



2024 Executive Board Election Candidate

Representative to the Executive Board

Name: Ruru Huang

Title: University and Career Counselor

Institution: Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong

Location/Region: China/East Asia

Member Group: Secondary (High School)

All Applicant Questions

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

I volunteered in the First Timers' committee for the conference of 2023 in Miami and supported the planning for the events of first timers. It was my first time volunteering for International ACAC but I think it changed my mindset on how much I could be engaged in organizations like IACAC and how much difference I can make for the counselors and admissions community. I joined almost every meeting during my volunteering for First Timers and paired with a group of around 20 first timer buddies and supported the first timer's activity in Miami. I was committed to my role last year and took the initiative of reaching out to a volunteer in Africa who were in the first buddy's group by setting up meetings with him and communicated how we could better support them.

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.

Firstly, I want to make my best effort to elevate the collaboration of counselors' community regionally. I have an understanding of the collaboration of counselors' collaboration regionally/by country. However, I do see the need and the force of following the trend of elevating collaboration into a deeper level to work together on connecting, sharing, and supporting each other to have our voice heard, and advocate for DEI, and our students in the region. Having worked in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and in different types of schools including public schools international department in Beijing, bilingual school in Shenzhen, and international school in Shanghai, I am confident to really understand the context when working with different types of schools in terms of the culture and dynamic. Secondly, I want to support more on empowering international students to transit well in college/university and support their long-term growth and success since high school, or even middle school. In my counseling career of more than 10 years, I did have former students who struggled different issues in their undergraduate studies in US like mental health issues, time management, lacking of academic support etc. that led to intense and severe consequences that they couldn't graduate or had to drop out of college or transit and seeking other programs to pursue and compete their Bachelor's degree. I had involved in designing a Leadership program and recruited 20 admissions and college counselors the tools to empower the minority group of students in these issues, and to help them identify their culture capitals when exposed in a diverse culture.

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

I have co-led a leadership program and recruited 20 admissions and college counselors talking about DEI, how to support the underprivileged students and minorities and empower them the abilities and skills to identify their culture capitals and support their long-term success when studying abroad. I have also led a "Speaker Series" program and had ran 4 talks by inviting the most popular sessions in conferences like IACAC to talk about the session they made or more critical topics like collaboration in counselors' community to enable free access to the counselors who were unable to attend the conferences physically to learn about the most up to date sessions, and also to extend the discussions of those topics in counselors community and their daily work. I have initiated and built the counselors' network event in Great Bay Area in China and been putting efforts to promote the regional collaboration of counselors' community.

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.

I'm applying to the representative of Executive Board because I want to work together with colleagues who have the same passion to raise the voice for DEI, to collaborate together and make bigger impact in the whole industry. I want to be sensitive and alerted on issues we can work on and have the platform to make real changes. I never hesitate to speak up when I feel like I need to. I have learnt the way how people are collaborating together during my volunteering experiences of last year in first timers' committee. I'm looking forward to pushing the trend of collaboration in different regions and create valuable resources in supporting the underprivileged students or even coworkers. I want to support the executive board the vision of the organization as much as possible.

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

First, it is huge importance to communicate properly and effectively with other team members. I would like to build effective communications including regular meetings, shared documents, and other useful platforms to make people are at the same page and communicate well. Second, I think it is important to make every team member feel engaged in their volunteer experiences. In my experiences of volunteering for ChinaCAC, I learnt to make sure to hear each member's voice and make them have clear role about what to do when I was leading certain projects. Moreover, mutual respect and understanding, especially in a diverse cultural background are important too. I want to create the opportunity to work together with people of different backgrounds to share resources and connect.

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.

I am pretty active in different regional conferences and the collaboration of regional counselors' community. I also had experiences of hosting big events. I will try to promote the brand of International ACAC as much as possible in those networks and events. I think it's important to have the members and leadership of

different committees to work together in different projects, and I will try to create opportunities for that too. Lastly, I want to support the counselors in especially less developed area to come to the conference or PD opportunities and create opportunities to work virtually and in person to provide necessary support.

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.

1 Working experiences of 13 years of college counseling in the largest cities in China including Beijing, Shenzhen, and Shanghai, and the schools of different types like public high schools international department, bilingual schools, and international schools. 2 Leadership skills in ChinaCAC, volunteering and leading different projects for 2 years, co-chair of RSL committee and leadership role of Great Bay Area counselors' connect. 3 Strong empathy and sense of raising issues and find ways to solve them. 4 Communication skills. 5 Global Citizenship Coordinator in Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong, learning and mentored to embed diversity, intercultural communication, service, social justice, and sustainability to middle school students, and younger generations.

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

Make more impact and difference and seek self learning and growth by collaborating together. Passion in my work to support my students and the passion of connecting people in this industry have been the main motivation for supporting me and inspiring me to continue volunteering and never hesitate to make a tiny little positive change to an individual a mentee from mentorship programs, or to a community that I have worked at, or to a bigger community to connect counselors across different regions/countries to share thoughts, support each other, and thus make bigger positive impact to a bigger community. I see us counselors as essential role models for the students we have worked with in being kind, open minded, critical, determined in raising voices when there's unfairness, a global citizenship, caring about other people and this world, and not hesitate to make a tiny little kind behavior or create a positive idea, can be a decision that we made everyday for as fast as a blink. Being determined to always stand on the right side, and be brave enough to say no and raise different voices, can be as small as it is, but tremendously important for us to inspire our students as educators and constantly

inspired by their growth and creativity. I want to be someone like that. And I am determined to stand firmly in this side and at the same time to be critical and open about new ideas and include more different voices to be raised.