



PAUL WELSH

President - Elect

Fenton High School

School Counselor

IACAC Member- 14 Years
NACAC Member- 9 Years

Education:

- B.A. Political Science
 - The George Washington University
- MA School Counseling
 - Northeastern Illinois University
- MS Teaching and Learning: English as a 2nd Language
 - University of St. Francis

If you had to tell
someone in one word
what IACAC has meant
to you, what word
would you use?

COMMUNITY

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- NACAC Annual Conference Attendee
 - (2013, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- NACAC Imagine Grant Recipient (2013)
- NACAC Assembly Delegate (2019, 2020)
- Washington Advocacy Day Attendee (2015-2018)
- NACAC Government Relations Award (2019)

IACAC Activities

- NACAC Delegate Director- Secondary (2019-Present)
- Government Relations Committee member (2013-Present)
- Government Relations Committee Co-Chair (2014-2017)
- Molly K. Arnold President's Service Recognition Award (2016)
- Springfield Advocacy Day (2015-2019)
- IACAC Conference Presenter (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022)
- IACAC Mentor (2016-2018)
- Bike O'Fun Tour Leader (2018, 2019, 2021)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

Invest in postsecondary education to make it accessible to all students. I have worked in public education in both elementary and high schools. We tend to agree that education through 12th grade is an individual right and a public good. In other words, each of us needs it to advance personally and we need it to improve society because we all benefit from an educated populace. However, after high school the most common way to continue one's education is too expensive for many students, especially those who rely most heavily on publicly funded K-12 education. The market has shifted on these students who are now priced out of higher education as a commodity available only to the privileged few, and not as an agreed upon public good available to all. Despite having the resources to fund a more equitable system, we have failed to enact public policy to do so. Of course there is no magic wand or simple public policy solution to this vexing problem, but each of us can do our part to advocate for the fixes we know will help.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

One thing! It is impossible to reduce my learning through IACAC to any one thing. As a new counselor, I did not know how to send official transcripts until a colleague helped me to learn on the job, and introduced me to IACAC membership. Since then I have learned about federal law and policy impacting my undocumented and special education students. I have attended FAFSA workshops and campus visits to advise students through my own personal experience. Annual Conference, District Seminars, Springfield and Washington, DC Advocacy Day...the learning afforded by IACAC goes on and on. Above all, no matter the question I have learned to seek out answers through someone in this Association who I could turn to and ask without fear. My continuing education through IACAC, both formal and informal, has impacted every aspect of my work with students over the course of my career.

- Active Member of Fenton Education Association
- ASCA Member (2008-present)
- Recognized IHSA baseball official
- Tour d'Admissions Cycling Trip Participant



MIKE GAVIC

Treasurer - Elect

Bradley University

Director of Undergraduate
Admissions

IACAC Member- 14 Years
NACAC Member- 5 Years

Education:

- B.S. in Business Management
 - Millikin University

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ADVOCATE

IACAC Activities

- Middle Management Institute Attendee (2013)
- Middle Management Institute Committee Member (2017-2018)
- IACAC Presenter (2018-2019)
- IACAC Attendee (2010, 2014-2019, 2022)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

If I could change anything, I think I would try to change the way that GPAs are reported to colleges or the way that colleges accept GPAs to be consistent across the board. I think so many kids are disadvantaged when their schools don't give as much weight to a student's GPA as the next school. Their students are brilliant but they are unfortunately getting looked over for higher scholarships. So my magic wand change would be to create an equal GPA scale across the US. I think what is unfortunate about this change is it would likely take the power of magic to get everyone on an equal GPA scale. My hope is that colleges will continue to be better about looking beyond the numbers the GPA presents to provide students with the opportunities they have earned and deserve based on much more than just a cumulative GPA.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I've definitely learned to try to get a better understanding of where each individual is coming from. Try to know a little more about them and use that to help me be a better resource to them. I've met and learned things from so many different professional colleagues through IACAC that it has helped me to shape my own approach with students, families, and colleagues.



