

President-elect

Brian Hodges (he, him, his)



Senior Associate Director of
Recruitment & Outreach
University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and
Sciences - University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign, Master of
Public Administration - University
of Illinois Springfield

IACAC Member: 10 years

NACAC Member: 4 years

IACAC Activities:

- Executive Board (June 2016-June 2018, June 2019-present)
- Transfer Advisory Committee (September 2018-present)
- Conference Planning Committee (June 2016-present)
- Credentials Committee (September 2016-June 2020)
- Nominating Committee (September 2016-May 2019)
- National College Fair Committee (Sept 2015-Sept 2017)
- District Seminar (Jan 2015-Jan 2016, October 2018-May 2019)
- Summer Institute Committee (July 2014-present)
- College Awareness and Preparation Committee (CAP) (November 2013-present)
- Co-Chair (June 2014-June 2016)
- Mentorship Committee (August 2013-June 2020)

NACAC Activities:

- NACAC Conference Attendee:
- 2017 Boston
- 2019 Louisville - Assembly Delegate
- 2020 Virtual - Assembly Delegate

Other Professional Activities:

- Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR) 2010-2017
- CARR Co-Counselor Outreach Chair (May 2015-May 2017)



Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

I have several. The one favorite memory that sticks out would be volunteering the first time for Camp College. Camp College is housed within the College Awareness & Preparation committee. We give rising seniors in high school a crash course in the college search process over a four-day period. It is a great way to give students the tools they need to be prepared for this next step.

I think it was the second day of Camp College that I learned that the students came up with a nickname for me-Bubbles. Apparently, the character (Cobra Bubbles) is from the Lilo & Stitch movie and cartoons, I guess we look similar. During Camp College, we put on a Talent Show. We express that everyone has a talent and usually the students work in groups. This is the point where the students really gel together. I was the master of ceremonies for the Talent Show, and playing off the nickname, I became MC Bubbles. The students put on a great show, truly enjoyed their time, and left with resources that benefitted their goals.

Whenever an IACAC member that also volunteered during that time and calls me MC Bubbles, it brings a big smile to my face.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

This is an oversimplification, but when I think about education and students, I come up with two words: access and effort. The more privileged communities have an abundance of access for their students, while in other communities, students must put forth an unreasonable amount of effort to have a small chance of success. If I could change one thing, I would make sure all students have the access available at the most privileged communities. It could be things like a hot meal for breakfast or a place to sleep. If the access part is equal, now we can focus on the student's effort. This will be the place that counseling/higher education can truly thrive. Again, this is an oversimplification of systemic issues, but one can dream.

Treasurer-elect

Josie Blasdel (she, her, hers)



Director of Undergraduate Admission
McKendree University

Education:
BS Murray State University

IACAC Member: 17 yrs
NACAC Member: 12 years

IACAC Activities:

Summer Institute
- Site Coordinator
- Committee
- Presenter
District Seminar
- Chairperson
- Site Coordinator
Mentorship Committee
Membership Committee
Grants Committee
Conference Presenter

NACAC Activities:

Conference Attendee
Conference Committee

Other Professional Activities:

Study Illinois

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

Summer Institute has provided me with the best IACAC memories. Having been involved with several events, I've gotten to work with so many new admission counselors and have loved watching so many of them turn into 'lifers'.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

I would love for there to be more focus and conversation around the transformative process that can occur for students during the college experience when they select a school that is real fit for them.



NACAC Delegate Director - Secondary

Becki Bellito (she, her, hers)



Postsecondary Counselor
Vernon Hills High School

Education:

B.A. English/Secondary
Education, University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
M.A. School Counseling,
Concordia University Chicago

IACAC Member: 6 years

NACAC Member: 5 years

IACAC Activities:

Bus O'Fun Committee Chair (2018-present)
Annual Conference Entertainment Committee Co-Chair (2018)
Annual Conference First Timers Luncheon Table Host (2018)
Annual Conference Presenter (2015)
Annual Conference Attendee (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
Bus O'Fun Participant (2017, 2019), Plane O'Fun Participant
(2018)
High School Counselor Professional Development Committee
"Counselor Camp" Presenter (2020)

