

**New England Association for College Admission Counseling**  
**2024–2025**  
**Annual Report**

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## **Introduction**

The 2024–2025 academic year was one of reflection, collaboration, and continued adaptation. Under the leadership of President Cicily Shaw and the Executive Board, NEACAC advanced important strategic goals, developed leadership pipelines, and fostered inclusive programming. This report captures updates from each area of the association and celebrates the collective impact of our members.

The 2024–2025 academic year marked a period of reflection, reinvention, and reaffirmation for the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC). Amidst the evolving landscape of higher education and secondary school admissions, NEACAC embraced a spirit of collaboration and strategic visioning that empowered members and volunteers at every level of the organization.

Under the leadership of a deeply engaged Executive Board, NEACAC prioritized inclusion, transparency, and innovation. Significant energy was directed toward leadership transitions, the enhancement of professional development programming, and the strengthening of member engagement through both virtual and in-person initiatives.

One of the most impactful initiatives of the year was the formation of the Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee. Led by Chair Anthony T. Berry and supported by Vice President and Executive Board Liaison Wanda Suriel, the committee conducted a six-month review of NEACAC’s foundational mission, vision, and values. The result was a revised set of core values and actionable recommendations that will shape NEACAC’s direction for years to come.

The Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC), hosted at Endicott College in June 2025, was a culmination of the year’s work—featuring inclusive programming, robust member attendance, and the rollout of early framework findings.

The committee work that led up to AMC—whether through College Fairs, Member Engagement, Professional Development, or Government Relations—reflected the resilience, thoughtfulness, and dedication of our members.

This annual report highlights the accomplishments of NEACAC’s elected and appointed leaders, celebrates the work of our many committees, and documents the progress made toward organizational goals.

It reflects a year shaped by integrity, collaboration, and student-centered values—and sets the stage for continued growth and leadership in the admission counseling profession.

We thank all members who contributed their time, insight, and enthusiasm to the work of NEACAC this year. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive, and forward-looking organization.

## Executive Board

Cicily Shaw	President	Thayer Academy	MA
Diane Soboski	Past President	Portsmouth Abbey School	RI
Adaeze Ogunedo	President Elect	Smith College	MA
Wanda Suriel	Vice President	Wheaton College	MA
Treasurer	Shelley Stoakes	Hebron Academy	ME
Treasurer Elect	Vanessa Montorsi	Fairfield Public Schools	CT
Past Treasurer	Owen Bligh	Providence College	RI
Secretary	Jeff McAdam	Kents Hill School	ME
Andrea D'Entremont	Admission Practices	Sharon High School	MA
Liz vanLuling (Chair) Briana Montecalvo (Chair-Elect)	Annual Meeting and Conference	Emmanuel College URI	MA RI
Paul Hovey	Articles of Organization and Bylaws	Fairfield University	CT
Brittany Flannery	College Fairs	Southern New Hampshire University	NH
Dan Monahan	Communication and Web Services	Cushing Academy	MA
Brenda Poznanski	Current Trends	Bishop Guertin High School	NH
Mario Silva-Rosa	Finance	Bentley University	MA
Jack Evans Tuckey	Government Relations Advisory	Saint Louis University	MO
Daniel Walsh	IDEA	Babson College	MA
Brenna Kelly	Member Engagement	Brooks School	MA
Kathi Moody	Nominating	Lynnfield High School	MA

Professional Development	Kristen Gallant	Boston College	MA
Todd Audytis	Sponsorship	Bridgewater State University	MA
Vanessa Ruggiero	Two Year Colleges	Rhode Island College	RI

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Cicily Shaw, EdD**

**Director of College Counseling**

**Thayer Academy (Braintree, MA)**

President Cicily Shaw led NEACAC in 2024–2025 with a deep commitment to connection, transparency, and strategic renewal. Her tenure was marked by an emphasis on leadership development, the revitalization of committee work, and the initiation of a comprehensive review of NEACAC’s Strategic Framework. Throughout the year, President Shaw responded to national events with statements of solidarity, championed member recognition, and encouraged open, consistent communication across all levels of the organization.