SCOTT HILLMAN

Treasurer - Elect

University of Oklahoma

Senior Assistant Director of
Admissions and Recruitment

IACAC Member- 6 Years
NACAC Member- 1 Year

Education:

- B.A.A. in Communication
 - Central Michigan University
- M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration
 - New York University

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CONNECTIONS

IACAC Activities

- Inclusion, Access, and Success Committee Member
 - Co-Chair (2019- Present)
- Conference Planning Committee:
 - First Timers Committee Member Co-Chair (2018- Present)
 - Programming Committee Member (2020)
- New Counselor Institute Committee Member
- LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group Member
- IACAC Mentor (TWICE!)
- IACAC Annual Conference Attendee and Presenter in 2018, 2019, 2021, and scheduled to present in 2022.

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

I wish there was a universal online tool that students, families, and counselors could use to learn more about colleges and universities. Perhaps students could enter in size, distance, programs of interest, or other search criteria and they would then get a list of colleges that would be of most interest to them. One place for everyone to navigate the college search and learn more about universities they might not be familiar with. This would make the beginning steps of the search process a bit easier and it would give colleges an equal playing field.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I definitely think I use my connections in IACAC to best serve students and families. Whether it be having candid conversations with high school and independent counselors or referring students to other colleges and universities that might be a better fit for them, having these connections helps to ease the process for students.

NACAC and Other Professional Activities:

- NACAC Annual Conference Attendee (2021)
- Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR)
 - President (2021-Present)
 - President Elect (2020-2021)
 - Counselor Outreach Co-Chair (2017-2019)

- Guiding the Way to Inclusion Conference Attendee (2021)
- Central Michigan University Young Alumni Board of Directors (2012-2020)
 - President (2018-2020)
 - Vice President (2016-2018)
 - Awards and Recognition Committee Chair (2014-2016)



KATHRYN HANKAMP

Secretary

St. Norbert College

Associate Director of
Admission -Chicago Regional

IACAC Member- 13 Years
NACAC Member- 2 Years

Education:

- B.A. from St. Norbert College
- M.S. Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University

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NETWORK

IACAC Activities

- Professional Connections Committee Co-Chair (2020-Present)
- IACAC Conference Committee
 - Conference Program Committee (2019-2021)
 - Registration Committee (2022)
- Illinois College Fair Committee (2020-Present)
- Mentorship Committee Member
- New Counselor Institute Committee (2018-Present)
- Elevate Participant

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Chicago Area Regional Representative (CARR) Member
 - Member Development Co-Chair
 - Counselor Outreach Co-Chair

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

One thing that I wish I could change would be to make the financial aid process easier for all students. Affordability is a driving factor in a student's college decision and for some students there are roadblocks that can make the process confusing and frustrating. While recent changes in the process have been made that allow for more time between receiving an award and making a decision, verification continues to slow the financial aid process for thousands of students. My "magic wand moment" would be finding a better way to verify information on the FAFSA when necessary, without making students and their families jump through too many hoops. Creating one central location where students could submit additional documents eliminates the need for a student to send the same information to multiple institutions and would allow for awards to be completed faster and with more accuracy.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

IACAC has offered a number of opportunities for professional development that I've been fortunate to take part in. So there isn't one thing I've learned, it's many. With each professional development opportunity I've been able to continue to strengthen my skills to make me a better admission counselor for the students I work with.



APRIL LYNCH

Delegate Director

(Postsecondary/Service Organization)

Syracuse University

Associate Director of Admissions

IACAC Member- 20 Years

NACAC Member- 2 Years

Education:

- B.A.- Illinois Wesleyan University
- M.A.- Western Michigan University

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FAMILY

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- MOACAC and WACAC member
- Recently approved presenter for a Women in Admissions SIG Webinar in 2022 (NACAC)
- Chicago Area Regional Representatives
 - Member (2004- Present)
 - Member Development Co-Chair (2018- Present)
 - Created and ran Regional Training Program

IACAC Activities

- Membership Committee Co-Chair (2018-2021)
- Conference Committees:
 - Raffle Co-Chair (2019-Present)
 - Member for Multiple Years: Registration, Evaluations, First-Timers, and Tellers
- Committee Member with:
 - Membership, Mentorship, Summer Institute/New Counselor Institute, Middle Management Institute, Ad Hoc Membership
- Co-Presenting at Conference:
 - "Self-Care and Mindfulness" (April 2021)
 - "The Mom Side of the Desk" (April 2017)
 - "Parenting and Admissions" (April 2010)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