NACAC Activities:

NACAC Conference Attendee (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

Other Professional Activities:

National School Counseling Leadership Conference
Attendee(2021)
Attended and hosted Chicago Area College Counselor Association
meetings (2016-present)
Lake County Counselors Association Executive Board Member
(2015-2016 school year)
The Academy for College Counseling 101, 201, & 301

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

The Bus O'Fun has provided me with so many of my favorite IACAC memories. The "Bus" offers invaluable professional development with plenty of fun throughout a week of touring college campuses. When I walked onto the Bus for the first time, I received a binder organized with tabs, selected my seat, and listened as committee members laid out the "rules of the road." I quickly realized that the tour was masterfully and meticulously planned, and I could focus on meeting new people and learning about the 12 different colleges we would visit that week. I started going on the IACAC Summer Tours when I moved into the role of postsecondary counselor at VHHS after having spent the previous ten years as a generalist; participating in the tours has provided me with the knowledge and professional connections to give me greater confidence in assisting my students in their postsecondary planning. When I think about my time on the summer tours, there is a lot that comes to mind: Scott being the emcee who helps the group debrief after each stop while of course making us laugh; Nate playing the perfect song as we approach each campus; and Michelle and Kate updating me on colleges that are popular with their St. Louis-area students. Whenever I need insight into the Chicago Public Schools, I know I can reach out to Dana and Grace, who I met on the Bus. And it's so valuable to talk to counselors like Bart and Lisa about the challenges students in central and southern Illinois face compared to students in the Chicago suburbs. Some of the most useful knowledge I've gained has been through casual conversations with counselors and admissions staff over meals, on campus tours, or on the actual bus.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

I wish that the process of applying to colleges was simpler and more universal for all students. Every year, I find myself telling frustrated students that if they can successfully submit complete applications to all of their colleges (on time!), they absolutely have the skills necessary to flourish in college. The requirements for each college vary so much and are so nuanced, that it is difficult for students to understand exactly what each application requires. Think of all the different aspects of the application students must decipher: Can they apply with Common App, Coalition, or an institutional app? Are test scores required? Is the school test optional or test blind? Does the college need official score reports? Is an SRAR required or should students send an official transcript? Are letters of recommendation required? Supplemental essays? Once students understand the different deadlines and what is required of them, they still have to complete the actual application, which can require hours upon hours of work--on top of their already demanding senior year courses.

This or That?



Becki Bellito (continued)

The stress of college applications can cause students who have successfully navigated the most rigorous high school curriculum to be overwhelmed. Many students look to one-on-one help from their counselors in order to have the process broken down into more manageable steps. VHHS is lucky to have caseload numbers and a designated postsecondary counselor who can offer this level of support—a luxury not afforded every high school senior in the country. There are many obstacles that can interfere with a student's ability to graduate from college, and one step to making college more accessible to all would be to simplify the application process. I wish for a way to accomplish this simplification while providing colleges all the information they need to make their admissions decisions.

NACAC Delegate Director - Postsecondary

Derek Brinkley (he, him, his)



Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions
Columbia College Chicago

Education:

B.S in Early Childhood Education and M.S in Human Resources Development, both from Xavier University in Cincinnati

IACAC Member: 6 years

NACAC Member: 10 years

IACAC Activities:

Conference Presenter, 2016
Co-chair of the Summer Institute Committee, 2019-present
Co-chair of the Raffle subcommittee on the Annual Conference Committee, 2021-present
Mentor in the Mentorship Program, 2020-present
Participant in Advocacy Day, 2020

NACAC Activities:

Conference Attendee, 2011, 2013-present
Delegate from Ohio ACAC, 2013-2014
Rising Star Award nominee, 2013

Other Professional Activities:

