

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

'26

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATES

2026 ELECTION POSITIONS OPEN

There are four open positions to be filled on the NACAC Board of Trustees. Eligible voting members will elect three (3) trustees and the NACAC board will elect the chair-elect. Any eligible NACAC member may apply for consideration for any of these vacancies.

ELIGIBILITY

All NACAC voting members in good standing for five years prior to assuming office are eligible for board service. Chair-elect applicants must have also previously served a full term as an elected NACAC board director or trustee within the past five years; however, the Board of Trustees may consider candidates outside this timeline if warranted by organizational needs. *No member shall serve simultaneously as an officer, board trustee*, or comparable position in both NACAC and an affiliate.*

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

As you consider applying for board service, please review the information below that offers further details about the skills and experience desired in the chair-elect and board trustees. Please visit [NACAC's website](#) for additional information on the current board make-up.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL BOARD CANDIDATES

All board candidates should demonstrate a commitment to NACAC's mission and values. Candidates should also recognize that the NACAC board is apolitical, and board members cannot bring their personal agenda to the board. Board members must be willing to provide a fair and unbiased perspective and be able to engage in difficult conversations and make difficult decisions. For additional details on the desired expectations for chair-elect and trustee candidates, please see below.

*Board Trustees:

A NACAC (non-officer) board trustee must have completed their current term of service on the board prior to submitting materials for consideration to be nominated for a subsequent term as a (non-officer) trustee on the Board of Trustees. However, a NACAC (non-officer) board trustee who is eligible for election to the board under the Bylaws may submit materials for consideration to be nominated for the position of chair-elect in the last year of their term on the Board of Trustees.

EXPECTATIONS OF CHAIR-ELECT CANDIDATES

DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE

- Significant progressive, professional experience that relates to NACAC board service.
- Minimum of three years of leadership in professional volunteer role and/or external organization.
- Related leadership experience, including but not limited to:
 - Former NACAC board member within 5 years
 - Chair of NACAC special or ad hoc committee
 - Affiliate president
 - SIG leader or co-leader
- Officer-level role at a non-profit or community-based organization.

DEMONSTRATED SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- External relations
 - Represent organization and board
 - Member engagement
- Communications
 - Public speaking
 - Writing
- Governance
- Budget accountability
- People management
 - Managing staff and/or other professional committees/groups

DEMONSTRATED PHILOSOPHY & VALUES

- Interest in building and sustaining a positive and intentional organizational culture.
- Emphasis on building transparent and collaborative relationships between volunteer leader groups and member segments.
- Ability to envision and collaborate to build the future of NACAC and deepen its service to members.
- Institutional knowledge of NACAC and its goals and priorities.

EXPECTATIONS OF TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

- Demonstrated progressive, professional experience that relates to national board service
- Demonstrated trajectory of active engagement and volunteer leadership leading to national board service
- Ability to envision and collaborate to build the future of NACAC and deepen its service to members



Jonathan Ferrell,
2025-28 trustee

“NACAC board service is about listening deeply, leading boldly, and learning constantly—for the good of our students and our profession.”

THE BOARD'S ROLE AS A GOVERNING BODY

The board structure emphasizes the collective work of governing, as distinguished from program planning and implementation. Governing, in this context, focuses on the board's responsibility to set a strategic course for NACAC and steer that course by continuously addressing four questions:

1. What are NACAC's strategic priorities?
2. How do NACAC programs and services support these priorities?
3. How is NACAC performing?
4. What is the best use of NACAC resources?

BOARD STRUCTURE

- A board of 12-to-17 voting members.
- The chair-elect (selected by the Board of Trustees) and eight board trustees (elected by eligible voting members).
- The coordinator of the Affiliate Presidents Council (APC) is an ex-officio voting member of the board for one year.
- Up to five board trustees who may or may not be NACAC members are appointed by the board to enrich strategic dialogue.
- The chief executive officer is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY

The NACAC Bylaws state that the Board of Trustees of NACAC shall have full power, direction, and authority over the affairs of the association, except as provided in the Bylaws. The Board of Trustees shall:

- Oversee the administration of the association.
- Exercise financial stewardship over the association.
- Determine the annual budget, establish annual membership dues, and provide an annual financial report to the membership.
- Establish the fiscal year of the association.
- Establish and enforce policies and procedures of the association.
- Perform other duties as defined in the Bylaws.

COMMITMENT

Time spent on the NACAC board can broaden one’s leadership abilities and experiences, forge lifelong professional relationships, offer opportunities to mentor others, bring visibility to employing institutions/organizations, and provide opportunities to make a difference for the association, the profession, and countless students.

Board members spend time deliberating during in-person and virtual full board and board committee meetings, reviewing and studying materials for decision making, conferring independently with other board members, talking with NACAC members, representing the association to the media or other organizations and vendors, and participating in board meetings. Meeting plans may change from year-to-year but can equate to 10 or more weekday and additional weekend commitments over the course of a year. As an example, the tentative schedule for 2026–27 includes:

- New board orientation (a one-hour virtual session with materials provided) in October
- Three board meetings (one or two will be in person)
- One board retreat (two days off-site)
- Virtual full board meetings on an as-needed basis
- Virtual committee meetings (typically monthly, but frequency is determined by the committee)
- Approximately four virtual Executive Committee meetings (only board committee chair, APC coordinator, and those in the board chair cycle attend)
- National conference (three days)
- Related organizational meetings or other professional meetings as requested



Megan O'Rourke,
2025-28 trustee

“Serving on the board has been an eye-opening experience for me. When you take a leap and put your name forward, you can stretch yourself and allow yourself to grow, learn new skills, enhance your talents, and support an organization that is doing such good work to support its members as they support students on their post-secondary journey.”

