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September 2016 Edition



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MACAC

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Counselor Spotlight: Jaclyn Timmer

COUNSELORS IN COLLABORATION



As the Tuesday after Labor Day approached, signaling the start of another school year, I had the natural inclination to look back in order to prepare for the future. I sought to reflect on my work in a way that does not happen during the school year with the frequency a school counselor would hope. But, in looking back, I am able to look ahead to set goals and a vision for my work as I aim to work more intentionally and collaboratively with and for others.

As I looked back this year, I thought about the young man whose story I shared at the MACAC High School Counselor Summit, a young man who did not have plans to attend college when he started high school. Yet, this past week, this same young man wrote me to tell me about his first day on campus as a college freshman. His story is a testament to the collaborative efforts of college admissions counselors from both sides of the table. It was a team of individuals whose series of actions directed his path, and his mindset, to a college campus.

Because of our work in college admissions, many students are able to echo the words he wrote in his scholarship essay:

[They] believed in me. And so I started to believe in myself.

We serve our students best when we take a synergistic approach, using our knowledge & skills in tandem with the unique knowledge & skills of our colleagues. One small action can make a difference in the life of a student. A series of small actions done in collaboration with passionate, dedicated colleagues from both sides of the table can change a life.

So I challenge you, as you go into a new travel season or academic year, think to yourself “Whose life am I going to influence this year?” Strive to have a positive influence. Believe in your students so that they can learn to believe in themselves. And while doing so, remember you are not alone; you have a community of professionals ready to support you, your students, and your work.

A decorative border made of several yellow pencils with pink erasers and sharpened leads, arranged in a frame around the text.

Letter from the President, Eva Dodds:

Here we go! Whichever side of the desk we are on, we are B U S Y launching into another season of supporting our state's students as they pave their college paths.

I hope you can take a few moments to read all that is MACAC this fall. Many have been working hard over the summer to further our mission through multiple professional development events and more!

Will we see you in Columbus? If so, you will witness the Wolverines sponsoring the buckeyes at the MACAC meeting and reception. Buckeye desserts that is! Thank you to the University of Michigan for most generously sponsoring all food at our MACAC gathering at NACAC 2016!

No worries if you can't make the NACAC annual meeting in Columbus! We will catch you up on everything. NACAC's website is also a great resource to both recap the conference and pull free content to share with our students about everything including PPY.

Don't forget to check in with the MACAC calendar on our website. Links to all of our activities to support you are found right there.

May this be your best professional year yet!

B a c k



Best:
Eva

Eva McGregor Dodds
MACAC President

2016 MACAC Executive Board Retreat Photos



Members of the MACAC E-Board met in East Lansing for an enriching day of activities to prepare for the upcoming year. We did well practicing strategies for dealing with difficult situations. We're ready for the year ahead!



NACAC Treasurer's Development

Institute: Venus L. Crosby

This summer has been filled with exciting new information for members of the MACAC Executive Board. In the great city of Arlington, Virginia, a large group of ACAC Treasurers, Treasurer Elects, and Executive Assistants gathered to learn and share strategies and skills on how to better a critical component of each ACAC; the money. This intensive two-day training consisted of networking and learning opportunities from Executive Board members of NACAC as well as finance, tax and accounting gurus! As a result of this time spent, your current Treasurer and Treasurer Elect were able to obtain critical information on investment strategies, budget management skills, and ample resources to better serve our Michigan ACAC. We look forward to implementing these best practices during our current 2016-17 year.

The MACAC Mentoring Program is open to all!

We would love to help you grow as a professional and expand your network. This year-long commitment helps professionals to help identify areas of strength and growth in the field, both in high school counseling and college admissions. There are currently 10 matched pairs participating in the MACAC Mentoring Program. Mentors and Mentees also gain access to a NEW exclusive Facebook page to encourage support and collaboration throughout the year!