Co-chair of Ohio ACAC Southwest Ohio Articulation Conference, 2011
On-site chair of Ohio ACAC Guiding the Way to Inclusion Conference, 2011
Committee chair of Ohio ACAC Guiding the Way to Inclusion Conference, 2012-2013
Ohio ACAC New Member Award Recipient, 2012
Presenter for various organizations and conferences, 2012-present
Associate Board Member of Urban Gateways, 2020-present

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

The joy of the last couple of years has been serving as one of the co-chairs for the New Counselor Institute. With COVID affecting us last March, we had to shift quickly and decided to offer a virtual program for the 2020-2021 academic year. We've seen tremendous interest and participation in the program from new counselors, and we've been able to provide a wide range of sessions over the year to educate new counselors about our industry. It's a such a pleasure to help develop new professionals and help them see why and how one can make a career out of this field that so many of us 'fall into'!

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

It's hard to pick just one, but I think I'd focus on continued access to higher education for underrepresented and underprivileged students. Oftentimes, colleges and universities create policies and procedures that benefit the college and not the student. In my role at Columbia College Chicago, I am intensely focused on demystifying and, in some cases, blowing up the admissions process to make it easier and safer for underrepresented students to navigate our processes. As an example, we ensure that we capture pronouns for all students and use them in all of our email communications. We are continuing to tweak our application review processes to ensure that we are minimizing our biases as much as we can by taking steps like re-ordering the order in which documents are read. We have focused on making sure that low-income students, particularly from Chicago, can afford a Columbia education. All colleges and universities should spend time focusing on increasing access and I hope our organization can take the lead.

This or That?



NACAC Delegate Director - Postsecondary

Sylvia Hernandez (she, her, hers)



Manager of Illinois
Recruitment
Michigan State University

Education:

B.A. History, MEd Educational
Leadership

IACAC Member: 10

NACAC Member: 10

MACAC Conference Participant 2009, 2010
MACAC West Michigan National College Fair Committee
Chair 2009-2013
MACAC Rising Star Award Recipient 2010
Pacific Northwest
PNACAC Member 2015-2016
PNACAC Portland National College Fair Committee 2015
Other
CARR Member 2011-2015, 2017-present
TCRAR Member 2013-2015
AAROW Member 2015

IACAC Activities:

IACAC Member 2011-2015, 2017-present
IACAC Conference Participant 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017,
2018, 2019
IACAC Conference Presenter 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
IACAC Mentor 2013
IACAC Conference Co- Chair First Timers Committee 2014, 2015
IACAC National College Fair Committee Member 2014, 2019,
2020
IACAC Conference Co- Chair Raffle Committee 2014, 2015, 2017
IACAC Conference Co- Chair Project Reach Committee 2017
IACAC Scholarship Committee Member 2017- present
IACAC Conference Fundraising Liaison 2018-2020
IACAC Illinois Regional College Fair Committee Chair, 2018-2020
IACAC Molly K Arnold Award Recipient- 2018
IACAC Nominations and Credentials Committee- 2020
IACAC Ad-Hoc Membership Committee Member- 2020
IACAC Ad-Hoc Professional Development Committee Co-Chair-
2020
IACAC Illinois College Fair Committee Member- 2020

NACAC Activities:

NACAC College Fair Chair Training 2010
NACAC Member 2012-present
NACAC Conference Participant 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018,
2019, 2020
(Indianapolis, San Diego, Columbus, Boston, Salt Lake City,
Louisville, Virtual)
NACAC Conference Registration Volunteer 2015, 2016, 2017,
2018
NACAC Conference Logistical Arrangements Committee 2014,
2015
NACAC National College Fair Committee- Member 2018-2020

Other Professional Activities:

Ohio
OACAC Member 2007
OACAC Conference Participant 2007
Michigan
MACAC Member 2007-2011

This or That?



Sylvia Hernandez (continued)

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

Although I love a great conference at the Westin in Itasca, I would have to say my favorite memory was of the 2019 IACAC Conference in Bloomington-Normal. This was my first time as an IACAC member that the annual conference was hosted outside of Itasca. It was a nice change to be out of the Chicagoland area in a new place, making new connections and friends with people I may not have been able to meet in person before and exploring the Bloomington-Normal area. I love event planning and having served on the conference committee team before, this time had an extra sense of excitement! We had to change so many things and be more creative as so much was new to this conference. I love the challenge of trying new things, thinking out of the box, and finding solutions to problems as we plan events. I was so excited that the conference was a success, and we had such positive feedback from the IACAC community. I am excited for the next time we get to take our conference to another area of our state!

