



INTERNATIONAL

ACAC

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

March 13, 2019

Dear International ACAC Members,

In the wake of recent news regarding a college admission cheating scheme, International ACAC members are reminded how complex the college selection and application process can be for all involved. It is on these occasions where our Association can find solidarity in the words at the center of our Mission statement...“Promoting professional standards that foster ethical and social responsibility.”

While there will continue to be stories of people who seek an advantage in the admission process, at the expense of others, we are confident that the vast majority of our members are acting with the best interest of students in mind, and following our ethical guidelines as determined by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and International ACAC. With that in mind, we support the following statement NACAC provided to the media:

NACAC Urges Recommitment to Integrity in Wake of College Admission Scandal

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

urged its members today to redouble their commitment to integrity within the college admission process following news reports of efforts by wealthy individuals to get their children into selective colleges and universities as part of a long-running cheating scam.

“This is an unfortunate example of the lengths to which people will go to circumvent and manipulate the college admission process, particularly to gain admission to highly selective colleges,” Stefanie Niles, NACAC president and vice president for enrollment and communications at Ohio Wesleyan University, said of the allegations, calling them an “extreme response to the commodification of the college admission process—one that is focused on college acceptance as an end unto itself.”

“Admission and counseling professionals understand and have valued ethical behavior as stated in our Code of Ethics and Professional Practices for well over 80 years,” Niles said. “We strive to ensure that all students are treated equitably throughout the process.”

Let us use this incident as inspiration to think about ways that we can each promote and reinforce our mission to facilitate global interaction among counselors and institutions in support of students transitioning to higher education. As a global organization, this means each of us, as members, can help in promoting these ethical standards in our local places of work and around the globe.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our profession and, most importantly, to the students we serve.

Best,

Aaron Andersen President, International ACAC Director, International Recruitment, AMEA University of British Columbia, Canada

Council of International Schools

Message from Jane Larsson, CIS Executive Director

The breach of ethics and corrupt behaviour by professionals guiding students as they choose their paths to a number of US higher education institutions is disappointing and harmful to our work. We have a collective responsibility to build trust with the young people in our care. Our students have a multitude of opportunities to consider which in itself can be overwhelming, not to mention the intense pressure they face as they complete their exams under the scrutiny and expectations of their parents. Their transition from secondary school to university life, inevitably in a new country and culture, is fraught with vulnerability. We must support them with integrity.

As members, CIS universities commit to our [Code of Ethics](#) and [Guiding Principles for Higher Education](#). They are held to the highest standards of behaviour, which we will reinforce at each and every one of our activities and events.