### **Key Leadership Highlights:**

#### **Strategic Framework Initiative**

- Launched and actively supported the Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee, chaired by Anthony T. Berry and supported by Vice President and Executive Board liaison Wanda Suriel.
- Engaged the Executive and Governing Boards, along with the wider membership, in evaluating NEACAC’s mission, vision, and core values.

#### **Inclusivity and Connection**

- Centered themes of belonging and equity across the organization’s work.
- Promoted Executive Board accessibility through Community Conversations and intentional communication with committee chairs and liaisons.

#### **National and Regional Advocacy**

- Issued timely statements in response to national crises (e.g., California wildfires), reinforcing NEACAC’s values of equity and support.
- Maintained dialogue with NACAC leadership to monitor and communicate the impacts of federal policy decisions on the admission landscape.

#### **Leadership and Recognition**

- Elevated efforts to recognize school counselors and admission professionals through initiatives such as National School Counseling Week.

- Used social media and email platforms to celebrate member accomplishments and foster a culture of appreciation.
- Emphasized transparency in leadership transitions and consistently affirmed the contributions of Executive Board members and committee leaders.

### **Board Operations and Culture**

- Fostered a collaborative and supportive board environment, incorporating wellness-oriented practices such to enhance community.
- Encouraged open Q&A sessions and feedback mechanisms during board meetings to promote clarity and mutual understanding.

### **Strategic Planning and Sustainability**

- Advocated for ongoing evaluation of leadership roles and governance processes.
- Supported preparation for AMC, facilitated year-end transitions, and reinforced the importance of long-term planning across all levels of the association.

Cicily Shaw’s leadership was grounded in clarity, compassion, and strategic foresight. Her presidency set a strong foundation for NEACAC’s future, reinforcing the organization’s values and deepening its capacity to serve an evolving membership.

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Diane Soboski**

**Director of College Counseling**

**Portsmouth Abbey School (Portsmouth, RI)**

Past President Diane Soboski played a pivotal role in maintaining leadership continuity, refining nomination processes, and supporting the professional development and governance structures of NEACAC throughout the 2024–2025 year. Her work emphasized mentorship, thoughtful transitions, and sustainability.

Much of her focus centered on liaising with the Nominating Committee, where she provided support to Chair Kathi Moody. Together, they addressed recruitment challenges for the annual slate of leadership candidates. Diane actively worked to present leadership roles as inspiring and accessible, broadening engagement across the membership.

Diane also brought governance insight to the Executive Board through her participation in affiliate leadership conversations, such as the Affiliate Presidents Council (APC). These discussions offered valuable context about challenges and restructuring models from peer associations, including International ACAC, which informed NEACAC’s own strategic conversations.

Her engagement with the Professional Development Committee was equally impactful. Diane collaborated with PD Chair Kristen Gallant on Winter Institute planning and succession, contributed to Summer Institute site visits, and ensured that programming had the infrastructure and leadership support necessary to succeed.

Another major contribution came through her stewardship of the Past Presidents' Fund. Diane helped formalize the application process and evaluation criteria, refining funding limits and establishing guidelines for disbursement. This work increased transparency and accessibility for members seeking financial support through the fund.

In addition to committee-specific responsibilities, Diane provided critical support for Executive Board transitions. She participated in discussions on AMC planning, theme vetting, and the Strategic Framework review, offering historical context and continuity throughout the year.

**Key Highlights:**

- Liaised with the Nominating Committee and promoted broad engagement in leadership roles.
- Supported Winter and Summer Institute planning with logistical and structural input.
- Formalized policies for the Past Presidents' Fund, enhancing access and clarity.
- Contributed insights from affiliate conversations on governance and board structure.
- Played an integral role in supporting officer onboarding and institutional memory.

