

2023 - 2024



**PCACAC**

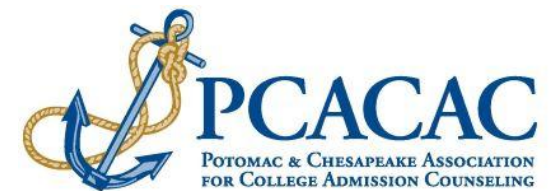
POTOMAC & CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATION  
FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING



# *Understanding the Professional Organizations that Support College Admissions Counseling*

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

March 21, 2024



# PRESENTERS

- **Candice Ashton**, Associate Director of College Counseling, Sandy Spring Friends School
  - [ashtoca@ssfs.org](mailto:ashtoca@ssfs.org)
- **Meredith Lombardi**, Director, Education & Training, Common App
  - [mlombardi@commonapp.org](mailto:mlombardi@commonapp.org)
- **Tania Rachkoskie**, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management, Goucher College
  - [tania.rachkoskie@goucher.edu](mailto:tania.rachkoskie@goucher.edu)



# WHO WE ARE



**Candice Ashton**

Sandy Spring Friends School (MD)

*Member of:*

NACAC, PCACAC, ACCIS, WAIS, AIMS,  
NAIS



**Meredith Lombardi**

Common App (VA)

*Member of:*

NACAC, PCACAC, NCAN, NPEA, ASCA,  
International ACAC

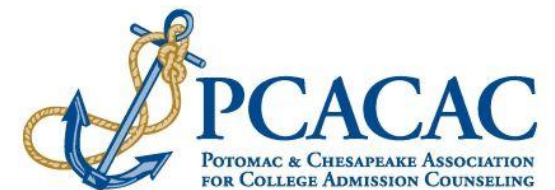


**Tania Rachkoskie**

Goucher College (MD)

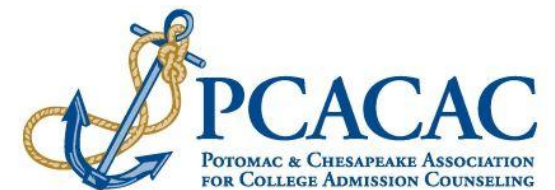
*Member of:*

NACAC, PCACAC, NAGAP, CAPGAP,  
College Board, ACT, Common App



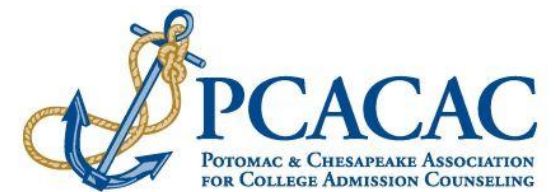
# *LEARNING OBJECTIVES*

- What are their respective missions?
- Which respective audience(s) do they serve?
- What value does each organization bring to their constituents?

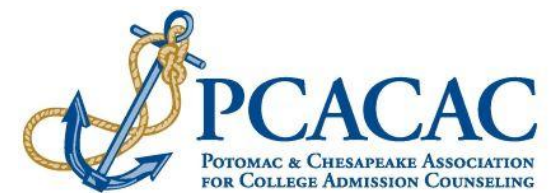


# *AGENDA*

- Orgs 101
- How to get involved
- Your questions

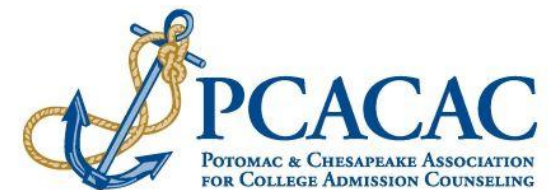


# *ORGS 101*



# *ROLE OF ORGANIZATIONS*

- Policy & advocacy
- Resources
- Professional development
- Guiding ethics
- Awards





**NACAC**  
National Association for  
College Admission Counseling



**NATIONAL  
COLLEGE  
ATTAINMENT  
NETWORK**

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP  
OF  
EDUCATIONAL ACCESS



AMERICAN  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR  
ASSOCIATION



**ACCIS**  
Association of College Counselors  
in Independent Schools



National Association  
of Independent Schools

**common  
app**



**REACH HIGHER**  
Complete your education. Own your future.

**CollegeBoard**

**IECA**<sup>+</sup> INDEPENDENT  
EDUCATIONAL  
CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION

**HECA**

HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION



**PCACAC**  
POTOMAC & CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATION  
FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

# ORG OVERVIEWS



## **Mission**

Empowering college admission counseling professionals through education, advocacy, and community.

## **Vision**

The transformative power of postsecondary education is accessible to all.

[nacacnet.org](http://nacacnet.org)



## **Mission**

The National College Attainment Network's (NCAN) mission is to support members and influence leaders, organizations, policies, and systems across the country to increase equity and excellence in postsecondary degree access and attainment.

## **Vision**

All students—especially first-generation students, students from underrepresented racial/ethnic backgrounds, and those from low-income backgrounds—have an equitable opportunity to achieve social and economic mobility through higher education.

[ncan.org](http://ncan.org)

# ORG OVERVIEWS

## HECA

HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Mission**

To foster a culture of support for the HECA community to develop personally, professionally, and ethically.

### **Vision**

In our actions, we strive to be a welcoming, collaborative, professional association that promotes volunteerism and integrity among our members.

[hecalive.org](http://hecalive.org)

IECA<sup>+</sup> INDEPENDENT  
EDUCATIONAL  
CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Mission**

To promote the highest quality independent educational consulting to students and families seeking skilled, ethical, academic or therapeutic guidance; to enhance professional development; and to foster career satisfaction among members.

