

Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling Hosts its 21st annual Conference in Tampa Bay

For Immediate Release

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Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) hosted its 21th annual conference on July 8-11, 2014 in Tampa Bay, Florida, jointly hosted by University of South Florida, University of Tampa, and Eckerd College.

The conference provided an essential platform for the interaction of international admission and counseling professionals from around the world. The conference attendance was the highest ever, with nearly 1100 participants from over 80 different countries and 831 institutions. The OACAC conference is now the highest attended of all NACAC affiliates. Top leaders in the field – directors of admissions, secondary school counselors, practitioners, administrators, government, and NGOs – attended to strengthen best practices and leadership in the field of International Education.

Through over 80 educational sessions the conference pushed participants to challenge their own perceptions of international access to higher education and those of their colleagues. Topics covered included updates on UCAS, the Common Application, SAT and ACT tests; tips on applying to various university systems, working with students who need financial aid, recruitment strategies, and understanding numerous secondary educational ladders.

"The annual OACAC conference facilitates an exchange of ideas and strengthens relationships that will last for years, span the globe, and benefit thousands of students. This conference uniquely brings colleagues together on a global level to discuss the activities, ethics, and the strategies impacting access to higher education. As such, it has become the "go-to" annual conference within the field of international undergraduate admission," says OACAC President Ffiona Rees.

Networking and establishing relationships are key components of any OACAC conference. As an organization whose membership is spread out around the world, the annual conference is an important time where members can interact with each other in informal settings. These include conference staples like the annual DodgeBall competition, or the first annual 5k Run/Walk, which raised money for the OACAC scholarship fund, or other hospitality events.

Hosting the conference at a public institution also helped to create a positive and grounded feel to the annual gathering. Public access is fundamental to the core

of the OACAC mission, and it was fitting that this conference hosted the largest cohort of OACAC scholars to ever attend. Ten secondary school counselors were fully funded to attend the conference from around the world including Rwanda, Uganda, Indonesia, Nepal and Colombia.

Some highlights from the 2014 conference:

Launch of OACAC Institute supplementing the Pre-Conference sessions and providing additional professional development opportunities

80 concurrent education sessions hosted by experienced practitioners

10 secondary school counselor scholars funded by the OACAC scholarship fund from eight different countries

8 Regional lunches providing a global backdrop for networking

First annual 5K Run/Walk & the 4th annual Silent Auction raised \$10,800 for the OACAC Scholarship Fund

About OACAC

Founded in 1993, the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling is NACAC's affiliate association representing over 1800 members from universities, high schools and organizations in more than 95 countries. Its mission is to facilitate global interaction among counselors and institutions in support of secondary students transitioning to higher education, while promoting professional standards that foster ethical and social responsibility.

Website: OACAC.com