I would love to speed up how quickly change happens in higher education itself. Quicker adaptability would allow us to meet the needs of our students and coworkers in real time. It would encourage new ideas and show openness to streamlining or changing processes that work but could be improved upon. It would also encourage those newer to our profession to become involved, to feel their voices, thoughts, and concerns are heard and appreciated.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

The greatest lesson I have learned during my time in IACAC is that we have an amazing group of caring individuals in our membership. I have learned that not only are they colleagues who are willing to jump in and help at a moments notice but also friends who care deeply for one another. That easily transfers over into working with students and within our offices. I always try to go the extra mile and lift up those around me not just when they need it, but everyday so they know they are valued, encouraged, and supported.



EVAN WILSON

Delegate Director

(Postsecondary/ Service Organization)

IACAC Activities

- Summer Institute (2001-2003)
- Membership Committee (2004)
- Government Relations Committee (2015-Present)
- Springfield Advocacy Day (2016-Present)
- IACAC Conference Presenter (2006, 2014, 2019)
- Government Relations Co-Chair (2019-2021)
- Molly K. Arnold President's Service Recognition Award (2021)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

If I could harness Dumbledorian magical powers, I would eliminate college rankings. The stakes for students and their families in the college admission process, as well as the enrollment pressures on the post-secondary side, seem to rise every year. There are so many issues that contribute to these pressures that could use the magic wand treatment, but college rankings seem to be at the center of it and contribute to competing pressures on both sides. Fewer and fewer high school graduates are attending college every year and, paradoxically, the public believes that it is harder than ever to get into college. This concept is driven by the chase for the prestige that seems to follow college rankings. Colleges chase it by manipulating acceptance rates and reputation scores; families crave it by employing expensive test prep and by over-borrowing to attend that "prestigious" college; and national media perpetuate it by reporting on colleges in ways that suggest that what happens at highly ranked colleges is true for all of post-secondary education. The reality is that chasing college rankings is one way we divert our focus and our resources away from the meaningful systemic changes needed to accelerate upward mobility and empower the disenfranchised. The absence of college rankings would reduce anxiety for students, lead higher education institutions to reallocate resources towards student success initiatives and cost containment, and reduce student debt. It's such a waste of energy and it is antithetical to the work of IACAC and NACAC.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

We are not alone. The power and depth of knowledge of IACAC is vast and I have been so fortunate to have been mentored by IACAC members for so long. We, the members of IACAC, are true professionals with expert knowledge on so many topics. I regularly rely on you to offer sage advice, provide training, and deliver professional counsel. You have helped me and my team adopt best practices, thrive as professionals and better serve students. As I am embarking on the college search journey for my own daughter, my appreciation has deepened and I find myself in awe of your dedication, collaboration, and wisdom.

Illinois College

Associate Vice President for
Enrollment Management

IACAC Member- 16 Years
NACAC Member- 16 Years

Education:

- BA- Illinois College
- MBA- Benedictine University- Springfield

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someone in one word
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ADVOCATE

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Annual Conference Attendee
 - (2002-2005, 2011-2019, 2021)
- Washington Advocacy Day
 - (2019, 2020)
- College Board Enrollment Leadership Academy (2011)
- Member- MOACAC, AACRAO, NASFAA



JOSEPHINE WEST

Delegate Director
(Postsecondary/Service Organization)

IACAC Activities

- Mentorship Committee Member (2009-Present)
 - Co-Chair (2017-2019)
- Professional Connections Committee Co-Chair (2019-2021)
- Government Relations Committee Member (2009-2019)
- Conference Committees:
 - Raffle Committee Co-Chair (2016-2018)
 - Entertainment Committee (2020)
 - First Timer Committee (2010-Present)
- Secretary (2020-2022)
- Molly K. Arnold President's Service Recognition Award (2018)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

