

Personal Statement
Casey Zimmer for Admission Practices Chair

I am grateful to be nominated for the position of Admission Practices Chair for the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling. My involvement with PCACAC dates to 2010, when I attended my first PCACAC Summer Institute at St. Mary's College of Maryland. I met there many of the most influential people in my nascent college counseling career, including Lou Hirsh, whose thoughtful and nuanced commitment to the ethics of our business have guided both our affiliate and our national organization for decades, and who inspired me then that it was imperative that we work honestly and empathetically.

Now more than ever before, the tectonic plates of economics and access, business and inclusion, create tremors - and, often, full-blown earthquakes - in the lives of our students seeking a brighter future. While helping students navigate these conflicting forces in the admission process is the core of what we all do, I strongly believe that our Admission Practices committee serves to reaffirm that there is a healthy, honest, ethical guidepost to the work we do. The answers may not always be clear, but constructive, thoughtful dialogue and discussion will help us find the right path.

Within PCACAC, I have served as the Vice-Chair of Admission Practices since 2017 under outgoing Chair Dale Bittinger of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and I served as a member of the AP committee under Jake Talmage from 2015-2017. In addition, I have served on faculty of the PCACAC Summer Institute since 2018. My passion for PCACAC is so robust that I once showed up for our Annual Conference three weeks early.

I currently serve as Director of College Counseling at Sanford School, a small, independent PS-12 day school in northwest Delaware. In addition to my role in college counseling, I serve on our school's Upper School and schoolwide Administration Committees, Financial Aid Committee, and Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; I teach English, currently to 9th graders; and I coach baseball (when global pandemics don't intrude).

Thank you for your consideration - I very much look forward to continuing the important work that the Admission Practices Committee does in outreach and education about the ethics of our community.