

December 2015 Edition



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# MACAC

# Muse

THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

## *From the desk of the President:*

Working in academia, the end of the calendar year doesn't quite hold the same meaning for us as it does for others; our year is only half over! Nevertheless, the impending arrival of January, the month named for the god of beginnings and endings, gives occasion for deep reflection. My year has been an eventful one, both personally and professionally, in ways good and challenging. Being on MACAC's leadership team has been one of the highlights of my 2015 (second of course to the birth of my second son last October). To say that I have grown as an admission professional and as a leader in my last two years in the president's cycle is an understatement; for allowing me to exercise my strengths in communication and strategic planning and make connections with professionals in this state and across the country, I owe MACAC a debt of gratitude.

From the launch of our new website in January to the annual conference in March in Bay City to Camp College at University of Detroit – Mercy in May, there is much on the horizon for MACAC thanks to the group of hard-working, dedicated, and creative individuals who serve with me on the MACAC Executive Board. I started my president's cycle with a three-page document of goals created in conjunction with my fellow board members, assuming we would achieve approximately a quarter of them. Lucky for me, these professionals are just as committed to making MACAC a stronger, more vibrant organization as I am and they are doing yeoman's work in bringing these aspirations to fruition.

As you reflect on your own year, please consider how you have been involved with MACAC and what you can do in the coming year to broaden your network and develop your skills. We are all working to create a stronger college-going culture in Michigan and if we work together, imagine how much easier this could be.

Best wishes during this holiday season and happy New Year!

Hillary Teague

President, Michigan ACAC



NACAC

# MACAC Conference Updates:

- 1. MACAC Resource Guide –Launching at the 2016 Conference**

The Conference Planning Committee is excited to announce a new feature of the MACAC Conference program – a regional resource guide that all conference attendees and members of MACAC can access to help them network with businesses that assist students and families in the high school and college process. We are asking you to reach out to those businesses you refer students to in order to create a comprehensive list for our members. We are asking all members to reach out local businesses on your personal referral lists and ask them to consider a business card ad for the conference program. Business card ads are \$50.00 for non-conference sponsors and \$15.00 for conference sponsors. Please direct any questions to Holly Bennetts at [holly.bennetts@uofdjesuit.org](mailto:holly.bennetts@uofdjesuit.org) or 313-9327-2315.

- 2. Maggie Miller Scholarship Auction**

Did you find a great deal during your holiday shopping? Are you looking to make an end-of-year donation? Consider donating to the Maggie Miller Scholarship Auction! During each annual conference, MACAC hosts a silent auction to raise funds for the Maggie Miller Scholarship. The scholarship, in honor of Maggie for her passion towards school counseling, is awarded annually to Michigan seniors attending a Michigan post-secondary institution.

Please consider a donation for this year's event. For questions or donations, please contact Jaclyn Timmer at [jtimmer@westmichiganaviation.org](mailto:jtimmer@westmichiganaviation.org).

- 3. 2016 MACAC Conference Fees**

Registration will open soon for the 2016 MACAC Conference. Stay tuned!

	MACAC Member	Guest
<b>Full Conference – Early Action through February 8</b>	\$160	\$185
<b>Friday Only – Early Action through February 8</b>	\$110	\$135
<b>Full Conference (after February 8 including on-site)</b>	\$185	\$210
<b>Friday Only (after February 8 including on-site)</b>	\$135	\$160
Guest prices include conference registration and MACAC membership good through June 30, 2016.		



# #MyMACAC Experience, Judi Stahl



I was honored to be elected as a delegate to represent our Michigan ACAC at the National Conference in September 2015 in San Diego. It was my first experience of involvement at the National level and it definitely met and exceeded my expectations. Gathering in an Assembly with other delegates from around the country was empowering and demonstrated the depth of commitment to ensure students are guided appropriately during the higher education process. Previous to the assembly meeting, delegates were offered a 200 plus page document outlining the

various motions and housekeeping articles to be reviewed. I registered my phone to enable text voting and witnessed ACACs commenting on the issues at hand. Observing this conversation and resulting decisions in action was reassuring and powerful. I felt supported as a “newbie” delegate by my fellow Michigan delegates while also feeling a sense of responsibility and renewed commitment to my Michigan ACAC.

Agreeing to run as a delegate was intimidating due to my self-perceived lack of experience; however, I would encourage all members to consider becoming more involved in elected positions. I felt welcomed, I contributed, and I left the Assembly feeling more connected and committed to helping students during the process.

Above is a picture of the “team” of delegates representing you at the 2015 Assembly meeting. Thank you for the honor!