If I had to change one thing within IACAC it would be to expand our outreach! Today with the demographic landscape of the country changing, it is important that we are persistent in providing access to higher education to those groups that are underrepresented on college campuses. As an organization we need to ensure that our membership is prepared to work with all students from diverse backgrounds. We should make an effort to draw attention to important diversity issues both locally and nationally, provide resources and training to our members, work with our elected state legislators who are involved on higher education committees, and expand delivery of association services to members in all geographic regions of Illinois.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I feel honored to be nominated for Delegate Director – Post-Secondary of IACAC. Having served in various leadership roles, I have come to realize that the strength of a leader depends on understanding the strengths of an organization. I am proud to be a part of such a strong organization such as IACAC. The role of Delegate Director is critical as it supports the President and/or the Executive Board. IACAC has been extremely important to me in my development as a professional and I am excited about the possibilities as we look to the future. My membership in IACAC has truly been an extraordinary part of my career as a Regional Recruitment Manager. It has connected me with so many wonderful professionals on both sides of the desk, who continually strive to be inventive and collaborative by creating new opportunities and change. Being a part of IACAC has helped me work within my own organization more collaboratively and creative. I love bringing new ideas I hear from fellow IACAC members to my institution. It also allows me to develop meaningful relationships with counselors/students and provide information about my institution. If elected, I will continue to work extremely hard for IACAC with a positive attitude, an open mind and the utmost respect for this organization.

The Ohio State University

Regional Recruitment Manager

IACAC Member- 12 Years
NACAC Member- 10 Years

Education:

- B.S. in Psychology
 - Northern Illinois University

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would you use?

OPPORTUNITY

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- National Conference Attendee
 - (2014, 2016, 2017-2019, 2021)
- Chicago Area Regional Representatives
 - Member (2014- Present)
 - President (2018-2021)
 - Treasurer (2014-2016)
 - Counselor Outreach (2016-2018)



Beacon Academy

Director of College Counseling

IACAC Member- 6 Years
NACAC Member- 21 Years

Education:

- B.A.- Hamilton College
- M.A.- Middlebury College

If you had to tell someone in one word what IACAC has meant to you, what word would you use?

ADVOCACY

NACAC Activities

- Government Relations Committee Member
 - (2017-2020)
- Assembly Delegate
 - (2014-2016)
- LGBTQ+ SIG Member
 - (2011-Present)
- IB Counselors SIG Member
 - (2016-Present)

JOE FREEMAN

Delegate Director
(Secondary/Independent)

IACAC Activities

- Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair (2022)
- Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development Co-Chair (2020-2022)
- Conference Logistics Committee Co-Chair (2018-2021)
- Government Relations Committee (2016-Present)
 - Co-Chair (2017-2021)
- New Counselor Institute Member (2017-2018)
- NACAC College Fair Volunteer (2017-2019)
- Motivate Me Volunteer (2017)

Other Professional Activities

- SACAC Executive Board Member and Government Relations Committee Co-Chair (2014-2016)
- SACAC, Alabama State Co-Chair (2012-2015)
- ACCIS (Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools)
 - Audit and Review Committee Member (2021-Present)
 - Communications Committee Member (2014-2017)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

If I could, I would change the power that money exerts in college admissions and recruitment. Especially with NACAC's revised mission, calling for admissions professionals to "advocate for a more accessible and equitable future for higher education," it seems important for us to consider the ways that our individual offices consciously move towards this vision AND to identify long-standing practices in our profession that create barriers to achieving this vision. For instance, to what extent are college admissions offices comfortable with interrupting their usual school visit and college fair calendars as a way of considering different sources of applications? What conversations are happening in college admissions offices about whose names to buy and why? How are high school counselors identifying students who need equity-based interventions early in their high school careers? How are school counselors changing conversations in their school communities about who gets in and why? Our organization has a chance to lead difficult conversations about how to more fundamentally change our recruitment and counseling practices. Some of these conversations might need to confront the reality that admissions professionals are also responsible for helping to meet a budget. How can we have courageous conversations about how we all navigate potentially competing priorities?

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

At its best, IACAC shows the extraordinary power of partnership and collaboration in changing outcomes for students, and I try to consider the strength of partnerships in my own work. Whether those partnerships occur at a personal or institutional level, being able to identify shared goals and execute a plan to achieve those goals is an organizational asset that I have tried to instill in my school and office culture. My work in IACAC, especially with marginalized populations of students, has also fostered more effective and intentional conversations about how equity looks in a college counseling office and how offices like mine can benefit from reallocating both attention and resources to those students in greatest need of support and counseling.