[iecaonline.com](http://iecaonline.com)

# ORG OVERVIEWS



## **Mission**

Common App is a nonprofit membership organization committed to the pursuit of access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

## **Vision**

Be the trusted source to access, afford, and attain opportunity for all.

## **Moonshot**

By 2030, Common App will close its equity gap in students pursuing postsecondary opportunities.

[commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org)



## **Mission**

Reach Higher, started by former First Lady Michelle Obama during her time at the White House, works to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, a four-year college or university or the military.

In January 2019, Common App and Reach Higher joined forces to accelerate progress toward our joint goal of supporting all students, especially low-income and first-generation students, in achieving their higher education dreams.

[reachhigher.org](https://reachhigher.org)

# ORG OVERVIEWS

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OF EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

### **Mission**

The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is a membership organization that connects the people, practices, and innovations essential for eliminating barriers to educational access and college and career success for underserved students.

### **Vision**

Working together, our members make it possible for all students to access high-quality learning opportunities and to thrive at every phase of their unique educational journeys.

[educational-access.org](https://educational-access.org)



### **Mission**

To represent the school counseling profession and equip school counselors to create equitable opportunities and inclusive environments that enable all students to succeed.

### **Vision**

All school counselors implement a school counseling program aligned with the ASCA National Model that enhances every student's academic success; college-, career- and life-readiness; and social/emotional development. School counselors and school counseling programs are integral to the mission of every school.

[schoolcounselor.org](https://schoolcounselor.org)

# ORG OVERVIEWS



## **Mission**

The Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools is an educational leader and professional community that empowers its members as they educate and support students, families, and institutions through a lens of equity, inclusion, and belonging in an ever-changing college admission landscape.

## **Vision**

ACCIS will deliver timely, relevant, and innovative programming to inspire and inform members in their college counseling work while leading change in independent schools to center diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in college admission counseling;

[accisnet.org](https://accisnet.org)



National Association  
of Independent Schools

## **Mission**

As the largest association of independent schools, NAIS co-creates the future of education by uniting and empowering our community. We do this through thought leadership, research, creation and curation of resources, and direct collaboration with education leaders.

## **Vision**

All learners find pathways to success through the independence, innovation, and diversity of our schools, creating a more equitable world.

[nais.org](https://nais.org)

# *ORG OVERVIEWS*



## **Mission**

(ACT) We exist to fight for fairness in education and create a world where everyone can discover and fulfill their potential.

[act.org](http://act.org)

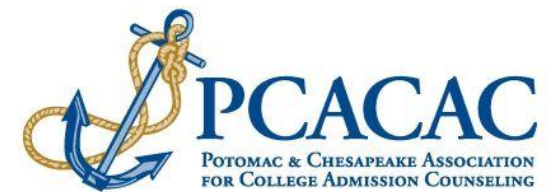


## **Mission**

The College Board's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

[collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

# *HOW TO GET INVOLVED*





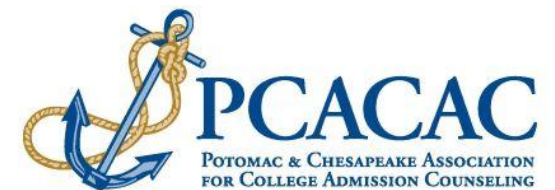
# *WHY GET INVOLVED*

- Necessary to do the job effectively
- Networking
- Access to resources
- Professional development
- Look for organizations that meet your specific needs



# *WAYS TO GET INVOLVED*

- Attend a professional learning webinar / conference
- Present at conference / lead webinar
- Special interest / affinity groups
- Join a committee
- Advisory boards
- Leadership / Board of Directors



# *WHAT CAN ORGS DO FOR YOU?*

- Provide networks and peer relationships
- Professional growth and learning
- Provide resources and information vital to the work
- Provide access to opportunities
- Raise personal and institutional visibility



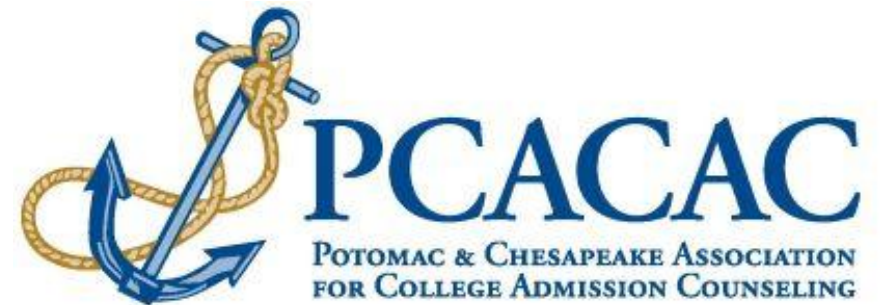
# *QUESTIONS?*



YOU MAY ENTER YOUR  
QUESTIONS INTO THE Q&A  
BOX IN ZOOM



THANK YOU!



# THANK YOU

- **Candice Ashton**, Associate Director of College Counseling, Sandy Spring Friends School
  - [ashtoca@ssfs.org](mailto:ashtoca@ssfs.org)
- **Meredith Lombardi**, Director, Education & Training, Common App
  - [mlombardi@commonapp.org](mailto:mlombardi@commonapp.org)
- **Tania Rachkoskie**, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management, Goucher College
  - [tania.rachkoskie@goucher.edu](mailto:tania.rachkoskie@goucher.edu)