To sign up as a mentor or mentee, go to the MACAC website, www.macac.org, and click on the Professional Development tab. Please contact Amanda Blanchette at ajillhar@umich.edu if you have any questions.



The **MACAC Membership committee** welcomes you to the 2016-2017 school year!

You already know *your* reasons for joining MACAC:

Staying Connected, Staying Informed & Taking Action

If you know any secondary school counselors, admissions professionals or other individuals who assist with the college admissions process, please take the time to encourage them to join this amazing organization and become active in the many opportunities MACAC has to offer!

We would like to welcome our newest MACAC Members:

Baker College of Coldwater

Lehren Education LLC

Ringling College of Art and Design

Building Scholars

Linden High School

Detroit Institute of Music Education

North Park University

Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership for the 2016-2017 year!

If you would like to save time and renew your membership for multiple years,

please contact Zay Reynolds at: admin@acac.org

For more information on joining MACAC, please contact:

Colleen Moore: 313-993-1592 moorec@udmercy.edu

Jen Foldvary: 734-241-7622 jfoldvary@smccmonroe.com



Upcoming important dates:

9/19-20 2016 NCAN National Conference, Detroit

10/3/16 1:00-3:00 PM Performing and Visual Art College Fairs, Interlochen Center for the Arts

10/6/16 NACAC Essentials of Professional Development Program, Wayne State University

10/21/16 11:15-12:45 PM A.L.S.A.M.E College Fair, Saginaw Valley State University

11/13/16 7:00-8:30 AM International College Options Fair, Novi High School

11/14/16 8:00-11:00 AM International College Options High School Counselor Breakfast, Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

3/26/17 Metro– Detroit NACAC Fair, Suburban Collection Showplace

3/27/ 17 Metro– Detroit NACAC Fair, Suburban Collection Showplace

3/28/17 West Michigan– NACAC Fair, DeVos Place

Information on these events can be found on the following pages.

Major Counselor Professional Development Coming to Detroit:

NACAC Essentials of Professional Development Program



A major national professional development program is heading to Michigan. On Thursday, October 6, the National Association for College Admission Counseling will present its Essentials of Professional Development Program for counselors in the Metro Detroit area at Wayne State University.

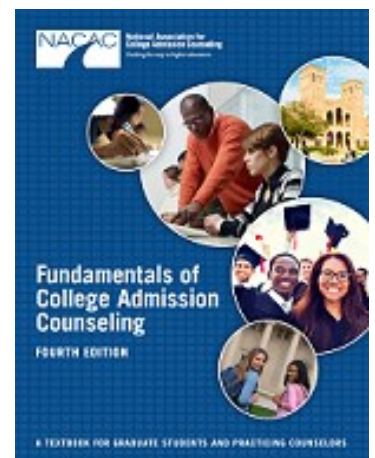
Designed over two years ago, Essentials was built with the feedback and ideas of veteran counselors who had experience working with students and families in urban areas. The program will include presentations on many of the college counseling essentials—Testing, Building a College Counseling Curriculum, Writing Effective Letters—as well as sessions aimed at key parts of an urban population, including Working with Homeless Students and Students in the Foster Care System, Working with First Generation Families, and Working with Undocumented Students.

Essentials has been presented at about a dozen cities throughout the United States, and has been praised as one of the best, most comprehensive one-day programs in college admission counseling. In addition to receiving copies of all presentations, participants will also receive a copy of NACAC's *Fundamentals of College Counseling*. Plans are already underway for NACAC to build on this powerful cornerstone of professional development through additional workshops and programs.

Look for registration information soon!

Patrick O'Connor

If you are interested in volunteering to present at this event, please contact Patrick O'Connor ASAP.





2016 A.L.S.A.M.E. College Fair

Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education

Friday, October 21, 2016

Where: Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU)

Time: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Location: Outside the Doan Market Place

Cost: Free for Institutions who are ALSAME Members; non-members \$50

(To have your institution become an ALSAME member or to update your membership please see the included membership form. To attend the conference for free please make sure your institution has paid their updated membership – due September 1, 2016.)