Marian Central Catholic High School

College Counselor

IACAC Member- 14 Years
NACAC Member- 14 Years

Education:

- B.A. Public Communication and HR
 - Western Illinois University
- MBA in HR Management
 - American Intercontinental University
- MBA in Management
 - American Intercontinental University

If you had to tell someone in one word what IACAC has meant to you, what word would you use?

CHAMPION

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I have learned so much from each of my involvements within IACAC. Some of the skills I've learned and fine-tuned which are attributed to IACAC include the ability to observe before evaluating, being innovative with budgets while also being fiscally responsible, being visionary and analytical, as well as the ability to be thorough and detail oriented. However, one of the things I've learned through my time in IACAC which has had the greatest impact on me professionally is the ability to have a growth mindset. Every committee and leadership role I've taken on, I've grown from. I've learned from. And hopefully I've left an impact on the association and others. Having a growth mindset has allowed me to become more of an active listener, rather than passively listening to respond. I've learned to accept constructive criticism, which has provided me opportunities to see myself through the lens of others, to understand others' perspectives, and often find different and more effective ways to accomplish team and individual goals. Having a growth mindset has also allowed me the strength to navigate tumultuous times. While I've learned the grass isn't always greener on the other side, focusing on my strengths, the contributions I'm able to make, and the impact that I leave on others has been so beneficial and rewarding for me. I have IACAC to thank for everything I've been able to accomplish in my professional career and for shaping the person I am today!

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Chicago Area Regional Representatives
 - Member (2008-2016, 2016-2022)
 - Secretary (2011-2013)
- Admission Practices Affiliate Co-Chairs Committee (2019-Present)
- Annual Conference Attendee (2014, 2017)
- Annual Conference Presenter (2017)

SHAWN WOCHNER

Delegate Director (Secondary/Independent)

IACAC Activities

- Admission Practices Committee (2017-2019) & Co-Chair (2019-Present)
- Conference Committees:
 - Conference Evaluations and Tellers Co-Chair (2017-2021)
 - Conference First Timers Co-Chair (2012-2013)
 - Conference On-Site Co-Chair (2011-2012)
 - Conference Program Committee (2014-2015)
 - Conference Registration and Hospitality (2009-2011)
 - Presenter (2011-Present)
- Transfer Advisory Committee (2018-2019) & Co-Chair (2015-2018)
- Executive Board- Council Team Director (2013-2015)
- Illinois College Fair Committee (2012-2015)
- Government Relations Committee (2012-2016)
- Middle Management Institute Participant (2013)
- Membership Committee (2015-2016)
- Summer Institute Committee (2012-2013) & Co-Chair (2010-2011)
- Mentorship Committee Co-Chair (2012-2013)
- Macomb Area Regional College Fair- Onsite Chair (2012-2013)
- James A Alexander Newcomer Award Recipient (2012)
- Professional Access and Equity Ad-Hoc Committee (2021-Present)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

Had I been asked this question at any point during the past 16 years while working in college admissions, I would have advocated for more equity when it comes to access and opportunity in higher education. While I still passionately advocate for access and opportunity for all students, now that I've had the opportunity to see the various admissions processes from the high school College Counselor perspective this academic year, I would love to see a far more streamlined process for students to apply to colleges. One standardized test (or no standardized test for that matter), one national application, one process for submitting grades/transcripts, and a standardization for letters of recommendation. While the students at Marian Central Catholic have access to a College Counselor, not every high school student is as privileged. Even having endless resources, some of my students still struggled to manage all the different portals, websites, and processes. I can't begin to imagine how students at an under-resourced high school manage and navigate this process. However, if there were one website for seniors to go to so they can apply, submit grades, and test scores (if they desire), our students would have less stress and anxiety as they moved through this process. I believe we can all agree that our students have enough stress and anxiety when it comes to high school and the pressures put on them. We ask them to excel in the classroom, push the boundaries with their rigor, join multiple sports/student organizations/fine arts groups, take on leadership roles, volunteer, and be a good friend, citizen, and family member. A single sign-in website to complete the entire college application process would make students' life easier, and thus would be my dream.