Diane Soboski's contributions were marked by thoughtful leadership, process refinement, and mentorship. Her steady presence helped ensure that NEACAC's leadership pipeline and program sustainability remained central to the association's ongoing success.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Adaeze (Daisy) Ogunedo**

**Senior Associate Director of Admission  
Smith College (Northampton, MA)**

Daisy Ogunedo worked to coordinate Summer LDI 2025, oversaw committee chair appointments, and supported recruitment for new leadership. She also assisted with planning for the 2025 Executive Board retreat and coordinated transition support for outgoing and incoming board members. President-Elect Daisy Ogunedo contributed significantly to board development, leadership transitions, and event planning throughout the 2024–2025 year:

**Leadership Pipeline and Succession Planning:**

- Maintained active communication with five Governing Board members preparing to transition out, helping ensure continuity and support for committee work.
- Encouraged liaisons to check in with committee chairs to support new leadership recruitment.

**NACAC and National Engagement:**

- Continued service on the NACAC Rising Star Committee.
- Promoted Rising Star nominations and participated in application review and selection processes.

**AMC and Committee Liaison Work:**

- Engaged in key conversations with AMC and subcommittees, particularly around the proposed 2026 AMC bid.
- Provided feedback on inclusivity themes and collaborated with the board on vetting ideas aligned with NEACAC's mission.

**Strategic Planning Support:**

- Participated in NACAC board discussions on strategic planning efforts gathering additional information on the process other affiliates are conducting and that NEACAC may want to consider for the future.

Daisy Ogunedo's service reflected a commitment to inclusive leadership, thoughtful succession planning, and organizational strategy—laying the groundwork for a strong and engaged Executive Board in the year ahead.

**VICE PRESIDENT****Wanda Suriel****Director of Admission****Wheaton College (Norton, MA)**

Wanda Suriel served as liaison to the Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee, Liaison with the Current Trends Committee and the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee. Throughout the year she engaged in discussions around AMC themes and ensured programming aligned with NEACAC's mission and values of inclusivity.

Wanda served as Executive Board liaison and co-leader of the Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee, working closely with Chair Anthony T. Berry to guide the six-month review of NEACAC's mission, vision, and core values. She oversaw the planning and facilitation of committee activities, which included reviewing past strategic frameworks, designing and distributing chair surveys, and leveraging asynchronous tools for member collaboration. The committee set a goal of finalizing its recommendations by June 2025, with plans to present findings during the Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC) or at the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) in August 2025.

Liaison with the Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC), facilitated sensitive and productive conversations with AMC leadership and committee members for Social Entertainment and Coming Together Conference (CTC). In partnership with the Executive Director, she emphasized mission-aligned messaging, sensitivity to member safety and identity, and options such as ally buttons to increase inclusivity. Recommended for more executive board engagement with committees to clarify brand alignment and foster mutual understanding. Wanda supported the Current Trends Committee as they planned for the Enrollment Management Forum and had conversations about the committee's future thoughts on leadership within the profession.

Vice President Suriel's leadership was defined by strategic insight and a deep commitment to NEACAC's mission. Her work elevated critical conversations about structure, belonging, and the future direction of the association.

**TREASURER****Shelley Stokes****Director of College Counseling****Hebron Academy (Hebron, ME)**

Treasurer Shelley Stokes led NEACAC's financial operations during the 2024–2025 year with a focus on transparency, efficiency, and collaborative transition planning. Together with Treasurer-Elect Vanessa

Montorsi and Past Treasurer Owen Bligh, she was a member of NEACAC's "Treasurer Trio," a model designed to ensure stability, shared oversight, and seamless knowledge transfer across financial leadership.

### **Treasurer Trio and Transition Planning**

- Continued to develop collaboration between the "Treasurer Trio" structure, holding monthly meetings with Vanessa and Owen to align duties, discuss updates, and maintain consistent fiscal oversight.
- Promoted a shared leadership approach, helping ensure continuity in operations as roles evolved throughout the year.

### **Financial Oversight and Audit Preparation**

- Maintained regular budget monitoring and partnered with NEACAC's external bookkeeper to track fiscal health and cash flow.
- Collaborated with the Finance Committee to review the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and initiate early stages of audit planning, reinforcing NEACAC's commitment to accountability and transparency.

### **Operational Improvements**

- Supported disbursements, budget tracking, and documentation practices to ensure accurate record-keeping and responsible committee spending.

