



2022 International ACAC Annual Awards

Rising Star Award

**James Akaba
Country Director
Cameroon**

This award recognizes a new member who is striving to make a difference within International ACAC. NACAC's Rising Star Award honors individuals and programs that exemplify excellence and dedication to serving the needs of students in the transition from high school to college. The International ACAC Rising Star Award was established in 2015 to honor those deserving of international recognition. They must be new members who are striving to make a difference within our Association through their work in committees and/or in their communities. Individuals receiving a Rising Star Award nomination must be professional members of International ACAC for no more than five years.

Members who nominated James for the Rising Star Award shared these comments:

- The greatest job description is service to humanity, and healing the wounds of your community means serving and saving humanity. These are the values I've picked up while working with Akaba A. James.
- He can be described in one word: Inspirational.
- I call him the father to the voiceless, the strength to the weak, dream initiator and realizer.
- Hundreds of students and professionals have received full scholarships to renowned universities throughout the world as a result of his leadership, including Fulbright programs, Mandela Washington, YoungEd Africa, and others.
- He is dedicated to seeing everyone who comes into contact with him become a community change agent.
- I regard him as a rescuer since, during our country's crisis, he did not give up on visiting crisis victims and students to stimulate, inspire, and rekindle their courage to dream anew.
- By reducing obstacles that prevent students from reaching their potential, he arms them with skills, strategies, and the support they need to build the foundation for a successful and productive life.
- He dedicates his days and nights to mentor students through college admission.
- The impact he has created in this domain cannot be quantified.
- James works more with high achieving low income earning students as he believes everyone is born a genius and background shouldn't kill the genius in any learner.

International ACAC is proud to award James the 2022 Rising Star Award!