluate results from IACAC Leadership Development Institute and determine best direction and responsibilities for monitoring and following up with committees and board regarding strategic plan goals and objectives. Developed membership survey and determine timeline to send survey.

October: Submitted Annual Conference session proposal regarding state of strategic plan.

November: Sent membership survey to IACAC membership.

December: Review membership survey results individually to prepare for committee meeting in January.

January: Meet with committee to review membership survey results along with results from committee Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. Began developing themes/buckets/initiatives for strategic plan. Delegate various "themes" to committee members to begin developing objectives, goals, and action items for strategic plan.

May: Meet again as committee to review themes and determine focus of next strategic plan. Objectives were delegated to each committee member for further development. Draft of plan due mid-June.

June: Phone meeting as committee to discuss draft of strategic plan. Will determine steps during phone call regarding presentation of plan to board in fall.

Recommendations for the Future

As noted above, we will make recommendations for the future of this document in the strategic plan. The intention is for this to be a living document reviewed throughout the year as the board makes decisions and business of the organization moves forward.

Committee Members

Anne Kremer, DePaul University Julie Nelson, Xavier University Mike Dessimoz, Retired Roosevelt University Patrick Walsh, Illinois State University Roberto Suarez, Homewood-Flossmoor High School DJ Menifee, Knox College Tom Shorrock, New Trier High School