

10 Ways to Build Bridges and Create Connections with High School Counselors

- 1.** Join your state or regional ACAC affiliate; volunteer for a committee.
- 2.** Get to know local high school counselors. Invite them to coffee, breakfast or lunch. Collaborate and write a proposal for a conference or an article for the local paper.
- 3.** Regularly attend meetings and conferences, including professional development forums, standardized testing updates, Naviance, financial aid seminars, and the annual ACAC meeting.
- 4.** Offer to exchange impressions (written or verbal) from college visits.
- 5.** Express interest in serving on the board and as an officer in your state or regional ACAC.
- 6.** Identify opportunities to collaborate with guidance, college counseling, parents association, or other school administration on college awareness/admission events. Seek underwriting opportunities to help defray the cost of events/speakers.
- 7.** Visit counselors you have met in their schools and learn about their programs.
- 8.** Meet with the staff in the College and Career Center and offer to assist them in training students to make the best use of center resources. Inquire about the need for additional materials and consider donating books, maps, or other resources.
- 9.** Partner with school personnel to assist first-generation and low-income students.
- 10.** Speak positively of the school counselors to your clients and remind families that we all are working towards the same goals.