CHAIR OF THE BOARD CYCLE

The chair-elect of the board serves a three-year term on the Board of Trustees as chair-elect, chair, and immediate past chair. While serving as immediate past chair, they will also serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. The individual in the chair cycle serves on and presides over the meetings of the board's Executive and Compensation committees during their year as chair of the board.

All three board chairs work together closely to ensure continuity and stability for the association, board, and CEO.

The chair of the board:

- Leads the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee to ensure that the board fulfills its fiduciary responsibilities.
- Presides over all board and Executive Committee meetings.
- Works in close partnership with the chief executive officer, who oversees the staff in the implementation of the board-identified priorities.
- Appoints persons to serve on special committees, ad hoc committees, task forces, panels, and other bodies, subject to the approval of the board.
- Assigns board committees and chairs of board committees.
- Serves as an official spokesperson for the association.
- Appoints an eligible person to replace a vacancy in an unexpired term of an elected trustee who is not an officer, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
- Travels to additional meetings beyond those required of other trustees as needed.

The chair-elect is a chair-in-training and, as such, prepares to assume those duties when required. This individual works with the chair and immediate past chair to appoint committee members who begin serving during their year as chair of the board.

The immediate past chair serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the board and is also assigned to one of the other board committees. Additionally, the immediate past chair is responsible for chairing the Nominating Committee.



Tahirah Jordan Crawford,
2025-26 Chair-elect

“Board service gives me the opportunity to have a far-reaching impact on our profession by helping to ensure NACAC remains the leading, loyal, and trust-worthy organization for our work. We open doors and usher students into their futures. None of which would be possible without the advocacy and support of a powerful professional membership association.”

CHAIR-ELECT APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

All chair-elect application materials must be received by 5 p.m. ET on Feb. 27. The Board of Trustees will review and select the incoming chair-elect.

- **CHAIR-ELECT APPLICATION FORM**

Each candidate must submit an [application](#), which includes a field to provide the name of the person submitting a [reference form](#) in support of their candidacy for chair-elect. Wherever possible, it's helpful if the reference is familiar with NACAC. Please note that current board members, direct reports of applicants, and members of NACAC's Nominating Committee may not serve as references.

- **CHAIR-ELECT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM**

Includes fields for candidates to highlight why they're interested in the chair-elect position and how their relevant experience has prepared them to serve as an effective chair-elect. ***Each candidate must also upload a resume.***

- **STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The [Statement of Institutional Support Form](#) declares the commitment of the applicant's institution to allow them, if elected, to fully serve the association. In return, the institution benefits from the national recognition afforded to board members. NACAC provides financial support to board members to travel and participate in meetings and events as required.

Select chair-elect applicants will be invited to participate in a brief virtual interview with members of the Board. In addition, the CEO will conduct conversations with chair-elect candidates throughout the review process. The new chair-elect will be announced with the results of the 2026 Annual Member Vote.

TRUSTEE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Nominating Committee is charged with developing a slate of qualified trustee nominees to present to the board for approval before the final slate is shared with the voting membership for election. All candidate application materials must be received by 5 p.m. ET on Feb. 27.

- **TRUSTEE APPLICATION FORM**

Each candidate must submit an [application](#), which includes a field to provide the name of the person submitting a [reference form](#) in support of their candidacy. Wherever possible, it's helpful if the reference is familiar with NACAC. Please note that current NACAC board members, direct reports of applicants, and members of NACAC's Nominating Committee may not serve as references.

- **TRUSTEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM**

Includes fields for candidates to highlight why they're interested in board service and how their relevant experience has prepared them to serve as an effective board trustee. ***Each candidate must also upload a resume.***

- **STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

Board trustees must have the support of their institutions. Each trustee applicant who advances to the interview round must submit a [Statement of Institutional Support](#) that declares the commitment of their institution to allow the applicant, if elected, to fully serve the association. In return, the institution benefits from the national recognition afforded to board members. NACAC provides financial support to each board trustee to travel and participate in meetings and events as required. The [Statement of Institutional Support Form](#) is **due by 5 p.m. ET on March 13**.

The Nominating Committee will meet on March 4, after which selected trustee applicants will be required to participate in 30-minute virtual interviews with members of the committee between the dates of **March 6** and **March 16**.

BOARD TRUSTEE NOMINEE ACTIVITIES AND ELECTION PROCESS

Once selected, trustee nominees will be sent a detailed schedule of expectations and events. A nominee is expected to participate in all events, which typically include introductory videos, NACAC communications, recorded discussions with other candidates, and recorded speeches.

Running for national office is considered an opportunity for leaders to present themselves for service to the association and an opportunity for the association to identify among its members those leaders who can best guide and govern the association in pursuit of its mission and objectives. Campaign guidelines limit promotional efforts made on behalf of nominees.

Communications by members to exchange information about nominees should be made with professionalism, dignity, and equity.

The election for board trustees takes place electronically prior to the annual conference. The board will review applications and select the chair-elect. Officers and elected trustees take office at the close of the conference in the year of their election.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **5 p.m. ET, Feb. 27**
Deadline for application materials
- **March 4**
Nominating Committee meets to review trustee applications and select which applicants will be asked to participate in brief, informal virtual interviews with members of the committee.
- **Early April**
2026 slate of trustee nominees announced

[2025-26 NOMINATING COMMITTEE ROSTER](#)

[2025-26 BOARD OF TRUSTEES](#)

Please visit [NACAC's website](#) for additional information on the current board make-up.