



The CLARION

Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The notion of professional *maintenance*, as opposed to development, has been stuck in my mind for sometime now as WACAC has navigated the pandemic. Even the most fortunate among us have dealt with a very altered state of reality, to put it mildly. As such, many of the things that we all know to be part and parcel of WACAC's role in our lives, the act of seeking professional development and networking, have been altered. Some of them seem almost preposterous right now! How many times have we found ourselves simply just trying to keep our heads above water, right? In-person programming has moved entirely virtual, frequencies of meeting were reduced to accommodate new work realities...nearly nothing has been "normal". Yet, here we are as an Association: at the very least maintaining. But a deeper look at things could potentially lead one to see that WACAC is by some measures thriving. Record membership as a result of a new approach to dues, virtual programming to serve a broader array of professionals and students alike, and we're still planning a conference!

This notion of thriving during a pandemic is absolutely the result of dedicated and caring professionals, colleagues of yours and mine, that have found a way to continue to give to WACAC. For that, I could not be more grateful. This also leaves me profoundly confident in our Association's future.



As we slowly come out of this chaos, we are faced with the responsibility and opportunity to serve the membership of WACAC and return to more of our traditional professional development. We all have a renewed chance to lead, to learn, and to grow as professionals in our great state. As you'll see in the pages of this Clarion, we're well down that path, and the future is bright. I

look forward to taking part in that growth with you.

Nick Spaeth
WACAC President

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OPE! LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN: MIDWEST ACAC CONFERENCE

Monday, May 24 and Tuesday, May 25

Please join Minnesota, Iowa, Dakotas, and Wisconsin ACAC as we host our 2021 all virtual conference: **OPE! Let's try this again!**

Cost: \$25 for MIDWest ACAC members, \$50 for non-members

[Register](#)

If you are interested in being a sponsor for the conference, please submit your payment here: <https://wacac.com/event-4280583>) and register here:

If you have any questions contact [Patrick Correia-Harker](#) or [Oliver Debe](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Your 2021 MIDWest Conference Planning Committee



FREE Conference Registration for WI School Counselors and CBOs

As a valued high school counselor or CBO member of WACAC, we are so excited to be able to offer a complimentary MIDWest Conference registration. In conjunction with grant funding from NACAC, the WACAC Executive Board is pleased to provide this opportunity to a portion of our membership.

Your free MIDWest Conference Registration can be found [here](#).

If you have already registered and paid, you can email [Patrick Correia-Harker](mailto:Patrick.correia-harker@marquette.edu) at Patrick.correia-harker@marquette.edu to request a refund.

OPE! LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN: MIDWEST ACAC CONFERENCE

Schedule

Monday, May 24

8:15-9:15 a.m. - Welcome & Keynote Address -
Did Covid-19 Hack the Gates? Marie Bigham - Founder & Executive Director, ACCEPT
 9:15-9:30 a.m. - Break
 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Keynote Session
 10:30-10:45 a.m. - Break
 10:45-11:45 a.m. - Session Block A
 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. - Lunch Break/Social Activity
 1-2 p.m. - Session Block B
 2-3:00 p.m. - Sponsorship Conversations & Engagement
 3:00-4:00 p.m. - Round tables and Social Groups
 4:00-4:15 p.m. - Thank you & Wrap Up
 4:15-6:00 p.m. - Happy Hour/Social Activities

Tuesday, May 25

7:45-8:15 a.m. - Coffee Connections
 8:15-8:30 a.m. - Welcome & Featured Session -
Reflections on the Past 15 Months in College Counseling and College Admissions - Phil Trout
 and friends
 9:45-11:15 a.m. - Affiliate Meetings
 11:30-12:30 - Session Block C
 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Lunch Break/Sponsorship Conversations & Engagement
 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Session Block D
 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Thank You & Closing Speaker -
The Power of Inclusion and Acceptance in the College Enrollment Process - Benjamin Rieth -
 Assistant Director of Admissions and Outreach, Bellin College

Save the Date! New Counselor Institute (NCI)

Tuesday, August 10 & Wednesday, August 11

More details to come.

New Counselor Institute (NCI) is a great opportunity for professional development for both public and private college and university admission representatives. We will introduce the nuts and bolts of the admissions world through sessions such as: Ethics in Admissions, the ever popular The Other Side of the Desk, and much more! Our goal is to welcome new admission counselors (new to one year of experience) to the field and provide opportunities for networking and mentorship for individuals early on in their career.