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

If I could change one aspect about college counseling/higher education, it would be that the aspect of money would not play into any part of our work. As a college counselor, one would have unlimited resources to assist their students. There would be a full staff of college counselors at every high school to work with students and assist them with their post-secondary planning. All college counselors would have an adequate amount of professional development and time to devote to furthering their knowledge of the profession. As a college admissions representative the cost of an institution would not hinder our work to recruit capable students to our campuses. An institution would have all of the resources needed to retain and graduate students in a timely manner. Students would not have to take cost into consideration as a deciding factor in their school choice. A college/university would have adequate money to support their staff with professional development opportunities and further education. Money in our profession creates barriers or better access for students. It creates gaps and highlights inequities. It offers better resources for some and not enough for others. These are just a few of the reasons I think it could be a "magic wand moment" to not have to worry about money. I know it does not solve everything but it sure would help to not have to worry about it.

Council Team Director - Secondary

Kelly Dutmers (she, her, hers)



College Counselor
Loyola Academy

Education:

B.A. DePaul University, 2003;
M.Ed. Human Services and
Counseling, DePaul University,
2008; Certificate in College
Counseling, UCLA Extension,
2013

IACAC Member: 10 years

NACAC Member: 10 years

IACAC Activities:

IACAC Mentorship Committee Co-Chair, 2018-present
Created and serve as MC/host to IACACreads, 2019-present
IACAC Professional Connections Committee member, 2018-present
IACAC Scholarship Committee member, 2015-present
IACAC High School Professional Development Committee member, 2015-present
IACAC First-timers Committee member, 2016, 2018, & 2019
IACAC Conference Planning Committee member, 2015-2017
IACAC Mentor, 2017-2018; 2020-2021
IACAC Conference presenter, 2019
IACAC Micro Tour participant, 2016
IACAC Mentee, 2014-2015
IACAC conference attendee, 2015, 2016, 2018, & 2019
IACAC District Seminar attendee, 2013, 2016, & 2019
IACAC Articulation attendee, 2008-2018
Molly K. Arnold President's Service Award, 2020

NACAC Activities:

NACAC member, 2011-present
National College Fair committee member, 2012-2013
National College Fair volunteer, 2012-2016; 2018-2019
NACAC Conference session reviewer, 2018

Other Professional Activities:

Chicago Area College Counselor Association (CACCA), 2011-present
John Carroll University Counselor Advisory Board Member, 2018-present
Jesuit High School College Counselor Association (JHSCCA), 2019-present
Roger Williams University Counselor Advisory Board Member, 2020-present
Directions Post-Secondary Fair Committee, 2014-2019
The Academy for College Admission Counseling (101, 201, 301), 2009-2011

ACA Graduate Student Association Membership and Public Relations co-chair, 2006-2008

ACA Strategic Planning committee Graduate Representative, 2007-2008

ASCA conference volunteer, 2006



Kelly Dutmers (continued)

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

So many great memories to choose from! But, my most favorite memory with IACAC is creating and hosting the first IACACreads, which occurred after District Seminar hosted at Dominican University in March 2019.

Interestingly, the idea came from several different places. I was a new mom who had a desire to read more books, but I hadn't found easy ways to carve out personal time to read beyond family and professional responsibilities. I also had a desire to connect with colleagues in a professional, yet social way. I wondered if anyone else would be interested in reading books, watching documentaries, or listening to podcasts related to our profession, with the idea of gathering to process the content together. That question was answered a few months prior to our first IACACreads event. There were several IACAC members who attended a documentary screening at a nearby local school and all of us found the documentary so intriguing and captivating, we found one another after the screening and enthusiastically processed together what we had just viewed. That was my confirmation it may be a good idea to start this new program. With that, IACACreads was born.