### **Communication and Documentation**

- Maintained communication with Vanessa and Owen to clarify financial procedures and address matters related to AMC sponsorships, committee reimbursements, and documentation workflows.
- Provided institutional knowledge while gradually transitioning responsibilities, fostering a strong foundation for future financial leadership.

Shelley Stokes's tenure as Treasurer was marked by thoughtful planning, operational improvements, and collaborative leadership. Unfortunately, she had to take a leave for personal reasons, a difficult decision for her to make. With the guidance and support of Owen and Vanessa, NEACAC's financial infrastructure was strengthened, and the organization is positioned for continued stability and transparency in the years ahead.

## **TREASURER-ELECT**

**Vanessa Montorsi**

**Director of Pupil Services and Counseling**

**Fairfield Public Schools (Fairfield, CT)**

Treasurer-Elect Vanessa Montorsi played a critical operational and transitional role in NEACAC's financial management during the 2024–2025 year. Her thoughtful approach, attention to detail, and collaboration with the Treasurer team ensured stability and preparedness for the next leadership cycle.

### **Financial Transition and Collaboration**

- Partnered with Treasurer Shelley Stokes and Past Treasurer Owen Bligh as part of NEACAC's "Treasurer Trio" to facilitate a seamless transition of responsibilities.

- Participated in regular meetings to review financial procedures, divide responsibilities, and ensure continuity across all fiscal operations.

### **Reimbursement and Financial Operations**

- Took the lead in executing reimbursements, overseeing the check registry, and securing access to NEACAC's TD Bank accounts.
- Monitored and implemented updates to the mileage reimbursement policy, ensuring timely updates to documentation and guidance for members.

### **Committee Liaison Engagement**

- Acted as liaison to the 2-Year Colleges Committee, maintaining consistent communication and supporting several session proposals for the Annual Meeting & Conference.
- Provided fiscal planning guidance to the committee and addressed budget-related inquiries with clarity and responsiveness.

### **Preparation for Full Treasurer Responsibilities**

- Demonstrated strong initiative in mastering financial tools such as Concur, assisting in document transfers, and preparing for the full scope of Treasurer duties in the year ahead.

Vanessa Montorsi brought steadiness, organization, and a collaborative spirit to her role. She stepped up in leadership during Shelley's leave, helping ensure that NEACAC's financial operations remain well-managed and positioned for future success.

## **PAST TREASURER**

**Owen Bligh**

**Dean of Admission**

**Providence College (Providence, RI)**

Past Treasurer Owen Bligh played a vital transitional and advisory role throughout the 2024–2025 year. His service provided essential continuity, mentorship, and institutional memory during a time of financial structure evolution.

Owen worked closely with Treasurer Shelley Stokes and Treasurer-Elect Vanessa Montorsi to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities. He remained actively involved in monthly financial check-ins, offering historical context and best practices drawn from his prior years in the role. His insights helped guide the team through the adoption and refinement of new processes, such as the expanded use of Concur for reimbursements and the preparation of financial documentation for audit.

In addition to his support of day-to-day operations, Owen advised on broader fiscal strategy, including sponsorship alignment, budget planning timelines, and the handoff of account access and historical records. His collaborative approach supported a seamless leadership transition and reinforced confidence in NEACAC's financial stewardship.

### **Key Contributions:**

- Mentored incoming Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect through NEACAC's financial systems and responsibilities.

- Participated in regular meetings to provide context and guidance during process updates and transitions.
- Supported audit preparation and documentation transfer.
- Shared institutional knowledge around budgeting, sponsorship, and financial workflows.

Owen Bligh's steady presence and thoughtful mentorship were instrumental in helping NEACAC maintain its financial leadership model. He stepped up tremendously and served as acting treasurer during Shelley's leave, and NEACAC is grateful for Owen's leadership and commitment. His efforts ensured organizational stability and supported the professional development of new financial officers.

## **SECRETARY**

**Jeff McAdam**

**Director of College Counseling**

**Kents Hill School (Kents Hill, ME)**

Secretary Jeff McAdam provided steady administrative leadership and contributed meaningfully to member engagement and governance throughout the 2024–2025 year. His work ensured the continuity of essential operations during key transitions, while also supporting NEACAC’s mission of inclusion and community building.

