



2023 Executive Board Election Candidate

Vice President for Membership

Name: Ala Shaban

Title: Managing Director

Institution: American Excellence Schools

Location/Region: Jordan/Middle East & North Africa

Member Group: Secondary (High School)

All Applicant Questions

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

After two years of experience in which my schools have been a member in the International ACAC, and after my firsthand experience, I do appreciate the role played by the International ACAC. However, International ACAC needs to be more present in the educational landscape in this part of the world. More presence of the International ACAC should be established in the Middle East and North Africa along with more interaction with schools more awareness sessions about the significant role of the International ACAC.

Background and Experience

Years of experience in post-secondary admissions counseling or related fields?

10+

Please describe any professional or volunteer experience you feel would be relevant for serving on the International ACAC Executive Board.

- Served in more than 70 school evaluation visits with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and Accreditation International (AI), which enabled me to build a network of professionals worldwide.
- Served three years in the National Center for Curriculum Development.
- Currently, managing 4 schools in Jordan, and two in Iraq.
- Currently serving as Community Representative and a member of trustees in Jordanian top universities.
- Integration of leadership and supervisory skills
- Superior interpersonal and communication skills
- Multicultural awareness
- Curriculum design and development
- Quality control skills
- Excellent program development and strategic planning skills.
- Excellent relationships with government officials in the MENA regions, especially ministries of education.

Please describe how you have engaged in the international community, and the impact this has had on your professional life. Describe any International ACAC Committee experience you have.

Engagement with the international community has been an aim by itself for me. At an early stage of my career, I realized that this engagement would contribute to my learning curve; therefore, I never missed an opportunity to be part of school evaluation visit with different accreditation bodies. I have been part of most of the ACAC webinars. I was aiming for a Delegate to the NACAC; however, I was successful. Nevertheless, this did frustrate or disappoint me. With the wide network I possess, I am sure that more schools in this part of the world will join ACAC.

Please describe your affiliation with NACAC, if any. How long have you been a member of NACAC? Do you have any volunteer or committee work or experience with NACAC?

Our schools have been part of the ACAC for two years now. I did not have the chance to be a member of any committee yet.

VP for Membership Specific Questions

Please describe any relevant work with databases and/or data analysis that you have encountered in your career. What types of databases have you used? What projects have you implemented?

Data and handling data have both been an integral part of what I do for a living. Much data analysis was needed when I established my first school in Jordan. The same analysis was needed when I served in the Jordanian National Center for Curriculum Development, I was chairing the committee of the “Jordanian Curriculum Framework”. I had to accumulate all what was written in Jordan, neighboring countries, and international standards, then I had to classify and analyze

that data based on the market survey and schools' survey keeping in mind that results of the National High School Diploma had been gathered and analyzed. Similarly, I am working closely now with both the Jordanian Ministry of Education and the Iraqi Ministry of Education on developing the educational landscape in both countries, in particular schools that adopt international curricula, I have to gather and analyze data related to trends in assessment, staffing, effect of income, salary scales, and all other aspects related to operating international schools in the context of these two countries. When I was to work as in Academic Coach in the States for a management firm that runs more than 11 charter schools, I had to gather data related to students' results in Michigan State tests, the lunch-free students, the effect of students' income on their progress over time.

Please describe any ideas you have for the future direction of this position, or specific initiatives you would like to develop. This may include this specific position, or may be in collaboration with another Vice President. Be as detailed as possible.

The International ACAC is not very well-known in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA). In coordination with the President and other Vice Presidents, with I will be holding orientation seminars, at my own expense for schools in Jordan and Iraq about the importance of being a member in the International ACAC. For schools to feel the benefit of membership in the International ACAC, free training will be provided to schools for in-service teachers. This will be a free-of-charge training. In addition, each school joining the ACAC will receive a certificate of membership to be displayed their entrances along with a suggested memo to parents about the benefits of this membership.

Part of this position is managing people, committees, and projects. What is your experience in this area? Describe your management style. How do you like to be managed?

I have been managing people and committees at both private and public sector for the past 20 years. During serving in the National Centre for Curriculum Development, I was responsible for managing people and committees of university professors including those who were my own university professors, and currently I am sitting on different boards of different schools and institutions, so, managing people is what I what I do best, especially with the excellent personal skills I enjoy. I manage the same way I like to be managed, I delegate and hold accountable, I am a result-oriented person, this in no way means that the aim justifies the means.

Name your three most impactful takeaways from the December 2020 DEI Organization Assessment Report. How would you advance the conversation around diversity and inclusion within International ACAC? How do you believe the Executive Board should function in this capacity?

To me, percentage of current members who completed the survey which is (17%) is falling far below expectations. This low percent is very indicative. Several factors play a role, including but not limited to the timing of the survey, an internal notion that the participants voice does not have a real value. The Regional Representation Engagement Representation structure is an important takeaway, and the suggestion is in the bull's eye. I would suggest having continental representation/ regional. i.e. MENA Region, Africa, Near and Far East representation.