



A PROGRAM VISION FOR ACCIS:

A List of Projects that ACCIS may tackle in the years ahead:

- ACCIS can roll out a formal “**Mentor**” program in which experienced ACCIS counselors serve as resources for newer counselors in their region throughout the school year. This Mentor program would serve counselors who work in “one-person shops” or who are new to the profession. The relationships between the Mentor and the new counselor could take many different forms, but a common feature would be the Mentor’s willingness to be an advisor and sounding board for a colleague in the area. The “overhead” for this program will be minimal, and we believe that we can get it started right away. Here is an accessible yet concrete way to contribute.

- ACCIS can develop a **College Counseling Office Audit/Review Team**. Sometimes college counseling comes under special scrutiny in independent schools – on occasion, trustees, parents, and school heads have all been known to take particular interest in our operations! But how often do real experts on college counseling and college admission do the scrutinizing? ACCIS would like to put together a team (or teams) of experienced counselors to be on call to come in and take a close and informed look at a counseling operation. Whether the initiative comes from the counselor or the school head, we want to offer our members a helpful resource to support their work. Akin to the accreditation teams that come in periodically to independent schools, the ACCIS Audit/Review Team could offer a sharp focus on college counseling. Constructive criticism and/or knowledgeable affirmation from experienced colleagues could be the result.

- Beginning in **2010** and gradually expanding over the next couple of years, ACCIS could extend its summer schedule beyond the Institute by offering a “**Training Camp**” for new counselors as well as a series of “**Colloquia**,” gatherings of 25-30 counselors for professional conversation and sharing of best practices. The **Institute** would remain our showcase event, but the other offerings could provide additional opportunities for counselors to teach and to learn from each other.
 - The **Summer Institute** will remain our premier event. In late June 2010 we will gather about 90 counselors in Atlanta, splitting time between our host sites, Agnes Scott College and Emory University. This event will continue to feature prominent guest speakers and formal presentations on a central theme. The Institute would also be the focal point for the Executive Committee and Board meetings. (Gavin Bradley of Pace Academy will direct the 2010 Institute, while Lee Ann Afton of Agnes Scott and Jean Jordan of Emory will be our hosts.)



- A **Training Camp** could be held in July 2010 for 25-30 new counselors on another college campus in another region of the country. To date, we have received inquiries about hosting ACCIS events from the following institutions: Colby College; Smith College; Salve Regina University; Sarah Lawrence College; Southern Methodist University; Lewis & Clark College. (I am confident that many other colleges would likewise be eager to host a group of independent school college counselors – ACCIS will have little trouble finding sites at a very attractive price – the appeal of getting us on campus is obvious to colleges.)
- A **Colloquium** would be a less formal gathering of a smaller group of counselors. In place of a formal agenda and “curriculum,” the Colloquium would feature more sharing of best practices and discussions of the issues we confront on a daily basis in our offices. The model for the Colloquium would any one of a number of smaller gatherings that have proven popular with counselors in recent years. Our sense is that counselors are eager to find a good forum for discussion with colleagues from around the country. Like the Institute and the Training Camp, a Colloquium would take place on a college campus in the summer, but in a different region of the country and during a different month.
- **Presenters at Conferences** -- At the same time that ACCIS develops its own gatherings, the roster of speakers and presenters at other conferences could expand through the help of regional “**Recruiting Captains.**” ACCIS should strive to become a significant presence at every major meeting and conference in our profession.
- A **Community Outreach Program** can allow ACCIS to reach out beyond our own schools in an effort to serve students in the greater community. With a program of “nuts and bolts” advice about the college search process, ACCIS members could work with local community organizations to help students who do not enjoy all the benefits of an independent school education. The goal is to develop a curriculum of “college counseling basics” that ACCIS members could use in presentations before groups such as a local Boys and Girls Club. We hope to share some of our collective wisdom about a daunting process with those who do not have as much access to good college counseling as the students in our schools.