The first IACACreads was a blast! We read and discussed *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Back in March 2019, we were all new to Zoom, so it was a bit nerve-racking making sure we understood how to connect the technology with our remote attendees while also making sure the attendees in-person could be seen and heard. We gathered around in a circle, with the Zoom attendees on one end, as a community. Most participants had completed the reading and we were ready to discuss (while some of us listened to the audiobook on high speed in order to finish the book on time, haha!). We were excited to engage in a new activity together, one where we could discuss themes of college and career counseling, barriers to accessing higher education, as well as other important topics pertaining to education, politics, and race, all in an effort to learn from the book as well as from one another's perspectives.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

Excellent question! If I had a magic wand which could change one aspect of college counseling/higher education it would be to eliminate barriers to access quality college counseling services for all high school students.

Mental health and student well-being are of paramount importance to high school counselors, especially during times such as what we are experiencing now with the stressors of living, learning, and coping during a pandemic. Students' mental and physical well-being should always come first. That being said, many high schools lack the appropriate funding to provide the suggested ratio of students to school counselors by the American School Counseling Association, which is 250:1. When school counselors have larger caseloads, they have less time per pupil to spend on direct counseling services. Additionally, beyond the ASCA social-emotional domain, school counselors also need to provide direct and indirect counseling services in both the academic and career domains. If there is one domain that tends to get short changed due to prioritization of the other two domains, time constraints, and lack of resources, it may be the career domain. Furthermore, beyond employing traditional school counseling professionals, few high schools provide funding specifically for designated college counselors. Providing college counseling is especially important for historically under-resourced student populations such as black, indigenous, students of color, LGBTQ, undocumented, and first-generation students. I, myself, am a first-generation student and it is part of this self-identity which inspires me to be a college counselor.

With a wave of my magic wand, I would hope for ALL high school students to have access to quality college and career counseling throughout high school. Having appropriate student to counselor ratios and having a dedicated post-secondary and/or college counseling staff is important to breaking down barriers for students to access quality higher education. More funding not only prioritizes school counselors and college counselors' roles, but also creates smaller caseload sizes, allowing for a more student-centered approach by providing quality college counseling services.

Council Team Director - Postsecondary

Christian Brown (she, her, hers)



Assistant Director of
Admission - Chicago Region
Augustana College

Education:

B.S., Legal Assistant Studies,
University of Tennessee at
Chattanooga & Master of
Public Administration,
University of Tennessee at
Chattanooga

IACAC Member: 6 years

NACAC Member: 3 months

IACAC Activities:

College Awareness and Preparation Committee - Co-chair
(current)
New Counselor Institute - Committee member (current)
First-timers Committee Co-chair (current) & Branding Co-chair
(2018 & 2019)
Mentorship Committee - served as mentor in 2018 – 2019
Conference Presenter - 2018, 2019
Conference Participant – 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
James A. Alexander Newcomer Award Recipient - 2020

NACAC Activities:

NACAC Emerging Leaders Program - 2021
Member - 2020-present

Other Professional Activities:

Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR) 2015-present;
Secretary, 2017-2019
Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions
Officers (TACRAO) Member - 2011-2014
Public Education Foundation Camp College Volunteer - 2011,
2012

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

My first IACAC conference was definitely an experience and it felt a bit overwhelming as I attempted to not only attend a full schedule of sessions, but also network in a state and territory completely new to me. However, by the end of that conference I had networked so much I found myself joining the first-timers committee and have served as a volunteer each year ever since. I never really thought much about the possible impact I was making through that small volunteer role I'd taken on so many years ago until a recent conversation I had with a coworker.