### **Meeting Documentation and Governance**

- Maintained accurate, timely, and comprehensive minutes for Executive Board meetings, upholding transparency and supporting institutional record-keeping.
- Oversaw documentation of votes, motions, and leadership transitions, ensuring that governance actions were clearly recorded and accessible.

### **Member Engagement Liaison**

- Served as liaison to the Member Engagement Committee, participating actively in meetings and helping develop new programming ideas.
- Contributed to the launch of NEACAC’s inaugural Book Club, and collaborated with Chair Brenna Kelley to expand affinity-based engagement opportunities.

### **Committee Transition Support**

- Provided behind-the-scenes support during leadership changes within the Admission Practices (AP) Committee, helping facilitate a smooth transition when Andrea d’Entremont stepped down.
- Ensured ongoing communication and stability as new leadership stepped into the role.

Jeff McAdam’s service as Secretary was marked by reliability, responsiveness, and a strong commitment to inclusive engagement and operational continuity. His attention to detail and steady communication supported NEACAC’s core values and strengthened the association’s administrative foundation.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Christina Doyle**

**NEACAC**

Executive Director Christina Doyle provided vital leadership and administrative coordination across NEACAC's operations during the 2024–2025 year. From managing membership growth to leading the planning of the Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC), Christina's work ensured the continued success and strategic direction of the organization.

A major focus of her efforts was membership growth and management. Christina led successful renewal campaigns and reported over 4,100 active members by June 2025, exceeding the benchmarks of previous years. She managed communication workflows and vendor relationships and ensured strong administrative support for membership engagement and volunteer services.

In her role assisting the Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC) Committee, Christina directed all logistics for the 2025 AMC hosted at Endicott College. She collaborated with on-site staff AMC leadership, and local venue teams to ensure a smooth and effective event. Simultaneously, she engaged in early planning for AMC 2026, researching external venues. She also addressed concerns from prospective host institutions about space and resource expectations, clarifying historical attendance data to correct misperceptions.

Christina also coordinated the scheduling of summer programs, including professional development opportunities aligned with NEACAC's broader calendar. She worked closely with committee chairs to align registration and marketing efforts, ensuring programs launched smoothly following AMC.

She maintained consistent communication and administrative support throughout the year. Christina distributed meeting agendas and slide decks in advance of Governing Board and General Membership meetings, and regularly updated the Executive Board on vendor logistics, registration tools, and committee operations.

Her leadership also extended to brand strategy and program identity. Christina advocated for consistent naming conventions such as the use of "ARC," flagged website updates for improved clarity, and supported theme vetting to align AMC programming with DEI-related considerations. Her efforts promoted a welcoming, affirming experience for all members.

During transitional periods, Christina communicated clearly about office operations, including a scheduled closure from June 16–20 to prioritize staff and volunteer rest. She remained actively engaged across financial transitions and committee handoffs, providing continuity and structure.

**Key Highlights:**

- Surpassed previous membership benchmarks, reaching 4,100+ active members.
- Assisted with AMC 2025 planning and AMC 2026 site research and negotiations.
- Supported NEACAC's summer program scheduling and committee alignment.
- Streamlined communication across boards, committees, and vendors.
- Advanced clarity in branding, website structure, and inclusive programming.

Christina Doyle's leadership was essential in upholding NEACAC's operational excellence, expanding programmatic reach, and supporting members through effective, mission-aligned service.

## **GOVERNING BOARD**

The 2024–2025 Governing Board provided oversight and support across NEACAC’s committees, programs, and strategic initiatives. The board convened throughout the year to share committee updates, finalize chair appointments, and guide long-term planning. Committee engagement continued to grow, with renewed energy and contributions from Professional Development, Inclusion, College Fairs, Sponsorship, and Government Relations.

Below is a summary of key committee highlights reported to the Governing Board:

### **ADMISSION PRACTICES (AP)**

**Andrea d’Entremont**

**School Counselor**

**Sharon High School (Sharon, MA)**

The committee navigated a mid-year leadership transition as Andrea d’Entremont stepped down from her role. Secretary Jeff McAdam provided valuable assistance in facilitating this change, ensuring continuity during the transition period.

