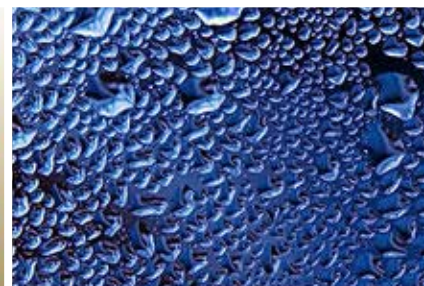


# SCENES

spring 2016



**IOWA ASSOCIATION**  
FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



2015-2016  
Iowa ACAC  
President  
John Davis

## The Second Time Around

Ten years has passed since my first experience as Iowa ACAC President and I have found the “second time around” to be both very similar and very different. I guess that should be exactly what one would expect. An Association is a living, breathing organism because it is made up of living, breathing organisms. People! And, like people, it grows and changes just as the society in which it lives grows and changes.

One of the first obvious differences is the people with whom I have shared this leadership experience. I worked with only three of the fifteen current board members ten years ago, and only one of those was in an Iowa ACAC leadership position at that time. I point this out because that is a sign of a healthy, growing organization. Old leadership must be willing to move into other roles so that new leadership can emerge and create new ideas and new challenges. If that experienced leadership has done its job, those new leaders will reflect the ideals of that generation and build upon the successes in new and creative ways.

Another difference that I have noted is the increase in our high school counselor membership. In the last decade, this was one of our long range plan priorities. Our high school member involvement in events like The R.I.D.E. and the Visit the Hill Program has grown significantly in ten years. And to a lesser degree, we are seeing more high school counselors attending our Iowa ACAC Conference, MIDWest Conference, and even the

NACAC Conference. While I was pleased with this change, I am still convinced that we can do more to increase the number of high school counselors who are part of our organization and more importantly, part of our leadership structure. An increase in membership from any homogeneous group demands an increased awareness in the needs of that group if we are to continue that growth. I would like to see a day when our executive board and committees are made of up an equal part of admission professionals and high school counselors to ensure that we have an ear tuned to the needs of our full membership.

I see a continued commitment by Iowa ACAC to cultivate strong relationships with our neighboring Affiliates. The expansion of our Tri-State Conference into our MIDWest Conference has been a tremendous benefit to our membership. The increased sharing of programs with Iowa School Counselor Association is also very encouraging. I am excited by the willingness of our members to be involved in the NACAC committees and the NACAC grant programs. I am impressed with the creation of our first high school scholarship program and the increase in our recognition awards for Iowa ACAC members who have gone above and beyond for our students.

But I see one thing that has not changed over the last ten years; that is the talent and dedication of our membership. The professionalism of our members is unmatched by any other organization. The energy and creativity still amazes me. We face a future that demands more from us today than it did ten years ago. But I am convinced that Iowa ACAC is in good health and in good hands!

**John Davis**  
Iowa ACAC President  
Educational Transitions



# MIDWest CONFERENCE

As temperatures outside continue to rise, your anticipation for the 2016 MIDWest Conference should be too!

This year's conference will be hosted at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis May 15-17. Here are a few reasons that should help build your excitement for "Blueprints for Success:"

- Reunite with friends and colleagues from around the MIDWest: Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- Fine-tune your skills, learn new techniques, and learn about issues affecting higher education and the students we serve through over 40 sessions.
- Check in with our Sponsoring Business Partners for information on new products and services—and to get your conference passport stamped!
- Once again, raffle tickets will be available for purchase! You will have the opportunity to win awesome prizes while benefiting an organization dedicated to helping low-income students access higher education—College Possible. Check out the sidebar for more information about College Possible!

## MIDWEST CONFERENCE 2016 BLUEPRINTS FOR SUCCESS

### THE DETAILS:

- Register online today for the MIDWest Conference.
- Don't forget to reserve a hotel room at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center (30 South 7th Street)! Make your reservation online or by calling (877) 303-0104.
- [Click here for more details.](#)

### COLLEGE POSSIBLE

College Possible is a non-profit organization focused on college access and success for low-income high school students across the country. Students involved with College Possible are dedicated to the idea of a college degree, but might not achieve their goal of a college degree without extra assistance. College Possible provides intensive coaching for high school juniors and seniors as they prepare to transition to college, supporting them all the way through to college graduation. AmeriCorps members serve as coaches and guide students through the college search and preparation process through after-school sessions for two hours twice a week, with students completing over 320 hours of curriculum with a group of college-bound peers.