Judi Stahl



## We are proud to introduce our new MACAC logo:

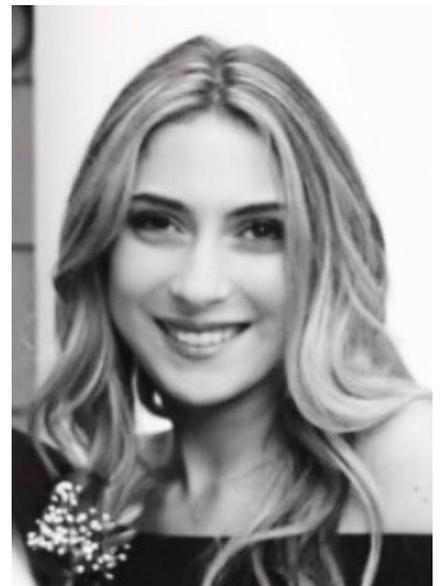


As you admire the new and improved MACAC logo, the bulk of the credit goes to Hannah LePage, a high school senior from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills.

Hannah is an artist, first and foremost. She has an incredible natural ability and a true passion for the artistic professions. Hannah has been exposed to art throughout her young life by parents who support her interest with art enrichment classes and a wide variety of supplies for her to experiment with. Drawing, painting, photography, film making, set design, lighting, music production...the list goes on and on. Hannah's interest in creating comes in all forms. She has taken just about every art class that Sacred Heart has to offer and has been involved in every artistic endeavor. She supplements this with additional classes at the Cranbrook Art Academy and spending time with like-minded artists.

Currently riding college application wave, Hannah plans to study graphic design, a field in which she is already gaining some experience. In addition to the MACAC logo project, Hannah has also been responsible for designing the packaging and apparel for Griffin Claw Brewing Company in Birmingham. Our thanks go out to Hannah for her professional work and to MACAC for providing a unique opportunity for one of our college-bound students. The next time you have a project, consider asking a student!

Gretchen G. Parks, MA, LPC  
Immediate Past-President, MACAC  
Admissions Counseling  
Director of College Counseling  
Academy of the Sacred Heart



Hannah LePage  
Academy of the Sacred Heart, Senior

# Call for MACAC Nominations

## Gretchen Parks, MACAC Immediate Past President

With the start of a new school year comes the opportunity for each of us to take on greater challenges. Perhaps you might consider nominating a colleague (or even yourself!) for a MACAC elected position. The 2016 MACAC Membership Election will include nominations and voting for a President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary-Elect, Secondary Member at Large, and a Secondary School Delegate. The goal is to present the most qualified slate of nominees. There are several factors that are considered in selecting the most suitable candidate(s) to run for each position. These factors will include, but are not limited to: state where one resides and works, diversity, gender, underrepresented areas of experience, MACAC and NACAC experience, leadership and management experience, and other professional contributions.

Please contact me if you would like to nominate a MACAC member. Members are also welcome to nominate themselves. Formal nomination forms will be available later this fall.

**The deadline for all completed materials is *February 1, 2016*.**

**President-elect:** Three year presidential cycle (2016-2019) –post-secondary member

**Treasurer-elect:** Three year term (2016-2019)

**Secretary-elect:** Three year term (2016-2019)

**Delegate:** Three year term (2016-2019) - secondary member

**Secondary School Member at Large:** Three year term (2016-2019)

We are also accepting nominations for MACAC's annual awards.

**The deadline for all completed materials is *February 1, 2016*.**

**The Gramenz Award** was instituted in 1977 in memory of William Gramenz, who was the former Director of Admissions at the University of Michigan-Flint. He was also the Michigan Association of College Counselors President in 1975-76. This award is the highest recognition in our association and is bestowed for outstanding service to students, counseling, our profession, and the Association.

**The Rising Star Award** recognizes involvement and hard work of MACAC members with fewer than five years of service to the Association. Thank you for going "above and beyond".

**The Achievement Award** is presented annually to individuals or institutions who have established a tool, program, or procedure that greatly aids in the high school to college transition process.

Questions? Contact: Gretchen Parks at [gparks@ashmi.org](mailto:gparks@ashmi.org) or 248.646.8900

Government  
Relations  
Update

## Education officials and lawmakers offer blueprint for expanding post-high school education in Michigan

*Reaching for Opportunity* report aimed at boosting postsecondary credentials to 60 percent

**LANSING, MICH.**— Michigan needs 779,000 more citizens with education beyond high school by 2025 to meet the needs of state employers and join the ranks of the 10 best educated states, according to a new report that includes a detailed action plan to achieve the goal of boosting the number of employees with post-secondary credentials. This includes college degrees, graduate degrees and technical certificates that need to grow from 46 percent today to 60 percent by 2025.

Leaders from business and education came together last year as the Postsecondary Credential Attainment Workgroup to develop a new action plan for how Michigan can achieve the necessary education and training beyond high school. The report, *Reaching for Opportunity: An Action Plan to Increase Michigan's Credential Attainment*, outlines the challenges and opportunities along with recommendations for strategic actions and policies to increase credential attainment, essential to raise incomes, create new jobs, and grow Michigan's economy.

"The states with the highest degree and certificate attainment also have the highest incomes," the report states. "Today, Michigan ranks 38th in the nation in personal income, \$5,000 below the national average. Michigan has to prepare more of its citizens, young and old, for good jobs—both to meet the needs of employers today and to have the skills needed to be the job creators of tomorrow."

To reach the goal of 60 percent of state residents with postsecondary credentials, the state will need 439,000 more citizens with technical certificates and industry-recognized certifications, 64,000 more with associate degrees, 232,000 more bachelor's degrees and 45,000 more graduate degrees, the report states.