### **ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE (AMC)**

**Liz vanLuling (Chair)**

**Director of Admissions Recruitment**

**Emmanuel College (Boston, MA)**

**Brianna Montecalvo (Chair-elect)**

**Senior Assistant Director, Visits and Events**

**University of Rhode Island (South Kingstown, RI)**

The committee expanded this year to accommodate increased volunteer interest and welcome new professionals seeking meaningful involvement. In a strategic restructuring, the AMC 2025 Chair and Chair-Elect redefined several roles to provide enhanced support across programming areas throughout the conference. We received over 100 session proposals, with content thoughtfully shaped by themes of belonging and accessibility that reflect our organizational values. Pre-conference programming was expanded to include enhanced offerings such as the Enrollment Management Forum (EMF) and the Coming Together Conference (CTC), providing additional professional development opportunities for attendees. The committee's efforts demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and strategic planning for our signature conference experience.

### **ARTICLE OF ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS**

**Paul Hovey**

**Director of Transfer Admission & Campus Visit Experience**

**Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT)**

Paul provided essential counsel to the Governing Board and Executive Board around Roberts Rules of Order. This guidance ensured compliance with organizational bylaws and supported sound governance practices, helping leadership navigate procedural requirements and make informed decisions in alignment with NEACAC's established policies and procedures.

## **COLLEGE FAIRS**

**Brittany Flannery**

**Director, First Year Admission**

**Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, NH)**

This year marked significant progress in our college fairs initiative. The committee successfully hosted 19 college fairs across fall and spring semesters, implementing StriveScan technology to streamline the registration and data collection process. This technological enhancement resulted in nearly 6,000 scans throughout the year, providing valuable insights into student engagement and facilitating meaningful connections between students and college representatives. Our organizational structure was strengthened through the appointment of new co-chairs who provided essential support in coordinating the fair schedules. Additionally, we prioritized operational excellence by working closely with the Treasurer-Elect to develop a clearer understanding of reimbursement processes and budget procedures, ensuring greater fiscal accountability and efficiency moving forward.

## **COMMUNICATION AND WEB SERVICES**

**Dan Monahan**

**Associate Director of College Counseling**

**Cushing Academy (Ashburnham, MA)**

The Communications Committee maintained consistent engagement with our membership through monthly newsletters that kept members informed of committee activities, regional developments, and national news relevant to our profession. Each newsletter featured a special message from the NEACAC President, providing leadership perspective and fostering connection between the Executive Board and membership. These regular communications played a vital role in keeping our community informed, engaged, and connected throughout the year.

## **CURRENT TRENDS**

**Brenda Poznanski**

**Senior Director of School Counseling and Admission**

**Bishop Guertin High School (Nashua, NH)**

The committee organized another successful and well-attended Enrollment Management Forum this year, responding to member feedback expressing a strong desire for meaningful peer-to-peer dialogue. The forum provided a valuable platform for thoughtful and intentional conversations about college enrollment challenges and successes, fostering collaboration and shared learning among our membership. In addition to the Forum, we contributed thought leadership to Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC) session planning, ensuring enrollment management topics remained prominent in our programming. We also collaborated closely with Vice President Wanda Suriel to align committee efforts with Executive Board priorities and establish clear expectations for committee operations, strengthening our strategic impact and organizational effectiveness.

## **FINANCE**

**Mario Silva-Rosa**

**Director, Undergraduate Enrollment Development**

**Bentley University (Waltham, MA)**

The committee reinforced our role as an oversight committee this year, ensuring the Governing Board remains well-informed of its fiduciary responsibilities and long-term financial planning obligations. A significant accomplishment was the development of a comprehensive budget for consideration and approval by the Executive Board members, strengthening our financial oversight and strategic resource allocation processes to support the organization's mission and sustainability. The committee also successfully supported the financial leadership transition ensuring continuity and knowledge transfer during this organizational evolution. Key accomplishments included leading the spring budget review for FY2025–2026 and establishing clear structure for audit preparation and budget request timelines, enhancing our financial planning processes and accountability standards across the organization.