# ASK ADMISSIONS Amy

“Ask Admissions Amy” will be a recurring section in SCENES, where we tackle your tough (or fun) questions related to the world of admissions and school counseling. While we don’t claim to be experts by any stretch of the imagination, we have an extremely talented and experienced membership whom we will reach out to for help!

## Admissions Amy:

As we get closer to graduation, more and more of my students are hitting the “senior slump.” Do you have any advice on how to keep them motivated?!

- *Seeing Senioritis in Cedar Rapids*



If you have a question you would like Amy to help with, email us at [jessica.dewall@uni.edu](mailto:jessica.dewall@uni.edu)

Dear Senioritis,

Unfortunately, the “senior slump” can be all too real! Try these tips for helping your students get re-motivated:

- **Focus on wellness:** Being in a good place physically and mentally is key to success in other areas of life. Make sure your students are eating healthy, exercising, and finding ways to destress outside the classroom—whether that be reading, spending time with friends, or going for a run.
- **Avoid overbooking:** Overscheduling can be overwhelming. Encourage your students to budget their time wisely—this can be hard for high school students who have friends, family, work, and school to pull them in different directions. The simple act of learning to make, and prioritize, a to-do list can be extremely helpful. If they learn time management now, it will be an invaluable skill for college and beyond.

- **Celebrate the student:** Between school, work, extra-curricular activities, AND making a college decision, life can get stressful. Remind your students to take time to celebrate their successes here and now—an “A” on a math test, winning the big game Friday night, earning a college scholarship.
- **Heading to college?:** After making a decision on where to attend college, some students think they’re free and clear to coast until graduation. Wrong! When reviewing final high school transcripts, most colleges expect students to maintain their grades throughout senior year. Colleges are able to renege on an offer of admission—or on a scholarship offer—if a student does not uphold the appropriate marks.

Your Friend,  
*Admissions Amy*

# PROGRAM SEASON

All colleges and universities have their own unique admission cycles and seasons, but one area of common ground among college admission counselors is admitted student programs. In anticipation of hundreds, if not thousands, of new freshmen arriving on our campuses in the fall, we are all working hard to host these students and their families as they make their final enrollment decisions during the spring months. This can feel like a stressful time period as we work long hours and endure lengthy conversations and interactions in our efforts to yield the students we've admitted, but it can also be a very humbling and exhilarating experience.

Consider how much time we have recently spent judging our applicants. Perhaps "judging" isn't the ideal word to use here, but it can't be denied that we have been looking over our applicants' credentials from top to bottom as we decide who we would like to have join our communities and who we would prefer to keep out. It is important to remember that just as those students had to sit and wait for us to decide if they met our [often complex and multifaceted] standards, we must now wait to see if our communities make the cut for the students we have admitted.



That is the humbling bit: our schools are just a few of the many schools out there, not just in Iowa, but in the Midwest and the entire country, from coast to coast. And if we liked a student enough to admit him or her, then it is very likely that that student was well-liked—and admitted—at several other schools.

The spring months leading up to our deposit deadlines can also be tremendously exhilarating. We have worked hard all year to recruit a dynamic and talented freshman class. Every year, we strive to meet higher

goals and to recruit the most impressive candidates for admission, and the hours we spent in high school gymnasiums, cafeterias, and guidance offices are finally starting to pay off in a visible way. We have worked with students from start to near-finish of the admission cycle, and we have fought for them in our admission committees. The weeks leading up to Deposit Day complete the final chapter in the novel of our yearlong recruitment efforts; it is nearly time to celebrate our successes!



# Meet *the* Committee:

## *Publications and Marketing Committee*

There are several committees within Iowa ACAC, and the *Scenes* newsletter you are currently reading was created by the members of the Publications & Marketing Committee. This committee assembles and distributes information pertaining to what is going on within Iowa ACAC. It provides Iowa ACAC members with information about events and critical issues for both high school and postsecondary members.

We currently have five committee members, though we are always happy to have more! The Publications & Marketing Committee is an ideal committee for college and high school counseling professionals who want to be in the know about Iowa ACAC happenings, as they compile information about admissions-related events in Iowa and distribute it to their colleagues through *Scenes*, the quarterly newsletter for which committee members write, edit, and compile various articles.

Iowa ACAC members who enjoy writing and editing will certainly be able to put their skills to use in the Publications & Marketing Committee, but the committee also helps its members stay connected to the professional community. While higher education professionals are, of course, deeply invested in what is going on within their school's community, committee membership allows those professionals to also understand the inner workings of the larger profession.



