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INTERNATIONAL ACAC CALLS FOR EQUITY IN STANDARDIZED ADMISSIONS TESTING FOR STUDENTS WORLDWIDE

ARLINGTON, VA - October 3, 2017 - The majority of universities in the US, in addition to many universities around the globe, require standardized testing as a significant qualification to apply for admission. Because this testing is required for university admission, International ACAC believes the testing agencies and universities must make sure all students have equal access to these test dates.

The International Association for College Admission Counseling has a membership of over 2,800 professionals around the globe, representing hundreds of thousands of international students and US citizens abroad, who have been unjustly impacted by the recent test cancellations and limitations, a result of widespread cheating concerns, by both the ACT and College Board (who administer the SAT).

In May 2017, the National Association for College Admission Counseling issued a second statement to the testing agencies, requesting various action items, including increased communication when cancellations arise and an end to the practice of reusing tests. Since this statement was issued, additional cancellations have occurred, and there continues to be inadequate communication with impacted parties (students, test site coordinators, high school counselors, and universities).

International ACAC is now calling for a stronger response from the testing agencies, particularly the ACT and College Board.

In June of 2017, International ACAC sent a survey to its membership after NACAC’s May statement. 551 members responded to the survey. Using these survey results, International ACAC calls on all testing agencies to be attentive to the following:

- **Equality and Access for All Students (domestic and international):** At the moment, students graduating in the Class of 2018 in the US have access to more test dates for the ACT and the SAT than those students outside the US. For example, students in the Class of 2018, who waited until spring of their junior year to start testing, had the following SAT testing options available:

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|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| Inside US | January, March, May, June, August, October, November, December | 8 testing dates |
| Outside US | January, May, October, December | 4 testing dates |

Twice as many SAT test dates were available for the Class of 2018 for students in the US as opposed to those test dates available for students outside of the US.

Furthermore, ACT cancelled the September exam in much of Asia, Europe and Oceania, impacting thousands of students, and has not provided an option for students to reschedule.

It is clear that US high school students currently have an advantage in the US admissions process.

This is an issue of equality and access; International ACAC believes ACT and the College Board should provide an equal number of test dates for all students, those residing internationally as well as those residing in the United States.

- **Lack of Confidence:** It has now become a norm to expect test cancellations, and this creates a significant amount of anxiety for students as they undergo the admissions process for the US and other countries that may require standardized testing.

International ACAC believes it is the duty of all testing agencies to ensure they are not reusing large portions of tests and that the testing agencies distribute testing materials securely to bring an end to last-minute test date cancellations.

- **Communication Concerns:** When tests have been cancelled, communication from testing agencies has neither been comprehensive nor timely.

International ACAC believes it is the duty of the test agencies to communicate with all relevant parties when a test is cancelled, or when there is a change in testing. This includes: students, test site coordinators, high school counselors, and universities.

International ACAC calls on the ACT and the College Board to address the items above in a timely fashion, and communicate a plan to counselors, universities, students and test supervisors to ensure all students are provided with equal access to the standardized testing that is required for universities in the US and worldwide.

We recognize test cancellations create significant burden to university staff in the admissions process. International ACAC calls on our university colleagues to speak out against this inequality in the admissions process, and to consider waiving testing requirements for those students in the Class of 2018 who reside outside of the United States.

International ACAC has established an Ad-Hoc Committee on Standardized Testing that will continue to advocate on behalf of our membership and students around the world.

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 2,800 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.

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