



Texas Association
for College Admission
Counseling

Admission Practices Committee

Chairs:

Stevi Schuknecht
Veritas Academy
ap@tacac.org

Michaela Knipp
Trinity University
ap@tacac.org

What we do:

Members of the Admission Practices (AP) Committee serve as educators, consultants, and advocates for best practices within our profession. We interpret NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (CEPP) and guide members of our professional community through discussions of best practices that protect and serve students and families in their pursuit of a college education. As CEPP evolves at the national level, this committee will disseminate updated information to members and institutions of the organization. Our ultimate goal is that admissions counselors and secondary school members feel empowered to observe principles of good practice and procedure, ensuring that the individual student remains the most important consideration.

Who can serve:

The AP Committee is open to all TACAC members who have an authentic interest in learning more about and discussing best practices within our profession.



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Advancement Committee

Chairs:

Kellen Lewis
The Oakridge School
advancement@tacac.org

Ashley Plaegar
St. Agnes Academy
advancement@tacac.org

What we do:

The Advancement Committee seeks to secure sponsorships to support all TACAC programming. Through the generous support of sponsors, TACAC can provide high-quality programming for Texas high school counselors and post-secondary educators. The Advancement Committee's goal is to create a lasting partnership between sponsors and TACAC, where sponsors are actively engaged in supporting TACAC members.

Who can serve:

Any TACAC member who has an interest in securing sponsorships to support TACAC members and programming.



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College Fairs Committee

Chairs:

Elizabeth Jones
Hockaday School
collegefairs@tacac.org

Abbi Pfister-Soria
Southern Methodist University
collegefairs@tacac.org

What we do:

The College Fair Committee oversees 3 national college fairs (Austin, DFW, Houston) and 2 regional college fairs (San Antonio, RGV) in the state of Texas.

Organization of the Committee: There are two TACAC Co-Chairs who provide oversight for the local Co-Chairs of the five fairs and serve on the Executive Board; two local Co-Chairs – one Secondary, one Higher Ed – in each of the five markets who provide oversight for a specific fair; and local sub-committees who host the individual fairs.

Who can serve:

The College Fair Committee has a place for all members of TACAC. Each fair has different needs so committees vary from location to location but there are a variety of ways everyone can serve.



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Communications Committee

Chairs:

April Marroquin
Lamar University
communications@tacac.org

Aspen Arnold
Michigan State University
communications@tacac.org

What we do:

The communications committee is the primary outreach to membership. We maintain the communications calendar, as well as create and send several communications throughout the year:

- Social media management (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- Bi-monthly conference newsletter, leading up to annual TACAC conference
- “What’s Up Wednesday” on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

The Communications Committee seeks to design and implement communications for TACAC members that promote learning and networking. It is our goal to have informative and relevant content that provides higher education admission and secondary school professionals with opportunities to learn, grow, and remain energized by the important work that we do.

Who can serve:

The Communications Committee has a place for all members of TACAC.

Committee Goals:

- Reinstate TACAC blog
- More consistent/meaningful social media posts
- Intentional messaging and content in WUW
- Feature both sides of the desk in communications content



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Government Relations Committee

Chairs:

Toni Schexnyder

The Winston School San Antonio
govrel@tacac.org

Narietha Carter-McClain

Elkins High School
govrel@tacac.org

What we do:

TACAC Government Relations is about one thing: advocating for students, counselors, and access to higher education. Our job is to keep the membership informed of policies that affect their jobs as educators. To that end, we periodically send out emails to notify membership of key legislation. We also solicit support when contacting your member of the State Legislature or the US Congress will be beneficial. We plan and promote advocacy days in Austin and Washington D.C. In some cases, we serve as experts to legislative bodies and propose legislation that will impact our communities. Collectively, we can fight for the rights of students and counselors.

Who can serve:

The Government Relations Committee has a place for all members of TACAC, anyone who wants to advocate can join.