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Tuesday, May 18 & Wednesday, May 19

Join us for a four part series about navigating college admissions. This series is designed to help rising high school seniors to become more familiar with the college admissions process. Registration is below for each of the sessions. You are welcome to join us for one or all of the sessions. This series is sponsored by the Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC) which is a state-wide, non-profit organization that brings players throughout the college admissions process together to assist students to find their best college fit. If you have any questions, please contact WACAC at admin@wacac.com.

Finding the Right College Fit

Learn about the different types of institutions, figure out what path is right for you and what makes college special.

Tuesday, May 18: 3:30-4:15 P.M. CST

Register

Your Guide to Financial Aid

Learn the basics of FAFSA, how to pay for college, how to piece together your scholarship/financial aid awards.

Tuesday, May 18: 4:15-5:00 P.M. CST

Register

Student Panel

Hear from current students from several different colleges. They will share their stories on how they made their college decision, share tips for success, and answer your questions.

Wednesday, May 19: 3:30-4:15 P.M. CST

Register

Easing Anxieties About The College Process

A conversation around highly selective college admissions, the pressure to succeed, how much is too much, and helping students navigate what matters.

Wednesday, May 19: 4:15-5:00 P.M. CST

Register

Sessions will be recorded and posted to www.wacac.com/navigatingadmissions

IDEA SCHOLARSHIP

Each year WACAC has the opportunity to support students from an underrepresented background and you have the opportunity to make that difference by helping with promotion of the IDEA scholarship. The Inclusion, Equity, and Access Committee (IAS) manages the IDEA Scholarship each year. This year WACAC and IAS will provide scholarships to first generation, low-income students who are pursuing higher education at a WACAC affiliate school, regardless of citizenship status. Scholarship recipients will receive a one-time award of \$500 to be used towards higher education expenses during the 2021-2022 school year.

There are a few items the review committee is asking from students in order to be considered for this opportunity. To be considered for the scholarship, students must:

- Be of first generation background (Neither of your parent/s has obtained a four-year degree from the U.S. college/university)
- Demonstrate financial need and/or be eligible for free or reduced lunch
- Minimum 3.0 unweighted, cumulative GPA (on a 4 point scale)
- High school senior attending a WACAC member public or private high school in Wisconsin
- Planning to attend a WACAC member 2-year or 4-year public or private college/university

As a reminder, any high school can become a member institution at no cost through the WACAC website and are encouraged to join! We ask students to complete the IDEA scholarship application, submit a resume, activities list and submit transcripts to the committee for consideration. Materials are due to the committee no later than **June 1, 2021** with a decision being made by the end of that month. Details about the scholarship and application can be found on WACAC's website: www.wacac.com/IDEA-Scholarship.

We have a responsibility to promote this opportunity with families and students who have worked diligently towards their futures at our partner institutions. Please watch your emails for promotional items and more details about ways you can support the IAS committee with this great opportunity for students!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The WACAC Membership Committee has been working hard in conjunction with the WACAC board to provide some unique benefits to our secondary school and CBO members.

We are excited to announce that membership for these two groups will continue to be **free** for the 2021-2022 Membership Cycle. We know that one of the biggest benefits of WACAC is the networking and relationship buildings from all sides of college admissions. WACAC feels that this free membership removes barriers to our high schools and CBO members to continue to receive the benefits of a WACAC membership.

As a secondary school or CBO member, you can bundle up to 15 members in one account. If you have new staff members or team members that you would like to include in your membership, the Bundle Administrator can add them by following these [directions](#). If you have questions about your membership or adding members, please contact WACAC at admin@wacac.com.

On top of the free annual membership, WACAC received a grant last year and we have chosen to use this grant to provide a free registration for the MIDWest Conference for our secondary and CBO members. This conference is virtual and will take place on Monday, May 24 and Tuesday, May 25.

As always, we would love to increase our membership and networking opportunities. If you have any colleagues that work with college counseling, please encourage them to join WACAC.

Lastly, if you are a college professional, educational organization, or independent counselor, your membership will need to be renewed by September 1, 2021. Anyone can log into their account and renew their membership right now. However, you will also get email reminders about renewing your membership toward the end of the summer.

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facebook.com/wacac