### **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVISORY**

**Jack Evans Tucky**

**Assistant Program Director, East Coast Recruitment**

**Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO)**

The committee participated in the Advocacy Day in Washington, DC in early May alongside affiliated ACACs and NACAC. Prior to the Hill visits, we attended a comprehensive training session at NACAC headquarters in Arlington to prepare for effective legislative engagement. Our team played a significant role in organizing and coordinating communication for all participants throughout the day, ensuring our members' voices were heard on critical issues affecting college access and admission practices at the federal level. Under Jack's leadership, the Government Relations Committee hosted an affinity space that provided members with a dedicated forum to discuss current legislative topics impacting our profession. The committee maintained ongoing monitoring of local and regional legislation relevant to admissions and education policy, ensuring our membership stays informed of regulatory developments and their potential implications for college access and enrollment practices.

### **INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EDUCATION & ACCESS (IDEA)**

**Danielle Walsh**

**Senior Assistant Director of Admission**

**Babson College ( Babson Park, MA)**

The committee prioritized the integration of DEI values throughout our organizational programming, working to ensure Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC) themes reflected NEACAC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through collaborative efforts with other committees, we contributed to proposal vetting processes and the development of inclusive member engagement initiatives, helping to create more welcoming and representative experiences across all NEACAC programs and events. The ARC subcommittee successfully hosted the third annual ARC at Berwick Academy this past August, continuing to build momentum for this important regional gathering. The subcommittee has demonstrated strong leadership and planning capabilities as they prepare for ARC 4 at the University of New Hampshire, ensuring this signature event continues to provide valuable professional development and networking opportunities for our regional membership.

## **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT**

**Brenna Kelly**  
**Director of College Counseling**  
**Brooks School (North Andover, MA)**

The committee expanded our member engagement offerings this year with the successful launch of NEACAC's first Book Club, providing a new avenue for professional development and collegial connection. Under Brenna's leadership the committee continued their commitment to supporting virtual Black Affinity Spaces, creating inclusive environments for meaningful dialogue and community support. Additionally, the committee coordinated virtual networking events designed to enhance pre-conference community building, helping members forge connections and maximize their conference experience. These initiatives collectively strengthened our organizational culture and fostered deeper relationships within the NEACAC community. The NEACAC Book Club demonstrated strong momentum in its inaugural year, with interest from over 70 members and multiple books read collectively. This enthusiastic response validates the Book Group as a valuable initiative worth continuing and expanding. While virtual meetings have shown better attendance rates, our in-person gathering at AMC provided an important opportunity for face-to-face connection. The Book Club has successfully created a meaningful space for professional development, intellectual engagement, and community building among our membership.

## **NOMINATING**

**Kathi Moody**  
**Department Head, School Counseling**  
**Lynnfield High School (Lynnfield, MA)**

A key accomplishment this year was the successful development and execution of the ballot for Governing Board openings. This process ensures strong leadership continuity and member representation in our organization's governance structure, positioning us well for continued strategic growth and member service in the years ahead.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Kristen Gallant**  
**Associate Director, Undergraduate Admission**  
**Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)**

This year marked an important milestone with the successful launch of Winter Institute, a new mid-year professional development initiative designed specifically for early-career professionals. Building on this achievement, we also conducted comprehensive planning and site visits for the upcoming Summer Institute, ensuring both programs meet the evolving needs of our membership. Recognizing the importance of organizational sustainability, the committee placed significant emphasis on continuity and succession planning for future committee leadership roles. This strategic focus will help ensure the long-term success of our professional development programming and maintain the high quality of experiences our members have come to expect from these signature events.

## **SPONSORHIP**

**Todd Audyatis**

**Associate Dean of Admissions for Community Outreach  
Bridgewater State University (Bridgewater, MA)**

As a single member committee, Todd provided critical support to the AMC sponsorship committee by assisting the chairperson in editing solicitation emails sent to vendors and refining scholarship solicitation materials. A key focus this year was re-establishing relationships with former sponsors while improving communication and setting clear expectations for partnership engagement. Sponsorship also worked strategically to better align sponsorship benefits with AMC goals and audience engagement opportunities, ensuring that sponsor investments deliver meaningful value while enhancing the overall conference experience for our membership. These efforts have strengthened our sponsorship program and laid the groundwork for sustainable vendor partnerships.