Register: <http://bit.ly/29mtsLG>

Please RSVP by October 1st, 2016

The 2016 A.L.S.A.M.E. College Fair will take place at SVSU during the 14th annual ALSAME conference on Friday, October 21, 2016. **College reps are encouraged to park in Lot J1 or J2.** See map.

Students from high schools throughout the state are invited to attend the conference and college fair. Expecting 800+ students. Please arrive early for set up and bring your own table cloth. Lunch will be provided. If you could bring any college swag items and giveaways for the students we would really appreciate it!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Patricia Young at emenp1pa@cmich.edu or Carmen Stricker at ccstrick@svsu.edu

About us: A.L.S.A.M.E. functions as a resource to high school and college students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and employers. The goal is to dispense information concerning admissions, financial aid, career planning and placement information, student services, retention, advocacy, Latino/Hispanic student organizations, and internships. As a student support advocacy group A.L.S.A.M.E. is able to address the unique and special interest of Latino students. These culturally-specific issues are addressed for both secondary and higher educational arenas and to administrators, as well as community-based organizations throughout the state of Michigan. A.L.S.A.M.E. has a commitment to build a better future for our youth. In addition to providing information on higher education to prospective college bound students, we also serve the need of higher education institutions in attracting prospective Latino/Hispanic Students to campuses.

Take Study Abroad a Step Further!

High school counselor friends, here is an opportunity for you and interested students to learn more about earning a college degree from an international university.

Students and their families are invited to the International College Options Fair on Sunday, November 13, 2016 in the Novi High School Atrium from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. This free event will include admissions representatives from universities around the world. Students will learn about what they need to do to apply and about the unique opportunities international schools can offer.

Counselors are invited to attend the Counselor breakfast the following morning, Monday, November 14, 2016 at the Hyatt Place at the Suburban Showplace Collection in Novi from 8 am to 11 am. RSVP to Gretchen Parks at gparks@ashmi.org and feel free to share with your counseling colleagues.



SAVE THE DATE International College Options Fall 2016 Programs



International College Options began in Chicago in 2013 as a way for students, their families, and counselors to learn more about college options outside of the US. Due to the success in Chicago – we expanded to include Denver and Detroit! More details will follow, but please save the dates for this free program.

College Fair for students and their families:
Sunday, 11/13 Novi High School 7-8:30PM
High School Counselor Breakfast:
Monday, 11/14 Metro Detroit 8-11AM
Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi



Congratulations to our MACAC Past President Hillary Teague;
Director of Recruitment and Strategic Initiatives at
Case Western Reserve University

Inclusion, Access and Success Committee: 2016 Recommendations

As our committee continues to provide access to underserved students across Michigan, we wanted to share ways on inclusivity within the LGBTQ community. The Inclusion, Access and Success committee has put together some recommended language that may be helpful when it comes to the application for admissions and the housing application. Each school, college or university has a different idea of what they want their applications and data reporting to look like, so bear in mind these are only recommendations. Each college or university will want to consult with its own faculty, staff, students, and resource centers to come up with language that will work for their campus. The same should be said in regards to high school data reporting. Our aim is to be mindful of identification when it comes to the application for admission and the application for housing and to be aware of student recommendations and requests.

These recommendations were put together by consulting with LGBTQ resource centers at Michigan universities, staff and faculty in Michigan institutions, and students. Many people had a hand in what will hopefully be additional discussions on identity and the college application process (on many fronts).

Please see the below talking points and fold them into your application for this year, next year, and as you see fit. What's encouraging is that the Common Application has begun to focus on inclusivity and has started to use such language in their application. Changes are certainly anticipated.