We were sitting on Zoom waiting for a meeting to begin and randomly she informed me that I was her table host at her first IACAC conference and asked if I remembered the first thing I said to her and her two coworkers when they sat down at my table. Of course, I didn't remember and I'll admit that I cringed because I wasn't sure where the conversation was going. Luckily, she smiled and told me that I very politely asked why in the world they would sit together at an event where they could network with so many new people. I quickly sighed with relief and thought, "Yup that sounds like me - pretty direct, per usual." She goes on to agree that it was good advice and I was just trying to ensure they got the most out of the experience. She was appreciative of the advice so much so that she still remembers it to this day. This fuzzy memory now serves as one of my favorites as it reminds me of how the work we do in our roles as members of IACAC, however small, will lead to the success and support of others.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

I have worked in higher education now for about 10 years and there has undoubtedly been great progress made within the realm of college counseling/higher education. However, resource inequity is one that still exists in abundance. I currently serve in a role that primarily covers a territory which claims some of the most resourced schools in our country and some of the most underserved/underfunded. Frankly, it's unfair and even more disheartening when those most affected already fall into categories where they are possibly being slighted by injustices and bias's unrelated to education. Education has offered each of us our own opportunities to obtain stability, support our families, and overall have a good quality of life. We know that education is the key to many different avenues of success. My magic wand moment would be to provide ALL students access to resources needed to position them to be academically competitive in post-secondary settings.

This or That?



Council Team Director - Postsecondary

Rosa Glombicki (she, her, hers)



Chicago Regional Senior
Admissions Counselor
Marquette University

Education:

Concordia University Chicago
BA Communication and
Theater, 2010

IACAC Member: 10 years

NACAC Member: 7 years

IACAC Activities:

IACAC Member 2011-Present

IACAC Summer Institute Attendee, 2011

IACAC Summer Institute Guest Speaker, 2012

IACAC Mentorship Committee Member, 2012-2017

IACAC Mentorship Match of the Year, 2013

IACAC Newcomer of the Year Award, 2014

IACAC Mentorship Committee Chair, 2014-2017

IACAC Summer Institute Committee Member, 2015

IACAC First Timer's Conference Committee Member, 2014-
Present

IACAC Middle Management Institute Guest Panelist, 2018

IACAC Annual Conference Presenter 2016, 2018, 2020 (cancelled)

IACAC First Timer's Conference Committee Chair, 2014, 2020,
2021

NACAC Activities:

NACAC Conference Attendee: Indianapolis (2014), San Diego
(2015), Louisville (2019)

Other Professional Activities:

Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR) Executive Board:
CARR Counselor Outreach Chair (2019-present. Rolling off
summer 2021)

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

There are way too many amazing memories from my last 10 years in IACAC, but I can easily pick my favorite. My most favorite "look for the good" memory that keeps coming to mind is my Summer Institute experience. Summer of 2011. Western Illinois University. "Macomb-y Homies" (if you know, you know). Being a recent college graduate working for my alma mater and having been a tour guide there for several years, I was excited about the position, but I was struggling to legitimize Admissions as a real career path.

Along came Tony Minestra. He was one of the SI leaders that year and while we were standing in line for sandwiches, (keep in mind he had known me for maybe 20 minutes total at that point), he looked me in the eye and said, "Rosa Reiber, I don't know what it is, but you've got it. You have what it takes to be successful in this profession." I'm paraphrasing, but if you know Tony, and if the theme he chose for this conference is any indication, he looks for the good in people. That moment, and many moments and interactions with people within IACAC after that, helped to legitimize Admissions as a career choice and instilled confidence that I really did have what it takes to do this well. This is important to me for two reasons. 1. It's a consistent reminder that our words matter. We have the choice every day to lift people up or tear them down. I love that this is a profession where I get to use my words to help. 2. To me, IACAC is and always has been all about people—the people we meet in the profession who become lifelong friends and mentors, and the students and families we get to serve along the way.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

The word that pops into my head is "accessibility." When the pandemic hit and I realized my traditional spring recruitment season wouldn't come to fruition, it was initially easy to think about the impact or void I would experience as a result. Meeting students where they are is my favorite part of my job! As reality set in, however, I had a rock in my stomach thinking about how this would impact the students I get to serve and their access to this important college search information. Access isn't a new issue; it has simply been magnified as in-person learning and visits came to a halt.