## **TWO-YEAR COLLEGES**

**Vanessa Ruggieri**

**Associate Director of Admissions Operations  
Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)**

This year marked a significant revitalization for the Two-Year College Committee, which rebuilt its foundation and gained strong momentum. After relaunching in November with nine initial participants, the committee has expanded impressively to a roster of 27 members representing Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The committee actively contributed to organizational programming by submitting proposals for AMC and promoting stronger two-year college representation within professional development programs, ensuring community college perspectives are well-represented in NEACAC's educational offerings. We also engaged proactively with the Treasurer-Elect to secure committee budgeting support and raise awareness of two-year college initiatives, strengthening our operational capacity and visibility within the organization.

## **AD-HOC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK COMMITTEE**

Established in Winter of 2024, the Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee was tasked with reviewing NEACAC's strategic direction, which had last been formally updated in 2012 within a six month period.

### **Committee Leadership & Members:**

**Chair:** Anthony T. Berry (Trinity College, CT)

**Executive Board Liaison / Vice President:** Wanda Suriel (Wheaton College, MA)

#### **Members:**

Amy Chung – Boston College (MA)

Keane Fajardo – College of the Holy Cross (MA)

Marilyn Flores – Moses Brown School (RI)

Sherrri Geller – Gann Academy (MA)

Liz Hamlin-Volz – University of Vermont (VT)

Lynne O'Shaughnessy – Berwick Academy (ME)

Aaron Ribaud-Smith – Newburyport High School (MA)

Jill Teeters – The Derryfield School (NH)

**Key Goals:**

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the 2012 Strategic Framework.
- Align NEACAC's mission and values with the current and future needs of its membership.
- Recommend updates centered on equity, transparency, and innovation.

**Committee Process:**

- Met regularly via virtual platforms, using collaborative tools such as Google Docs and forms.
- Reviewed existing mission, vision, and guiding principles.
- Considered external resources like NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice and SACAC's strategic model.
- Collected feedback through surveys and asynchronous collaboration.

**Proposed Core Values (2025 Draft):**

- Equity and Access
- Ethical and Professional Integrity
- Collaboration and Community
- Trust
- Student-Centered Advocacy
- Innovation and Lifelong Learning

**Recommendations (Presented at the June 2025 Governing Board Meeting):**

1. Establish a regular review process for the strategic framework that includes member input.
2. Incorporate a five-year review cycle into the Policy & Procedure Manual, with responsibility assigned to the Executive Director and President.
3. Increase visibility of the framework via NEACAC's website, onboarding materials, and professional development programming (e.g., Summer Institute, Board orientation).

A Final review and vote took place at the August 2025 Leadership Development Institute (LDI). The framework was designed to inform future decisions related to programming, leadership development, communication strategy, and member engagement. The Ad-Hoc Strategic Framework Committee's work offers NEACAC a renewed foundation for decision-making and growth—one that reflects the association's evolving values and professional commitments.

**General Membership Meetings Summary**

The first General Membership Meeting was held in September 2024 during the NACAC Conference in Los Angeles. Cicily Shaw outlined key goals, and members voted on key items, engaged in dialogue about upcoming initiatives, and celebrated volunteer contributions. NEACAC's presence at national events continued to showcase regional excellence. The second General Membership Meeting was held in June during the Annual Meeting and Conference at Endicott College. Sicily shared details of the work done over the past year and expressed her gratitude for all of the work done by the executive board, governing board, and volunteers.

**Acknowledgements**

Thank you to the members of the NEACAC Executive Board, Governing Board, committee chairs, and volunteers for their commitment to the profession and our students. Special recognition goes to those

rolling off the Board and to our Executive Director for her tireless service. We also thank our institutional partners, sponsors, and affiliate colleagues who support our work year-round.