



## **2020 International ACAC Annual Awards**

### **Peter Hauet Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Marjorie Smith**

**Associate Dean, Director of International Student Admission  
University of Denver**

#### ***Members who nominated Marjorie for the Distinguished Service Award shared these comments:***

The Peter Hauet Lifetime Achievement Award is for an individual who has performed outstanding service over a period of years to International ACAC, the professional community and to the international counseling community. Marjorie embodies all of these. Now in her fourth decade in international admissions, she has adapted with the winds of change in the profession but most importantly, has always stayed true to her primary focus: international students.

Marjorie has dedicated her career's work to the field of International student admissions, foreign credential evaluations, developing and facilitating overseas recruitment activities and working as liaison between graduate, and international students and scholar services. She has been a member of many industry related entities such as International ACAC (starting when the organization was OACAC), Educational Credentials Evaluators, and NAFSA, where she received their 2016 Award for Excellence. She sat on the first board of Linden Educational Services more than 32 years ago, where she helped establish important guidelines in international admissions and recruitment practices.

Marjorie's commitment to professional ethics and a student-centric approach is what truly makes her a strong candidate for the Peter Hauet Lifetime Achievement Award. As times have changed, and as pressures have grown to focus more on the business model of net-tuition revenue, Marjorie has always been willing to consider and implement new strategies, but did so only if those innovative approaches served students in the best manner possible and her ethical standards remained intact. She possesses an incredible ability to lead when necessary, to mentor whenever possible and to provide emotional support where needed. She has a profound sense of the international landscape, and truly appreciates both the important historical dimensions of international education, but also the key topics facing our profession today.

As one former colleague said, "Marjorie is a member of the Old Guard, one of a small group of professionals who established the field of international admission at a time when it wasn't about the 'glamour' of international recruitment travel or revenue streams, but about the benefit of having international perspective on US college campuses. She is a true pioneer in the field, one who understands the personal relationships that are formed with students and their families, one who is looked to as an expert in international credential evaluation and a role model to others in the field."

Marjorie will always fight for what she believes is right, and is willing to speak out to ensure there's a fair and balanced debate. It's no surprise that she's a constant presenter at conferences throughout our profession, from CIS, NAFSA and OACAC (now International ACAC). She teaches, listens, and brings a quiet thoughtfulness to any conversation. She demands your attention because of her content knowledge – and you always leave a conversation having learned something new. She's quietly dedicated herself to our organization and our profession throughout her career. She is also fully invested in the ethical and human side of the profession. One such example is her moving mountains to offer a full ride scholarship to the University of Denver to one of the Nepalese students affected by the University of Texas Tyler debacle.

The University of Denver hosted the OACAC Conference in 2012. In leading that effort, Marjorie understood how to tap into the strengths of each person to create a collective spirit that was unshakeable. The example that she sets – that of professionalism, warmth, advocacy, and care – is one that we all can aspire to. She has given the entirety of her professional life to this profession, and she has made it better for all of us.

As one professional noted, "Marjorie was an international student herself, having spent formative years of her own life in Japan, and this allows her to be especially empathetic to students' issues and wants. Whether Marjorie is wearing a kurta or eating locro, she embraces the local cultures with zest." Our profession is a noble one, filled with caring individuals, who work hard for positive change and a positive future. Marjorie has been a force in our profession and when she retires in a few years, there will be a void difficult to fill. Marjorie's commitment to and longevity in the field of international education is unparalleled. She established the Office of International Student Admission at the University of Denver more than 30 years ago and has never looked back.

**International ACAC is proud to award Marjorie the 2020 Peter Hauet  
Lifetime Achievement Award!**