*Current committee members include Tim Butterfield (Grinnell College), Jess DeWall (University of Northern Iowa), Caitlyn Lesan (Southwestern Community College), Heather Runneberg (Buena Vista University), and Danielle Whitney (Iowa State University). For questions about committee membership or involvement, please contact the committee chair, Jess DeWall, at [jessica.dewall@uni.edu](mailto:jessica.dewall@uni.edu).*

# VISIT THE HILL RECAP

This year we had 115 attendees attend Visit the Hill. We were very happy with the turn out considering we had to postpone and reschedule the original date due to weather. For the original date, there were 150 people registered for the event. This was the first time Visit the Hill had to be rescheduled.

There were also 10 elementary school students in attendance, and it appeared they all enjoyed learning about advocacy. Many of those who attended were then able to visit the capitol and meet with their legislators to discuss issues in K-12 and higher education. Mother Nature was nice to us the second time around. There were many great presentations, including one led by Cedar Falls High School students on the importance of advocacy. Other sessions for attendees included: Early FAFSA and Prior-Prior Year, the current condition of higher education in Iowa, and career and college planning.

I would like to thank my committee for all their hard work in planning the event: Josh D'Amico from Mount Mercy University, Joe Slocum, Tyler Poldervaart, and Ali Casella from Mount Mercy University, Julie Fopma from Upper Iowa University, and Susan Langan from Cedar Falls High School.





# THE RIDE

Looking for a professional development opportunity with fellow counseling counterparts throughout the state? Look into registering for *The RIDE* (Rediscovering Iowa's Diverse Education)! The 2016 *RIDE* is scheduled from June 12-15, and will be visiting North Central Iowa!

This three-day bus tour provides a door-to-door, first-hand look at post-secondary campuses and what each school has to offer students. Each year, high school counselors are chauffeured to a variety of colleges for tours, hands-on learning, meals and even overnight stays in on-campus residence halls or apartments. All transportation, meals, and lodging are taken care of by the host colleges, Iowa ACAC, and our partnership with ISCA!

To quote one of last year's participants: "The *RIDE* is the most beneficial high school counselor staff development

I've discovered in the past six years. Besides the college tours and information, the *RIDE* provides me a great chance to network with other counselors throughout the state... something one can never do enough."

Registration will open in April on the Iowa ACAC website, and all participants are required to pay a \$25 non-refundable registration fee to hold their spot. All schools represented by registrants who participate in the *RIDE* will receive a one year institutional Iowa ACAC membership for their whole office. Make sure to share this professional development opportunity with your counseling counterparts throughout the state.

Questions? Contact Erin Gabriel, Iowa ACAC President-Elect at [egabriel@dowlingcatholic.org](mailto:egabriel@dowlingcatholic.org) or 515.222.1023!



# Save *the* Date

*Admissions Counselor University July 26-27!*



Join other admission counselors for two days of learning and networking designed to help those new to the field learn more about the industry. There will be sessions and presentations on a wide variety of topics including travel, transfer students, professional polices and guidelines and information on opportunities to get involved with Iowa ACAC. ACU attendees also have great opportunities to get to know other counselors new to the field.

For more information, contact Iowa ACAC Professional Development Chair Sabrina Tapps-Fee at [sabrina-tapps@uiowa.edu](mailto:sabrina-tapps@uiowa.edu).

## **A few comments from the last ACU:**

*"ACU did an excellent job bringing together admission counselors throughout the state and equipping us to represented our institutions to the best of our ability."*

*"ACU took the knowledge that I had gained throughout my first couple of months on the job and paired it with excitement. The high energy and excitement of meeting everyone further created an enhanced enthusiasm and eagerness for traveling to college fairs and high school visits!"*

*"Thanks so much for an awesome ACU experience- I had a blast and was thankful to network with other counselors heading to Chicagoland area."*

# International CONNECTION

*"If only people will get together,  
then so eventually will nations."  
President Dwight D. Eisenhower*

