



2024 Executive Board Election Candidate

Representative to the Executive Board

Name: Megan Mankerian-Stem
Title: Independent Member
Institution: Independent Member
Location/Region: United States/Canada & U.S.
Member Group: Individual

All Applicant Questions

Discuss your involvement with International ACAC, highlighting specific roles (with dates) and contributions made during your volunteer or leadership tenure.

I have been a member of International ACAC since 2016. Since this time, I have presented more than 12 times at the annual summer conferences, as well as co-chaired the hybrid conference committee in 2022 and have been part of the First Timer's Committee in multiple years. Beyond the conferences, I have also been a part of the Mentor Year Program since its inception and was a member of the ad hoc DEIJ working committee in 2020. I was also awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2022.

Identify and articulate a critical issue in college admissions for international students that you would like to or have championed, emphasizing its importance and potential impact on the community.

One critical issue that I have championed for many years is access to open and accurate information for our colleagues and for students. It's so easy for students and parents to find wrong information online or from their personal networks, or

pay for misleading advice, so I often lead sessions with educational information on admissions practices and processes. I enjoy bringing universities and counselors together to also have similar conversations so we can support students and families as best as possible in the admissions process. I'm hopeful that within the International ACAC website or Facebook page, we can find ways to categorize important information to make it easier for us to knowledge share and find important information to support our work.

Detail additional experiences that have equipped you with skills and insights applicable to the position you're applying for, emphasizing transferable accomplishments.

In the industry, with my work in Globetrotters United and Globe Trotting Slate Users United, I try to find solutions to problems and questions that many of us face in our roles. Whether it's finding the right or best information on a global issue, building connections between colleagues to support our work, or learning skills to teach the groups, I'm always looking for ways that we can do our jobs better. Additionally, I am a volunteer with a local dog rescue, where I help facilitate volunteer engagement on social media and at events. Much of this role is making sure volunteers stay engaged so they attend out adoption events and champion the rescue. This is difficult at times as most volunteers have fulltime jobs and family commitments, so we have to be creative in making sure that events are at an optimal time for volunteers to bring adoptable pups, and help support application review, home checks, etc.

Outline your comprehension of the role you are applying for, specifying changes you'd like to implement while acknowledging current practices or programs you feel are effective.

As a Representative to the Executive Board, my role will be to support VPs in their work, as well as be flexible to support additional tasks forces or committees. I appreciate that this role will allow for flexibility as the organization and membership continue to change and grow with the profession, as needed. As we have learned over the last 5 years, we cannot predict what will happen in the world, so having additional leaders on the Executive Board will help with any flexibility needed within the organization.

Describe your leadership philosophy and strategies for effectively managing and leading a volunteer committee, emphasizing communication, collaboration, and recognition.

I am a servant leader and chose to lead with learning. Our organization is mostly run by volunteers, and in our industry, many of us are wearing multiple hats in our day to day lives. We want to be involved as we care about our profession and want professional development, but this also comes with needing to give people grace and respect. I like to set boundaries and deadlines that meet project goals, but are also realistic to working with volunteers. I also like to make sure voices are heard as much as possible so membership knows they have a voice in the organization and the future of the organization.

Explain how you would leverage the position to contribute to International ACAC's strategic plan, aligning your goals with the organization's three pillars: enhancing member experience globally, clarifying the international brand, and optimizing internal operations.

With the fluid nature of this role, it lends itself well to being able to support the strategic plan as needed. I'm hopeful that it will allow me to support each pillar in various ways as the strategic plan continues to develop and be put in motion in the coming years. I'm excited that the regional forums will be in full swing, allowing us to support members who may not be able to attend the annual summer conference, and hope there's a role I can play to support these in initiatives.

Share details about a notable contribution you have made in the field, underscoring its impact on the profession and industry. Highlight specific initiatives, programs, or leadership roles that showcase your commitment and expertise.

Not only am I involved in International ACAC, I am also a leader in the NAFSA Member Interest Groups, as a co-chair for the Middle East and North Africa group. I have also been active in CIS in previous years, as an annual conference presenter and as a member of the annual conference planning committee in 2022. Beyond these formal roles, I admin both the Globetrotters United and Globe Trotting Slate Users Facebook groups, to support open access information for international admissions and recruitment. In this capacity, I run the annual Salary and Staffing Survey to help ensure access to important data in this part of the industry.

Share why you want to volunteer for a leadership role for International ACAC and why this particular position.

I care a lot for our organization and the industry. We are all facing challenges in what we do, no matter what country we sit in, or what side of the desk we are on. It's important to me that we look at our current membership, make sure we are meeting the needs that our colleagues have, and anticipate what needs will come in the next few years. This position allows flexibility to help support any initiatives that the presidential team, so I am able to use my leadership and communication skills to support all efforts.