



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

Glossary of Terms

Affiliate – NACAC has 23 chartered, affiliate associations that work to respond to the professional needs of their members and are an integral part of the delivery system for NACAC programs and services at the local level. The national association and the affiliates are linked by joint programs and governance operations. The presidents and presidents-elect of affiliates serve on the Affiliate Presidents Council.

Affiliate Presidents Council – the 23 Affiliate Presidents and 23 Presidents-elect come together on this national leadership council where members share interests, develop collaborations, function as a resource to the NACAC Board of Directors, and support the NACAC-Affiliate partnership with leadership service to the field and the profession. The council meets three times at the Leadership Development Institute, before the NACAC National Conference, and at the Winter Leadership Meeting.

Affiliate Presidents Council Committees – some council members are invited to serve a two-year term on one of the council's two committees: the Rising Star Awards selection committee and the Imagine Grants selection committee. These committees review and respectively promote these council programs and select awardees accordingly.

Affiliate Staff – currently there are 22 individuals who serve as executive staff with the 23 affiliates. The range of responsibilities and activities undertaken by the different affiliate staff varies vastly from affiliate to affiliate. Some executive staff will work fulltime and others either part-time or on a contract basis. The affiliate executive staff members meet once a year at the national conference to train and share best practices.

Assembly – the Assembly is a primary governance body for the NACAC organization. Many member leaders in the affiliate presidential stream will also serve as Assembly delegates. Each delegate has the responsibility to stay connected to Assembly issues by reading all communications posted to the Leads List and accessing the online Assembly materials and the printed materials mailed to them in mid-August. Presidents-elect who are not serving as delegates are encouraged to attend the Assembly meetings at the conference to prepare for service in the Assembly. Assembly delegates are also expected to attend the Annual Membership meeting also held at the end of the conference.

GWI or Guiding the Way Workshop - the Guiding the Way to Inclusion program is a two-day professional development workshop for postsecondary admission counselors and enrollment professionals who assist underserved students and their families in the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. Tailored to address current multicultural and diversity issues in higher education, GWI provides in-depth understanding of the components of multicultural recruitment as they relate to the college admission profession. The workshop is designed to serve postsecondary admission counselors and enrollment professionals who have zero-to-five years of experience in the field.

Imagine Grants – the NACAC Imagine Fund provides Imagine Grants to offer financial support to individuals or NACAC affiliates who assist students in the high school to college transition. These grants are intended to provide assistance to individuals who might otherwise be unable to participate in professional development opportunities or to implement a new innovative program. Projects and programs funded by an Imagine Grant should serve as role models to the profession. The NACAC Affiliates Presidents Council appoints an Imagine Grant Committee to oversee this program and select grant recipients.

LDI or the Leadership Development Institute – Presidents-elect attend the Leadership Development Institute (LDI), the first of three annual LDI's that individuals in the affiliate presidential cycle are expected to attend. The LDI content is planned accordingly to support these individuals as affiliate and national leaders. At LDI Past-presidents lend experience to the program by presenting and sharing their knowledge. They serve in a mentorship role and often present sessions.

NACAC Exchange-The NACAC Exchange is a networking tool that allows professionals to share ideas and discuss pertinent topics. There are Exchange groups established for the Presidents Council and separate groups for each presidential class. President Elects are added to the groups as they are announced. The general Exchange is open to both members and non-members, certain groups, such as the Presidents Council, are only open to members of the group added by the moderator.

Presidents Council Exchange Discussion Groups - Council members and affiliate past presidents will be added to the Presidents Council Exchange Discussion. The Exchange groups will be a discussion board where important messages will be posted regarding NACAC and Council activities and responsibilities. Each Exchange group also has a Library where documents are posted. In addition to a group for the full Council, each presidents' class will have its own group. The Board of Directors and a number of NACAC staff will also be members of the Presidents Council group. Members of NACAC staff who support Council activities as well as the Coordinator and the Coordinator Elect will be members of the class groups.

Winter Leadership Meeting – the Council Winter Leadership Meeting, also known as “March meeting” or “Winter LDI,” is the third meeting of the Council year. All Council members are expected to attend. This meeting is intended to enhance the partnership between the national and affiliate organizations to best meet the needs of members and mission. Like LDI in July, this meeting provides a forum for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing on the most effective practices for management and leadership of an affiliate association. This meeting is held immediately prior to the Government Relations advocacy program and many Council members choose to stay and participate in the Government Relations Activities.

Rising Star Awards – The Presidents Council and the Board of Directors of the National Association for College Admission Counseling co-sponsor a national award to honor individuals and programs that exemplify excellence and leadership within the affiliate. These awards were established to encourage affiliates to look within their associations and identify and support emerging leaders and new and innovative programs. To further recognize the work and leadership potential of our members all NACAC Affiliates are also now being encouraged to establish partner Rising Star Individual and Program of the Year awards to recognize excellence at the affiliate level which can then be elevated to the national level. The NACAC Presidents Council Coordinator appoints a Rising Star Awards Committee to oversee this program.