



The CLARION

Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I wrote to you last fall, in the early stages of my (first) presidency, I never thought the Grateful Dead would be rolling through my head as a result of this work. Nonetheless, what a long strange trip it's been. Our work is still altered as a result of the pandemic and you're stuck with me for another year as a result of Indiana getting one of our finest (best of luck at DePauw, Beth!).

On the bright side, WACAC membership remains free for all secondary and CBO members. This critical change enacted last year will continue to positively impact our Association, and its reality is the topic of my message to you today.

For as long as I've been involved with WACAC, our membership from the high school side of the desk has suffered, in large part from budgetary realities. With a strong and vibrant school counselor association in Wisconsin, and many school districts financially supporting only one membership, it actually made sense why many of our high school colleagues weren't WACAC members. Now that we've removed the barrier of cost, our Association can finally start to benefit from a more robust and representative membership of high school colleagues. And while we've already begun to realize record numbers joining WACAC, the burden remains on us to spread the word.

Do me a favor: forward this on to the high schools in your area. Tell your fellow colleagues at that next school counselor conference. Share the free opportunity with the counseling staff at your next high school visit. Whatever role you occupy in our fine profession, no matter the scenario, there is an on-going opportunity to help others find out why WACAC membership is so valuable. The following pages are meant to remind you of that value. Make sure others don't miss out.



And to be frank, it is ridiculously easy to "join" and begin reaping the benefits. Have those holdouts visit wacac.com/members and spend five minutes filling out the registration form. Those few minutes gain them access to 3 seasons of recorded professional development webinars, a growing membership directory so they can make those vital connections that much easier, and an opportunity to apply for grants that will get them to conferences at a greatly reduced cost.

So yeah, quite the long strange trip, indeed. It's been a good one so far, and I'm honored to be able to take the ride again.

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Foster Youth: College Enrollment & Persistence

Government Relations: Teege Mettelle

An area of focus for the Government Relations committee will be raising awareness with legislators about the unique needs of youth involved with foster care as it relates to college enrollment and persistence. As such, we've asked Tawney Latona to share some information about an innovative program she's involved with.

Fostering Success at Stout and Fostering Success at UWM are student support programs that have been serving foster youth and homeless youth for a number of years. There is an increasing interest and ongoing need to expand these support programs throughout the state.

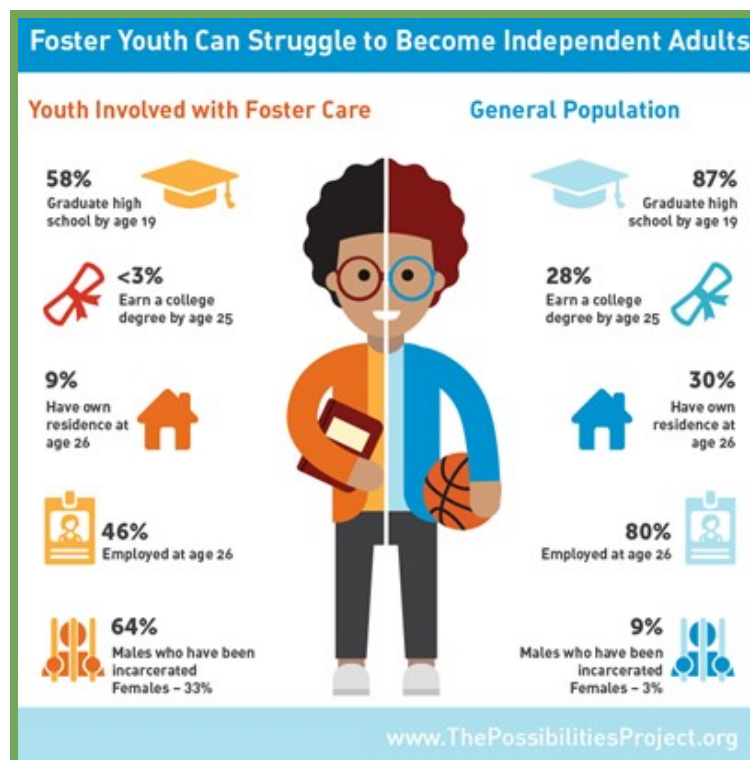
Did you know...

80% of foster youth have the desire to enroll in college

Only 20% attend college

Less than 3% earn a college degree

Consistent guidance and support toward the goal of earning a college degree create the "possibility" and motivation to pursue college. School Counselors, College & Career Center Coordinators, and Admissions Advisors can have an impact on the trajectory of these students' lives. The statistics for foster youth can improve, and we can help.



Foster Youth Continued...

Foster youth often age out of the system right when they need to begin preparing and applying for college. Regular contact and support are essential. Since there are over 12,000 children served in out-of-home care and 18,000 homeless students enrolled in Wisconsin schools, you are bound to encounter students who have experienced foster care or homelessness. These are ways you help support and prepare these students to be college graduates:

Refer

Students to those who can help guide them. Get to know what services are available.