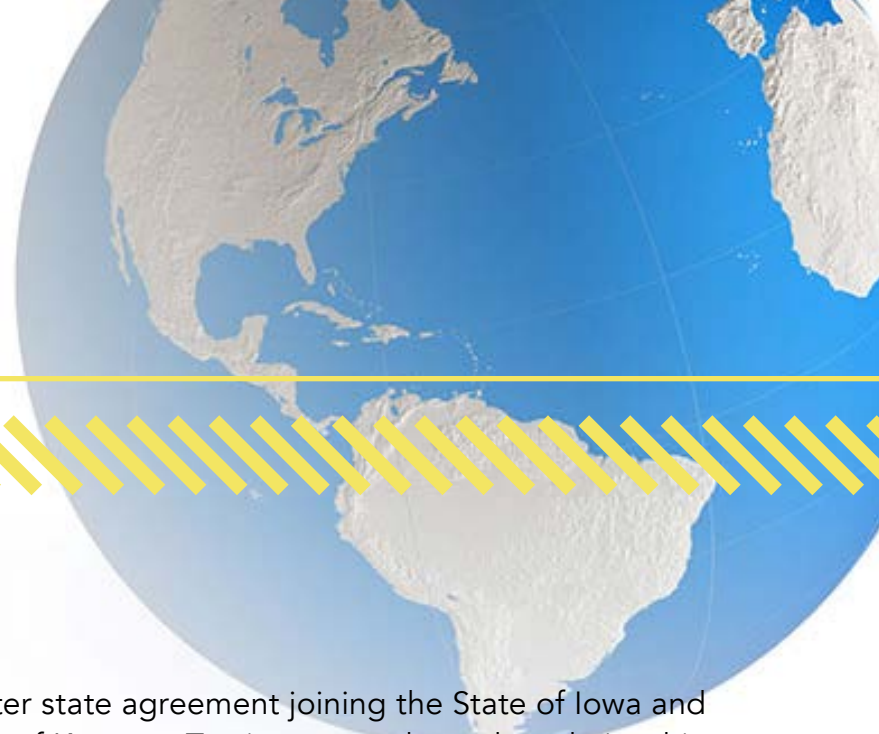
Iowa Sister States (ISS) is a volunteer driven organization dedicated to connecting Iowans with the world community. Their mission is to provide international programs that promote the interests of Iowans abroad. They do this by facilitating and hosting exchange programs between Iowa and our Sister States which include, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, Yucatan, Mexico, Hebei Province, China, Terengganu, Malaysia, Stavropol Krai, Russia, Taiwan, Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine, Veneto Region, Italy, and Kosovo.

The Republic Kosovo, being the newest of the Iowa Sister States, just announced the grand opening of its Consulate Office in Des Moines, Iowa on Friday, Jan. 29th 2016. This will be the first foreign diplomatic office to be located in Iowa. Kosovo chose Iowa as a place to open their Consulate due to the strong civilian and military ties between Iowa and Kosovo. The Iowa/Kosovo relationship began in 2011, when the Iowa National Guard was partnered with the Kosovo Security Force via the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Iowa's Adjutant General Tim Orr envisioned a "Whole of Iowa to the Whole of Kosovo" approach to the relationship. In 2013, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Kosovo's President Atifete Jahjaga

signed a sister state agreement joining the State of Iowa and the Republic of Kosovo. To view more about the relationship with Kosovo explore a documentary currently being made and consider donating- With a Cup of Sugar Kosovo Documentary on Kickstarter- <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/405203164/with-a-cup-of-sugar-kosovo-documentary>

The Iowa Sister States have many opportunities for current students in Iowa colleges, like scholarship opportunities that could lead you abroad to be a representative for the State of Iowa. Most recently ISS announced the Jeff Zimpleman ISS Scholarship, which is unique because it is specifically for Iowa students to further their interest in the world of international relations via one of Iowa's 9 sister state relationships. It offers scholarship opportunities for Iowan's seeking degrees/diplomas in the area of international business or agriculture, international relations, language, or culture(including music, art, and film.)

Many Iowa colleges also participate with the Iowa Sister States by collaborating and offering scholarship opportunities/professional development to international students studying from one of the sister states. To check out more about Iowa's Sister States feel free to navigate to the [Iowa Sister State's website](#).





# CHANGES OF SCENERY

## Central College Admission Office

Christopher Sirridge has joined the Central College Admission Office as a new counselor. He will be working with students from North Central Iowa, MN, and the eastern United States.

## Iowa State University

Congratulations to Kati Smith (Iowa State University) and her husband Andrew on their birth of their daughter. Ava Marie Smith was born on Tuesday, February 9th.

## Shenandoah Community Schools

Heather and Dan Weiss welcomed their second child, Dalton Daniel Weiss, on January 20, 2016 at 8:09am. He was 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 22.75" long. Dalton was also welcomed home by his big sister, Charlotte, who is 4 years-old. Heather is a high school counselor at Shenandoah Community Schools and Dan is an Ag Loan Officer and a farmer.

## Change of Scenery Announcements

*Got news from your office? New employees? Promotions? Departures? Marriages or babies? Let us know. Send changes of scenery to Jessica DeWall at [jessica.dewall@uni.edu](mailto:jessica.dewall@uni.edu).*