

2019 INTERNATIONAL ACAC EXECUTIVE BOARD APPLICATION

Name: Joachim (Kim) Ekstrom

Title: Director of College Counseling

Member Type: High School

Institution: Seoul Foreign School

Location: Korea, Republic of



Position for which you are applying:

Delegate to the NACAC Assembly

PUBLIC BALLOT INFORMATION

Provide information regarding your professional roles:

My undergraduate training in Education and Psychology and postgraduate training in Counseling Psychology prepared me well for the work I have done in schools both as a teacher and counselor. I have earned Diplomas in Values Education and Awareness Commitment Therapy, and I have completed solid training in Solution Focused Therapy and ECIS Mid-Level Leadership. I have worked as comprehensive high school counselor in international schools for 12 years, and I am presently the Director of College Counseling at Seoul Foreign School where I lead a team of four counselors and serve a high school population of 470. My responsibilities also include representing the high school counseling team in administrative meetings with the head of school and the school board.

Provide information regarding your International ACAC, NACAC, and/or other international education organizational experience.

I have been engaged in the international counseling community for more than 12 years. I have been selected for 10 presentations at IntlACAC, CIS, and CIS/EARCOS since 2015, and I have two proposals in for this year. I was selected as Faculty for the 2018 International ACAC Pre-Conference Institute for new counselors, and I am hoping to be able to continue this year. I am an active member outside of the conferences and collaborate continuously with colleagues on both sides of the desk. I have visited 167 universities around the world since 2009. I have organized three, informal college tours where counselors from other international schools joined: one in the UK, one in Japan and one in Thailand. I established a High School Counselor network in Korea when I arrived here last year. We are 55 counselors from 21 international schools that collaborate on a regular basis. In 2015, I organized a Solution-Focused Therapy workshop at NIST International School and 25+ counselors from around the region joined. In 2018, I organized a similar workshop at Seoul Foreign School and 30+ counselors from the region joined. I have acted as a virtual mentor for counselors worldwide who guide students through the Swedish university application process for a number of years. I am highly active on the IntlACAC FB page and other online forums to support counselors and facilitate discussions that can lead to understanding and positive change.

Please provide a maximum 250-word statement of your experiences, why you wish to run for the International ACAC Board, and other relevant information you would like members to know about you.

I have spent over 18 years educating myself on how to best support and guide students through their educational experience. This is my 13th year as a comprehensive high school counselor in international schools. I love the work we do. It is not a job; it is a lifestyle. I am at my best when I network with colleagues around the world and discuss opportunities for growth. I am on fire when I join college tours and engage in discussions about opportunities that benefit our students. My mind constantly makes connections. It is my blessing and my curse. Curse because it never leaves me alone and blessing because it leads to magical moments with students when I guide them in their search for a good match university/program...with colleagues when we discuss PD and networking opportunities. I work quickly and effectively, passionately and compassionately. People say I was born an entrepreneur and counselor. I love seeing visions implemented and sharing ideas that lead to valuable change. Colleagues tell me that I know how to listen, inspire, and take action. Over the years, I have learnt so much from colleagues on both sides of the desk, and I love the constant collaboration with like-minded souls around the world. I am thankful for these opportunities, and I know how valuable it is to be involved in the international community. I am at a point in my career where I can pay forward to represent members and be the voice of IntlACAC.