

First Timers Program
NEACAC Annual Meeting and Conference
Salve Regina University

Is this your first NEACAC Annual Meeting and Conference? Are you new to the profession of college admission/college counseling? Have you been to a professional conference but are completely lost?

If you answered yes to these, Congratulations! You are a First Timer!

We invite you to get more connected with the NEACAC Conference! You will have the opportunity to meet other professionals in your field, learn more about your work through many conference sessions, and hear from special guest speakers from all over the country.

As a First Timer, you and a group of peers will be paired with two mentors. These mentors have years of experience in the profession and with past NEACAC conferences. . They will share their insights, help to guide you through the conference, and encourage you to get involved and meet other professionals.

We will welcome you to the conference with your first session – designed specifically for you! The First Timers Session will take place on to a successful conference experience. You will also get to know your mentors and the other First Timers in your group.

On Thursday we will check back in with our First Timers at lunch. We will meet and eat during the first lunch session – 11:15-11:45 AM. Use this as your opportunity to share your experiences from the first day, ask any questions that have come up along the way, and get to know your mentors and fellow First Timers better!

Our final meeting will be on Friday morning during Session VII (10:15 – 11:15 AM). The First Timers Committee and a few guests will be presenting a session entitled **“How to get involved in NEACAC and Beyond.”** We will be talking about just that – the many opportunities there are to get involved in the association and in NACAC and other associations. We hope to see you there!

Hear what First Timers had to say about last year’s experience:

“I had already been working in admissions for over a year and a half and it was the first time I’ve ever had attended a NEACAC conference although I had been to other regional conferences previously....the NEACAC conference is a great way to network and learn from others in the admissions and counseling field. I went home with new techniques that I could present to my office on admission’s issues we deal with on a daily basis.”

Lacey E. Kondracki
Admission Counselor
Albertus Magnus College

“The First Timer's Program was beneficial for me because I was able to connect with colleagues in my region in meaningful ways, professionally and socially. It helped me to start developing a network of peers and friends that, although close in proximity, I likely would not have met otherwise.”

Ashley Fowler
Assistant Director of Admissions
University of Vermont

“The program was a great way to make connections and gain perspective from other professionals in the Admission field.”

Diana Gingles
Admission Counselor
Providence College

Are you interested in becoming a mentor?

If you have been in the counseling profession for three or more years and have attended at least one NEACAC conference, we invite you to fill out a Mentor Application and submit it by May 1. We would love to have you share your experiences and expertise with our First Timers while helping to guide them through the NEACAC Annual Meeting and Conference! We ask that you can commit to attending the three scheduled event above. E-mail firsttimers@neacac.org with questions.

“Being a mentor for the First Timer’s program is not only a great way to connect with new members of our profession, but a wonderful way to reconnect with colleagues and old friends as you share your NEACAC experiences.”

Jill Teeters
Senior Associate Director of Admission
Southern New Hampshire University

“After over 20 years in the admissions profession and 10 years of involvement in NEACAC, I thought it time to give back to my colleagues in thanks for all that I had learned from the wonderful people I have worked with over the years. I felt the best way to do this was by becoming a First-Year Mentor at the Annual Meeting and Conference. And I have to tell you, it was a great experience! I was able to meet new professionals and introduce them to the Association in a fun and relaxed manner. Attending the Conference (and the field, sometimes!) is like going to a school dining hall for the first time: where do you get your tray and silverware? Where is all the food? What do I do with it all when I’m done? If I could be available for a First Timer to ask questions from the mundane to the serious, it would be one of the easiest ways to give back and feel like I was helping in some small way. I wasn’t disappointed!”

Kathi Torrey
Associate Director of Admissions
Alfred University

“What’s so great about being a mentor? Everything!...especially when new counselors help me to remember why I fell in love with our profession.”

Kate Ziemer
Associate Director of Admission
Loyola University New Orleans

First Timers Committee

Christine Hickey, Senior Admission Counselor, Providence College
Jeff McAdam, Associate Director of Admission, Hawaii Pacific University
Elizabeth Cheron, Assistant Director of Admissions, Northeastern University
firsttimers@neacac.org