BETSY STEVENS

Council Team Director
(Postsecondary/Service Organization)

University of Pittsburgh

Assistant Director of
Regional Recruitment

IACAC Member- 7 Years
NACAC Member- 4 Years

Education:

- B.A.- University of Iowa (Journalism and Mass Communication)

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would you use?

OPPORTUNITY

IACAC Activities

- Mentorship Committee Member/Mentor (2016-2018)
- Conference Planning Committee:
 - Raffle Committee Member (2015-2016)
 - Conference Programs Co-Chair (2017-2019)
- District Seminar Committee Member (2017-2018)
- New Counselor Institute Committee Member (2021-Present)
- Project Reach Committee Member/Co-Chair (2017-2019)
- Middle Management Institute Graduate (2018)
- Middle Management Committee Member (2018-2019)
- New Counselor Institute Committee Member (2021-Present)
- Elevate Participant (2021-2022)

NACAC Activities

- NACAC Annual Conference Attendee (2019)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

I would like to see more interdisciplinary options offered within curriculum so students acquire more skills beyond what their major offers. I'd like students to learn more technical and life skills, and embrace more opportunities outside of the classroom.

Other Professional Activities

- Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR)
 - Member (2016-Present)
 - Treasurer (2017-Present)

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

Be YOU - be authentic. Don't try to be somebody that you are not.



SARAH GOLDMAN

Council Team Director
(Postsecondary/Service Organization)

University of Oregon

Chicago Regional Counselor

IACAC Member- 12 Years
NACAC Member- 8 Years

Education:

- B.A.- Cornell College
- M.Ed.- Loyola University Chicago

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LOVE

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Chicago Area Regional Representatives (CARR)
 - Secretary (2019-2021)
- National Association for Regional Admission Counseling (NARAC)
 - Chair of NARAC Survey Committee (2018-Present)
- NACAC Annual Conference Attendee (2014, 2016, 2018-2020)

IACAC Activities

- Summer Institute Committee Chair (2013-2014, 2019-2021)
- Technology Ad Hoc Committee Chair (2017-2019)
- Media Communications Committee Chair (2014-2017)
- Nominations Committee (2015-2016)
- Mentorship Committee (2011-Present)
- Membership Committee (2016-Present)
- IACAC Annual Conference Attendance (2010-Present)
 - Chair of Exhibitors, Advertising & Sponsorship (2017)
 - Chair of Entertainment (2020-2021)
 - Chair of Project Reach (2019-2020)
 - Presented on Identity and Macroaggressions (2017)
 - Moderated Session for New Conference Attendees (2015)
 - Presenting on Regional Survey Data (2022)
- Recipient of James A. Alexander Newcomer Award (2015)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

A tangible change I would like to see (and work on) is making the required internship for school counseling students a paid internship in the state of Illinois. School counselors are vital to student success! Their graduate program is, by necessity, long and challenging. A year-long unpaid internship can create a real barrier to access for folks of all backgrounds who might be perfect for the role but cannot live without a paycheck.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I have learned a MILLION things from IACAC, IACAC members, and throughout my time as a proud member of both IACAC and NACAC! Perhaps the most important thing I have learned is how to be a student focused counselor. When I began working in admissions, I thought my main goal was to sing the praises of the institution I represented. Sometimes I would literally sing! Over time I learned that my job is to get to know students and families and provide them with the information about my institution that they need to make the choice that is best for them. Every day I focus on being a resource for all students and families, not just the ones who may be a good fit for my school.



CODY DAILEY

Council Team Director
(Secondary/Independent)

Victor J Andrew High School

Student Success Specialist

IACAC Member- 5 Years
NACAC Member- 4 Years

Education:

- B.A. International Relations
 - Knox College
- M.Ed. School Counseling
 - DePaul University

If you had to tell
someone in one word
what IACAC has meant
to you, what word
would you use?