Encourage

Your local technical colleges and universities to create a Fostering Success program if they don't have one already.

Advocate

For more student support at the state level.

Motivate

Students, showing them options and letting them know it's possible.

Connect

Students with College Goal Wisconsin to apply for FAFSA and help foster youth apply for the other funds available.

Strengthen

Your relationships with your local high school homeless liaison or college foster student contact.

Membership Update

Membership: Lindsay Barbeau

WACAC is super excited to offer FREE membership to our secondary school and community-based organization partners again this year. If you are a secondary school or CBO member, your membership can include up to ten people. The bundle administrator can add members to their bundle. If you are on the college side and know that a high school isn't involved in WACAC, I encourage you to send the New Member Form.

This initiative allows our membership to continue to grow. This fall we are proud to have 179 college members, 25 community-based organization members, 2 educational organization members, 8 independent counselors, 11 retired members, 1 student, and 205 secondary school members. In total, we have 431 members!

If you are a new or old member of WACAC, we are always looking for members to volunteer. A new volunteer form has been created and is on our website. We are hoping that the new volunteer form will clearly target what committees a member wants to get involved with. Get involved today!

What's Next for Admissions Practices

Admissions Practices: Kate Virgo

After much fanfare about the Department of Justice investigation and the subsequent settlement, it may have seemed like news went quiet regarding Admissions Practices.

The national AP committee and NACAC staff have been hard at work behind the scenes developing our new [Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission](#), researching the makeup of AP Committees among the affiliates, and developing presentations for affiliates to use.

While the mandatory practices and enforcement are now gone, we do now have a very comprehensive set of best practices and an emphasis on the shared values of education, access and equity, professionalism, collegiality, collaboration, trust, and social responsibility. I encourage you to take a look if you haven't reviewed the guide yet.

We also have a new presentation that we can conduct for you and your team on some ethical dilemmas you might face in your roles. The topics have been crowd-sourced from membership across the affiliates, and it is designed to facilitate discussions on how to advocate for student-centered approaches to admissions. It's certainly not the AP presentation of the past that's all about memorizing rules! Please let the Admissions Practices Committee know if you are interested in this training for your office.

The charge of WACAC's Admissions Practices Committee has changed a bit, but you can look forward to hearing more from us in the future as we look to become more focused on educational resources and training. And, if this newer mission intrigues you, and you'd like to get more involved, don't hesitate to reach out.

Great Professional Development is just a click away!

A benefit of being a member of WACAC is the fantastic library of professional development. Visit www.wacac.com/members to view past webinars hosted by our Professional Development Committee.

Apply for a WACAC Conference Grant!

Deadline: Feb 1, 2022

Attending a conference is a fantastic way to grow as a professional and one of the most rewarding aspects of membership with WACAC. If funding has been a barrier for you, there is now a Wisconsin-specific grant opportunity. Apply for a WACAC Conference Grant to attend either the NACAC Conference or state affiliate conference. [Apply online](#) to attend a conference in 2022.

Inclusion, Access & Success Thoughts

Alex Patterson

Visibility, intersectionality and intentionality. Recently, we celebrated Indigenous People's Day and National Coming Out Day which occurred in the same week this October. The parallel of these important events in the same week begs an interesting question: How are we addressing visible and non-visible diversity in college recruitment? Many students, staff, and faculty have both visible and invisible identities that shape who they are. These identities influence how they will interact with our communities in academic and social spaces as well as the ways we should support each other. While we often hear about single identities and examine communities from a singular lens, it is crucial to understand the role that intersectionality plays in a person's identity. A student can identify with many backgrounds and need various pieces of information or support to be successful while navigating their career as a student. The resources that we all need as a community can be tied back to the support that is built into relationship building and creating a space of understanding. How often do you consider identities of your students, co-workers, friends or yourself from this perspective? Your visible and invisible roles and identities dictate the regular interactions you are having and having a sense of awareness around that helps build an environment of inclusivity. This impacts and informs your lived understanding of the world around you and will thus have an impact on the perceptions you bring to the college search process.

This concept extends to the ways in which we use and distribute data around diverse populations. Often, we see data related to racial backgrounds or gender identities based on self-reported information. We do not often factor in the intersections that might be celebrated or identified in our own data. Consequently, we do not often see data shared across institutions about who and how they are working with students from diverse populations. It is imperative that we utilize each other and our ideas to support minority students through the college search process and understand what the data is telling us as we examine general trends within higher education. We all play a role in how student success operates within student populations, regardless of background. Consider the intersections of student backgrounds and their lived experiences leading up to their decision to enroll in college. As you find students that are the ideal fit for your school, share that with your peers. Do not be afraid of your failures and reflect on your successes!

Through our partnership with StriveScan, WACAC successfully hosted two Virtual 6x6 College Fair sessions in October and November. There were **45** post-secondary institutions represented and they were able to engage with students from **48** Wisconsin high schools! Thank you to all participating institutions and those counselors who spread the word to their students about this opportunity.