I was a first-generation college student and reflecting on my 10 years in Admissions, knowing what I know now, it's shocking how little I knew about the college admissions process. Compounding that inherent lack of knowledge with the struggles this year has brought, my magic wand moment would be increased accessibility for all students.

Rosa Glombicki (continued)



Throughout my career, I've worked with a wide range of students—students of color, first generation students, undocumented students, rural and city students, etc. The extremes of accessibility to college counseling varies drastically by school and by region. Not simply when it comes to the number of college counselors who serve in those high schools, but also when it comes to the resources colleges devote to visiting underserved schools and populations. Through accessible college counseling, I want students to know that they have a seat at the table—that college is for them if they'd like to go! Those of us willing to do this work are mighty and are making an impact—but we need more people willing to be transparent and work with integrity to provide the best information necessary for students to navigate this process and make their well-informed post-secondary decisions. Sometimes when I speak with students and families, I get the impression they feel I'm the keeper of secrets to crack the code of college admissions. I don't want families to feel like this is a riddle that needs solving. Rather, I long for a college search process that is transparent and keeps the student at the center of everything we do, so that all students have access to the same information—not just students who know which questions to ask.

Council Team Director - Postsecondary

M. Faye Ikner (she, her, hers)



Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Purdue University Northwest

Education:

MSEd., Higher Education and Certificate in Enrollment Management, Winter 2021, Bay Path University B.A., English, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

IACAC Member: 6 years

NACAC Member: 1 year

IACAC Activities:

Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling (IACAC)

➤ Member, College Awareness and Preparation (CAP) Committee (June 2015-Present)

➤ Volunteer Coordinator for CAP Committee (January 2018-June 2020)

➤ Co-Chair for CAP Committee (June 2020-Present)

➤ Member, Scholarship Committee (September 2016-Present)

➤ Member, Inclusion, Access and Success Committee (September 2016- Present)

➤ L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Equity, Accountability & Diversity) Participant (November 2018-June 2019)

➤ First Timers Luncheon Table Host (2016-present)

➤ Member, Mentorship Committee (2016-present)

➤ Annual Conference Registration & Hospitality Committee (2017-2020)

➤ Annual Conference Attendee (2015-present)

➤ Summer Institute Attendee (2014)

NACAC Activities:

Member

Other Professional Activities:

Chicago Area Regional Representatives, Member (Fall 2018-Present)

Consistent with this year's Conference theme "Look for the Good," share one of your favorite memories or stories from your involvement within IACAC:

I have met so many great people and have made a million wonderful memories over the last six years in IACAC. My involvement in IACAC's CAP allows me to reach and help students that I would not always come across in my recruitment efforts in my territory. Our last CAMP college was in Southern Illinois and it was a great bonding time for us all. While we were getting ready to head out for the day from the dorm I received a phone call from my son, who at the time was a rising junior, letting me know about a call from the school. As we are hanging up one of the girls in CAMP college says "Your kid goes to my school. What was the message?" I looked at her and laughed, playfully scolded her for being nosy and then gave her the message. Fast forward, CAMP College is over and this student approaches me at the first football game of the year yelling out as she is running towards me "Mama Faye, I want to introduce you to my mother." From that day forward she was my mentee and her mom and I became fast friends as I helped them navigate the college process. My looking for the good moment is doing what I loved and ended up gaining some more family members.

Though we are looking for the good, if you could choose one aspect of the world of college counseling/higher education to change (think of this as a magic wand moment), what ONE thing would you change and why?

Equality on all levels, students and professionals lack the same resources or skills at their fingertips. If I could wave a magic wand and make every part of Higher Education equal for all no matter what location, gender, race, religion we should all be able to have the same resources and knowledge to give others what they need to succeed. Although success looks different for everyone; equality does not. Working with students we know there are resources lacking in certain areas that we can step in and help alleviate a problem that was brought to our attention. But how many problems are not brought to our attention? Same for the professionals, some institutions have the top resources and professional development for staff but some have nothing or only a little PD for certain groups. When my magic wand waves we all really do have the same opportunities because we are all being allotted the same tools.

