



**Melisa Hypolite**  
**Personal Statement**  
**March 2023**

Melisa Hypolite has diverse experiences working with learners from ages 5- 65 from a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Her education career began as a substitute teacher in South Jersey and evolved into Assistant Director of Admissions at a trade school, and later an adjunct college instructor, resulting in expertise in supporting college, career, and life readiness.

Driven by a passion for equity in education, Melisa is the Founder and CEO of an educational non-profit based in Baltimore, Maryland; She is also a published author. Melisa is often a featured presenter at college access events and has provided guidance to high schools, universities, and training facilities throughout the contiguous United States, as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Trinidad, and Barbados.

Born in Trinidad, Melisa puts her belief and lived experience that education changes lives into action every day. Melisa currently serves as the Executive Vice President of the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCACAC), was a Counselor of the Year, and is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). Melisa became a PCACAC Member in 2017 after being awarded the Marion Flagg Scholarship. This scholarship welcomed her into the PCACAC family- a family that continuously encouraged her to learn and grow as a professional in college access. After being awarded this “starter scholarship,” Melisa went on to join the Inclusion, Access, and Success (IAS) committee and became chair of its subcommittee, Joining Hands. Shortly after that, Melisa became the IAS Chair and a Delegate. After some time passed, Melisa took what she learned in those roles and was appointed Executive Vice President.; when that appointment ended, Melisa was elected Executive Vice President by her peers.

In running for President of PCACAC, Melisa hopes to continue creating spaces for varying voices within the organization- she believes diversity is paramount. Melisa believes leadership should reflect the population they serve- we are all different people with different backgrounds and a common goal- helping students! Melisa plans to continue creating space for varying voices just as PCACAC leadership made space for her.