

More Than 1,200 Higher Education Professionals Attend 2016 International Association for College Admission Counseling Conference

ARLINGTON, VA – August 9, 2016

The International Association for College Admission Counseling (International ACAC) recently partnered with Rutgers University to host its 23rd annual conference, held July 11-14 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

This year's conference attendance was at its highest with representation from over 85 countries and 928 institutions. An annual summer event, the conference provided a plethora of networking and learning opportunities for higher education professionals. Worldwide participants included primary and secondary school counselors, college admission and financial aid officers, independent educational consultants, and educational NGOs, among others.

The conference program consisted of 91 sessions, each aimed to inform participants of emerging trends in higher education, as well as challenge their existing perceptions of this universal subject. A broad range of topics covered included standardized testing, application systems, and trends in international student movement. Attendees had many interesting and diverse options to choose from such as student-athlete recruitment, regional updates from around the world, and setting up regional counseling networks.

The conference officially commenced on Tuesday afternoon in the Rutgers Athletic Center with welcoming remarks from International ACAC President Kristin Dreazen. While she took time to highlight the accomplishments of the organization, the main focus of her message urged attendees to embrace international diversities. *"Because as long as we, and as long as our colleagues, continue to teach our students to embrace, value, be challenged by, and learn from those who are different, I do believe that we are going to see a better world. We are going to shape a brighter future,"* said Dreazen. *"As you take part in this conference, where we have hundreds of members sharing their expertise, I hope you embrace the differences. I hope that you are challenged to consider an opinion different than your own and I hope you return that challenge."*

President Dreazen's welcome was followed by opening remarks from Robert Barchi, President of Rutgers University, and Nancy T. Beane, NACAC President-Elect. In addition to the speakers, Past President Joe Giacalone announced the annual award winners, recognizing three individuals for their contributions to International ACAC. Rhonda Leshman received the '*Rising Star Award*', the '*Distinguished Service Award*' went to Jack Shull, and the '*Peter Hauet Lifetime Achievement Award*', the Association's highest honor, was presented to Dale Ford.

The conference schedule was filled with a variety of social events, encouraging attendees to network and establish relationships. Among the activities were themed dinners, a dodgeball tournament, and a late-night dance party. Though many

conference events promoted a good time, the 5k Run/Walk and the Scholars Fund Raffle promoted a good cause. All proceeds from these two activities went directly to the Scholars Program, which supports under-resourced, high-impact advising professionals facilitating students' access and transition to higher education with full funding to attend the conference, Pre-Conference Institute, and a post-conference counselor bus tour. Through events like these, International ACAC raised the funds necessary to host 10 scholars at this year's conference.

International ACAC hopes you will join them for the 2017 Conference, taking place at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. To relive conference highlights from Rutgers, feel free to visit <http://www.internationalacac.org/conference-2016> for session downloads and photo albums.