



**ARLINGTON – August 11, 2017** - Setting an attendance record, the 24<sup>th</sup> annual [International Association for College Admission Counseling \(International ACAC\)](#) Conference concluded on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, after five days of educational sessions, networking, collaboration and fundraising. Hosted at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, nearly 1,300 educational professionals representing institutions and organizations from 88 countries around the world came together to discuss important matters of global education.

International ACAC President, Johanna Fishbein, set the tone in her opening remarks, “Since International ACAC came together last summer, our world has undergone considerable changes, many of which have had a direct impact on our students and their families. As the policies around us become more and more insular and isolationist, I am left inspired and reassured by the open, welcoming ethos that defines International ACAC. The collaboration across our organization to make sure our students, regardless of citizenship, are supported on their journey to higher education truly highlights the need for organizations like ours and the strength of our membership. As our conversations continue, I remain optimistic that our students are in good hands, and that the importance of providing our students with diverse, globally focused learning environments is very much alive within the International ACAC community.”

#### **International ACAC Conference Highlights**

- The 2017 International ACAC Conference featured 250+ presenters, providing 80 sessions on a wide range of topics, both practical as well as discussion-oriented
- Session presentations included several trending topics in education, as well as society, ranging from
  - U.S. and global university admission and financial aid practices, policies, trends, and changes
  - Best practices and innovations in counseling students through the application process
  - Transitioning to university living, including student life concerns and considerations
  - Education in politics, the global media, and society
- A full list of sessions, complete with descriptions and presenters, is [available here](#)
  
- Eighty-eight nations from around the globe were represented
- Conference attendance totaled 1,283, surpassing the previous attendance record of 1,250 set in 2016
  - 421 high school attendees, representing secondary schools in 72 countries
  - 679 college/university attendees, representing higher education institutions from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Netherlands, Panama, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States
  - 67 individual/retired members
  - 116 organizational members
  
- Special pre- and post-conference workshops were offered to enhance professional development
  - The **Pre-Conference Institute: International University Counseling 101** brought together 86 secondary school counselors with 0-2 years experience to practice fundamentals of advising
  - The **Pre-Conference Admissions Leadership Workshop**, supported by a NACAC Imagine Grant, included 29 mid-career admission professionals around the topic *Relationships that Inspire: Coaching for Change, Learning, and Leadership*, led by Dr. Ellen Van Oosten of Case Western Reserve University’s Weatherhead School of Management

- The **Post-Conference Workshop: Supporting Student-Athletes** featured 39 secondary school counselors learning the specialized process of advising students interested in NCAA athletics
- The **2017 Counselor Bus Tour** brought a group of 28 secondary school counselors to 18 different U.S. university campuses in Ohio and Pennsylvania
- For the fourth year an exhibit hall was available for attendees to remain current on innovative products and services; this year featuring a robust variety of 33 different organizations
- The Opening Ceremony was held at Severance Hall, home of The Cleveland Orchestra, and attendees were treated to a closing reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, two locations culturally significant to the city of Cleveland
- International ACAC was proud to recognize three members with the organization's highest awards. This year's recipients were:
  - The Peter Hauet Lifetime Achievement Award: Marie Vivas, Senior Development Manager, International Baccalaureate Organization
  - Distinguished Service Award: Joan Liu, University Advisor, United World College South East Asia, East Campus (Singapore)
  - Rising Star Award: Ed Tourle, Head of Student Education, Pestalozzi International Village Trust (United Kingdom)
- The Opening Ceremony Keynote was delivered by Freda Levenson, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio, who provided a nonpartisan reflection of and thoughts on the future of several significant legal and governmental issues currently impacting immigration, education, and society

### **International ACAC Scholar Program**

International ACAC actively promotes access to higher education for high-achieving, low-income students around the world by supporting those who work most closely with them by providing professional development to high-impact, under-resourced counselors through the Scholar Program.

- Twelve scholars serving students throughout Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, the Middle East, South America and South Asia were sponsored to attend the conference
- Combined, these 12 scholars directly touch the lives of 6,067 students worldwide
- Two fundraising events, a 5K Run/Walk and the Scholar Raffle, were held during the conference, raising nearly \$12,500 for the Scholar Fund

### **International ACAC Conference Online**

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IntlACAC>, #intlacac2017

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/intlacac/>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150950031@N05/albums>

### **About International ACAC**

International ACAC was founded in 1991 as the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling and is affiliated with the US-based National Association for College admission Counseling (NACAC). Membership is made up of over 2,500 professionals from more than 100 countries worldwide, dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing post-secondary education. International ACAC effectively brings together secondary school counselors, independent counselors, college admission and financial aid officers, enrollment managers and organizations engaged in guiding students through the transition from secondary to higher education.

### **About the International ACAC Conference**

The International ACAC conference is the premier networking and education event for educational professionals working with secondary (high) school students in planning postsecondary options, bringing together school counselors, university admissions officers and representatives from other advising organizations all serving students in the transition process to university. International ACAC is a not-for-profit organization (US taxpayer ID 141-82-7265).