As a final note, these recommendations should be reserved for schools that have a firm commitment to helping their LGBTQ students. We do not want colleges and or high schools that are not proactively committed to their LGBTQ students to have this information about their students. The purpose of collecting this information is to make sure that students are given access to resources that could make the college experience for them more positive. We have also included a PDF that uses best practices for asking sexual orientation and gender questions.

Recommended language is on the attached:

When asking about student sex...

A statement could read "Sex Assigned at Birth" with two options, one for Male and one for Female
There should be a disclaimer on what the information will be used for. The student should receive assurance that the information will be kept private and secure, and that the information will not be used for discriminatory purposes. Students should be allowed to change the information that they provide.
It is vital to keep the data confidential and only be used internally for assistance purposes.

When asking about student gender...

Example questions could read: "Please indicate your gender identity (choose all that apply-Man, Transgender, Woman, An Identity Not Listed)"
A statement could be "Gender Identity (optional)", with a blank space for students to put their identity
It is also okay to put "unsure" as an option or "prefer not to disclose"

As a final and crucial note, these recommendations should be for schools that have a firm commitment to helping LGBTQ students. The purpose of collecting this information is to make sure that students are given access to resources that can make the college experience more positive, enriching and safe.

These recommendations should only be used by colleges or universities who want to provide resources for LGBTQ students. Having resource centers, groups and clubs, advising, counseling, and events are some ways in which colleges can be more inclusive to their students.

If you have any questions on wording, inclusivity, or anything else pertaining to this subject, please contact the Inclusion, Access and Success committee at adavis@msu.edu . We are happy to assist with any questions.



Sexual Orientation and Gender on College Applications

Suggested Wording

- ☐ This information is used for _____.
- ☐ Only (name of offices) will have access to this information
- ☐ Your responses will be kept private and secure.
- ☐ The information will not be used for a discriminatory purpose.
- ☐ You can change this information in the future by _____.

Sexual Orientation (optional; choose all that apply):

- ☐ asexual
- ☐ bisexual
- ☐ gay
- ☐ straight (heterosexual)
- ☐ lesbian
- ☐ pansexual
- ☐ queer
- ☐ questioning or unsure
- ☐ same-gender loving
- ☐ an identity not listed:
- ☐ prefer not to disclose

Gender identity (optional; choose all that apply):

- ☐ agender
- ☐ androgyne
- ☐ demigender
- ☐ gender-queer or gender fluid
- ☐ man
- ☐ questioning or unsure
- ☐ trans man
- ☐ trans woman
- ☐ woman
- ☐ additional gender category/identity: please specify _____
- ☐ prefer not to disclose



Guiding Principles

- ☐ Colleges should ask questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation on their admissions application to be able to gather these data for students who apply, who are admitted, and who attend the institution.
- ☐ If a college uses the Common Application (which asks “sex: male or female”), questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation should be included among a college’s supplemental questions.
- ☐ If asking questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation on an admissions application is not possible, then these questions should be asked on a form filled out by all admitted or enrolled students.
- ☐ These questions should be optional.
- ☐ These data should never be listed in the visible directory, as they are covered under FERPA/HIPAA.
- ☐ An explanation of why these questions are being asked and how the data will be used (including an assurance that the information will not be used to discriminate against them) should accompany the questions [see suggested language above].
- ☐ Because sexual orientation and gender identity are separate aspects of identity, colleges should never combine them into one question (not asking, for example, “Do you identify as a part of the LGBTQ community?”).
- ☐ Because sexuality and gender are fluid and some LGBTQ+ students are not out when they apply to college, students should have the ability to change these identities on campus records during their academic careers. Ideally, this information would be part of students’ records that they can access and change online, but which would not be visible to the public.
- ☐ Because a growing number of students are identifying outside of gender and sexual binaries, the questions on gender identity and sexual orientation should include non-binary identity choices. Specifically, a gender identity question should include “genderqueer” and “agender” among the choices, and a sexual orientation question should include “asexual,” “queer,” and “pansexual” among the choices [see suggested language above].