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Inclusion, Access and Success Committee

Chairs:

Jose DejesusGil
San Jacinto College
ias@tacac.org

Dr. Lauren Parish
YES Prep Eisenhower
ias@tacac.org

What we do:

The Inclusion, Access and Success Committee is responsible for assessing the needs of underserved students and the educational professionals who guide them in and through the college process. The committee's success will be demonstrated by:

- Making quality college enrollment advising and information available to all students
- Recognizing students who overcome significant obstacles to meet their post-secondary education goals
- Ensuring that new and middle-level professionals who support underserved students are provided professional growth and development opportunities needed to advance in the profession

Who can serve:

The IAS Committee has a place for all members.

Sub-Committees:

- **Fellows Program** - The Fellows Program is one of the greatest annual professional development opportunities offered by the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC). This program is sponsored by the Inclusion, Access, and Success committee. The program is designed to enable admission professionals who work with students from under-represented populations and who work in a setting adversely affected by budget cuts or limitations to participate in professional development opportunities. opportunities.
- **Diversity Peer Educator Program** - This program offers secondary and post-secondary counselors of many academic disciplines, cultures, backgrounds, and interests an increased leadership credential in multicultural counseling. Participants will engage in an immersive process on the foundations of multiculturalism, cultural competency and social justice work, as well as application of learned skills to daily life experiences. The DPE program will provide an opportunity for counselors to become active participants in ally-ship and to become a part of a community of learners that support understanding, respect, and appreciation for all people.
- **Programming** - This committee will be creating programming around underrepresented areas/populations within secondary and post-secondary counselors including webinars, socials, etc.

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www.tacac.org



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Membership Committee

Chair:

Ally Landis
University of Tulsa
ias@tacac.org

Tony Ringuette
Bishop Lynch High School
ias@tacac.org

What we do:

The membership committee is made up of volunteers that believe in the vision and mission of TACAC. The committee is focused on engaging current and potential members to join TACAC. As a sounding voice to the organization, the committee ensures that all organizational activities create a sense of community to meet the recruitment and retention strategy for our membership plan. The membership committee has a place for all members of TACAC from the Higher Ed and Secondary educators.

Who can serve:

The Membership Committee has a place for all members of TACAC.

Committee Goals:

- Establish and implement goals of membership recruitment and retention
- Verify the TACAC membership database for data integrity
- Work to establish a communication plan to market to all members experience
- Create regional membership coordinators in regions to support membership outreach



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Professional Development Committee

Chairs:

Wintress Ross
Indiana University Bloomington
pd@tacac.org

Kim Pondrom
The Hockaday School
pd@tacac.org

What we do:

The Professional Development (PD) Committee seeks to design and implement programs for TACAC members that promote learning and networking. It is our goal to have informative and relevant programs that provide higher education admission and secondary school professionals with opportunities to learn, grow, and remain energized by the important work that we do.

Who can serve:

The PD Committee has a place for all members.

Sub-Committees:

- **Admission and College Counseling Institute** - Designed for high school counselors and new college admission professionals, this residential program is TACAC's most comprehensive professional development experience, providing sessions that cover topics to train and educate professionals in the field of college admissions and college admission counseling.
 - Institute is hosted in July
- **Drive-In Workshops** - Day-long programs that provide high school and CBO counselors with relevant programming on college admission and application topics led by seasoned admission professionals.
 - Workshops are hosted throughout the school year and across the state
- **Middle Management Institute** - An annual conference for seasoned admission professionals who have a genuine passion to grow professionally within the field of higher education.
 - Hosted in January at various campuses throughout the state
- **Mentorship Committee** - Works to increase awareness and importance of building relationships between admission professionals while fostering development to gain leadership on the state and national levels.
- **Webinar Committee** - TACAC brings some dynamic speakers and interesting topics to facilitate learning and growing in this profession. Whether you are on the high school or college side, these are discussions that will benefit everyone. Participants grab their lunch, settle in at their desks, and log those professional development hours!

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