

Ad Hoc Committee on Developing Programs and Services for College Counseling and Admission Professionals at Rural and Small-Town Schools and Colleges

PURPOSE

The committee was asked to develop practical recommendations for creating online resources and other kinds of support for counselors, college admission staff, and students and families living and working in rural communities and small towns. The committee considered the greatest challenges with respect to college admission counseling, such as geographic isolation, low-income students' barriers, trust and intimidation, understanding pathways and options, and insufficient resources for an already overwhelmed staff.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

Peggy Jenkins, Palouse Pathways (ID)

Peaches Valdes, Hamilton College (NY)

Alba Cobos, Georgia Southern University

Amelia Conlon, The Peddie School (NJ)

Mark Cortez, The Ohio State University

Brett Fuller, Wake Forest University (NC)

Leticia Garay, University of California-Davis

Jody Goins, Lincoln Memorial University (TN)

Nick Grenoble, Waterford School (UT)

Erin Grey, Lyman High School (WY)

Becky Halamka, Westwood High School (MI)

Erin Heide, Valley City State University (ND)

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Chris LaTempa, Malvern Preparatory School (PA)

Rance Lee, US Military Academy (NY)

Adeara London, Cornell College (IA)

Christopher Adam Ray, Western Carolina University (NC)

Jill Semmens, Collegiate Directions, Inc (MD)

Gregory Stringer, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Kirin Terni, Housatonic Valley Regional High School (CT)

Vilma Wolfe, Saint Joseph Academy (TX)

NACAC Staff Liaisons

David Hawkins, Chief Education and Policy Officer

Tiziana Marchante, Project Manager, Content Strategy and Outreach

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make educational resources about the transition to postsecondary education available to professionals serving rural communities.
- Extend NACAC’s reach to communicate with rural school counselors, administrators, students, and other stakeholders about the transition to postsecondary education.
- Articulate the value of postsecondary education in the rural and small-town context.

STATUS FOR EACH RECOMMENDATION

Make educational resources about the transition to postsecondary education available to professionals serving rural communities.

A new NACAC website is under development, and we will apply this recommendation as we craft and curate content. A new member engagement platform will also facilitate the posting and exchanging of resources. NACAC’s recent partnership with the [College Guidance Network](#) will help scale the work of counselors and provide information and resources to students and families as they navigate the college admission process.

CONTINUES.

Extend NACAC's reach to advocate for and communicate with rural school counselors, administrators, students, and other stakeholders about the transition to postsecondary education.

This will require a multi-year approach. NACAC needs to assess what is currently being done and develop a communications strategy to support this recommendation.

Articulate the value of postsecondary education in the rural and small context.

Further exploration is needed to understand efforts underway by other organizations (such as non-profits or CBOs)—particularly those with which we and our members work. This will require a multi-year approach to develop partnerships and identify financial resources to support these efforts.