"This report is a roadmap for Michigan to increase its supply of talent and drive our economic growth forward," said John Austin, president, Michigan State Board of Education. "We have to work together to get many more youth and adults ready and participating in post-high school education, and then we have to make sure they complete the highest level of education or training possible."

"Increasing education and training beyond high school is vital to grow our economy," said Tim Sowton, vice president, government affairs and public policy with Business Leaders for Michigan. "Our members are concerned about a shortage of trained talent at all levels in our state. This report lays out an important roadmap toward increasing that talent pool."



## **MACAC Represented at White House Convening on Higher Education**

**Jamie Jacobs, Michigan College Access Network**

**Patrick O'Connor, Ph.D. Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School**

Several state partners recently participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reach Higher convening hosted by the White House. It has been exciting to participate in the three convenings to see the growth of not only the Reach Higher initiative at a national level but also the growth at the state level over time as well. MCAN worked alongside representative from Central Michigan University's School Counseling Program, Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling, Michigan College Access Network, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan School Counselor Association, Michigan State Board of Education, and Western Michigan University's School Counseling Program to talk about how Michigan organizations can better work together. The Michigan collaborative is working to set priorities and implement evidence-based practices that support school counselors and college access professionals in helping all students prepare for and pursue education beyond high school.

In addition to team planning time the convening included a great group of national and statewide leaders in this work. The event highlighted national speakers Eric Waldo, executive director of First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative; Joe Garcia, lieutenant governor of Colorado; Danette Gerald Howard, vice president for policy and mobilization at Lumina Foundation; Johan E. Uvin, acting assistant secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education in the U. S. Department of Education; and Madeline M. Pumariega, chancellor of the Florida College System.

Michigan was asked to lead a breakout session focused on collaboration and mobilization. The session was led by John Austin from the State Board of Education, Patrick O'Connor from MACAC, and Jamie Jacobs from MCAN and focused on Michigan's collaboration and mobilization strategies to support the development of a state policy agenda, policy recommendations to support and strengthen school counseling and college advising, and the impact of creating collaborative structures and systems to drive policy changes to impact measurable student level outcomes. As MACAC's representative, Patrick O'Connor is the only educator from Michigan to attend all three White House convenings on higher education.

First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative has been an inspiration to Michigan organizations and individuals working to support school counselors and college advisers as we work tirelessly to ensure all students are prepared for and pursue education after high school. The Michigan Reach Higher Collaborative has been formalized and is excited to release their strategic framework and priorities in early 2016. Keep an eye out for an update in the new year!



## House Bill 4552 Moves Forward

### Patrick O'Connor, Ph.D.

The face of professional development for school counselors is one step closer to being a reality, as the House Workforce and Talent Development Committee passed House Bill 4552 on Thursday, December 4. As passed, the bill would require all counselors to complete 25 of their 150 continuing education hours in activities related to career counseling, and another 25 of those 150 hours in activities related to college advising.



“MACAC members have made it clear—they want more professional development options that are counselor-centered” said Patrick O’Connor, co-chair of MACAC’s Government Relations Committee. “Too many counselors are looking at professional development experiences that are designed by their school district, and designed for classroom teachers. This bill will open up the professional development options for counselors, and increase principal support to get counselors out of the building, and to the experiences that will help their students make better career and college decisions.”

The bill now moves to the whole House for consideration. MACAC members will be updated on the bill’s progress through member e-mail alerts.



Volunteers are needed at the College Advising Center for the 2016 Metro Detroit NACAC fair.

The Advising Center is staffed by high school and independent counselors, ACT and College Board representatives, and college financial aid advisors.



Please email Gretchen Parks at

**gparks@ashmi.org**

to sign up for one or more of the following timeframes.

**Sunday, March 20**

**2:00-4:00 PM**

**Monday, March 21**

**8:30-10:30 AM**

**Monday, March 21**

**10:15-12:15 PM**

Professional  
Development  
Opportunity

## 2016 SPRING NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIRS

### METRO DETROIT

Suburban Collection

Showplace

Novi, MI

Sunday, March 20, 2016

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

and

Monday, March 21, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### WEST MICHIGAN

DeVos Place

Grand Rapids, MI

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

## Transfer Summit

### College of DuPage

Student Resource Center, Jack H. Turner Conference Center (SRC 2000)

**Friday, February 12, 2016**

8:00 am – 1:30 pm

The inaugural Transfer Summit is a way for high school counselors, admission staff members at both community colleges and four-year institutions as well as academic advisors/transfer coordinators at community colleges to connect and talk about hot topics regarding transfer students. Presentations will include information regarding articulation agreements, special admissions programs, and information on how to best counsel a student about the transfer process.

**IACAC Members: \$20**

**Non-Members: \$25**

Lunch is included. ISBE PD hours will be available. Register by Friday, February 5, 2016

For more information, please visit the IACAC webpage:

<https://www.iacac.org/transfer-summit/>

Hosted by the Transfer Advisory Ad Hoc Committee