CONNECTION

IACAC Activities

- Scholarship Committee
- National College Fair Committee
- District Seminars Committee
- Bus O'Fun Attendee

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

I would love to make positive impacts on affordability for a Post Secondary education. Growing up as a low-income, first gen student myself, my mother always set the expectation of college but we never knew how we would make it happen financially. Luckily, I was able to receive a large scholarship from my community, but without that, it might have not been a possibility for me. Given the current socioeconomic struggles that many students are facing, it's become even more of an increasing need for families to find the funding to make a future possible. If I had a magic wand, I would make institutional scholarships more accessible and increase overall opportunities both at the local/state level and from the federal/FAFSA level. We want students to be able to pursue the future they believe they are worthy of, regardless of being worried about money.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

I would say my overall knowledge of the many strategies and resources available to assist counselors, students and families AND how to implement them into your daily practice. IACAC hosts so many networking and professional development events that I feel more connected to the great community and also more knowledgeable overall in order to best serve families.

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Previous Co-Host for How To College: First Gen Podcast
- Previous Volunteer at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will/Grundy (College 2.0 Program)
- Presented at Conferences for:
 - IACAC, SACAC, NYACAC, College Changes Everything
- Member of Chicago Area College Counseling Association (CACCA)
- Chicago Area National College Fair Volunteer



MADDIE CORDER

Council Team Director
(Secondary/Independent)

In keeping with this year's Conference theme: "Be The Change You Wish to See", if you could choose one aspect of the world of college/higher education to change, what ONE thing would you change and why?

This is a tough question because there are SO many issues that I wish could be solved with magic. However, for the sake of this question, I will say that my magic wand would eliminate the comparison game. The comparison game is where students and parents constantly talk about who is applying where, which colleges are "better" than others, etc. These conversations inevitably lead to feelings of insecurity, doubt, and anxiety in students. Our students' mental health is already in such a fragile state and such fodder is unproductive. Instead, I want students to feel empowered and confident when making postsecondary decisions. It's a time of self-discovery, for students to determine what is right for THEM, not their friends. Although there is not equity in access and resources (magic wand, can I have another wish?), I would love for students to create their own journey for what is best for them. To know all of the opportunities available to them. To explore the colleges that they want to explore. To avoid the stigma of choosing a postsecondary option that is not "popular". And to feel confident in the decisions they are making for their future. Students need to be met where they are at, and that's not the same for all students. If my magic wand could take away the constant comparing to give students more confidence and authority in their decisions, there would be a lot less repairing of minds, hearts, and self-esteem. I believe this would result in greater positive change in our society and more representation across all groups to affect this change.

What's one thing you've learned through your time in IACAC that has changed how you work with students and/or your office?

We are all in this together. At times, our work might feel very isolated or even lonely and sometimes it can feel overwhelming. Through my time in IACAC, I have learned that everyone in this organization is in this work together. We support each other, we aren't afraid to ask the hard questions, we respect all, strive to understand all viewpoints and celebrate our differences, AND we work for ALL students and the future. This has translated to my professional practice through my work with students, parents, school counseling colleagues, and college colleagues. Before joining IACAC, I was more timid to express my opinions or ask questions for fear of judgment and was more of a passive participant in the profession. Through feeling empowered by IACAC's mission of advocacy and inclusion and because of the relationships I have made with those in this organization, I realize that we are all working for the greater good. I feel like I can confidently be a champion for my students and families. I feel empowered to ask questions. I am determined to make a positive change. I can advocate for transparency and clear communication in our profession. I am always learning with and from those around me and it doesn't feel as lonely or overwhelming. It feels awesome. The IACAC culture is something I know everyone in our profession can find value in and I want to make sure each member of our community feels heard, feels comfortable asking questions, feels a commitment to continue to learn and grow alongside one another, and knows that they have a voice in this organization. We are all in this together!

Naperville Central High School

College and Career Counselor
IACAC Member- 8 Years
NACAC Member- 5 Years

Education:

- B.M. in Music Education
 - (Saint Xavier University)
- M.A. in School Counseling
 - Northeastern University

If you had to tell
someone in one word
what IACAC has meant
to you, what word
would you use?

CONNECTION

IACAC Activities

- Annual Conference Attendee (2017-Present)
- Mentorship Committee- Mentee (2018)
- Sharing the Dream Attendee (2018)
- Membership Committee Co-Chair (2019-Present)
- Membership Ad-hoc Committee Member (2020-2021)

NACAC and Other Professional Activities

- Annual Conference Attendee (2017-Present)
- ASCA Member (2018-Present)
- Chicago Area College Counseling Association Member