

Our goal:

“What’s most apparent is that NACAC members are dedicated to coming out the other side of the coronavirus as better professionals—and better people.

Upheaval is opportunity, and this is evident in your adaptability, your generosity, and your commitment.”

—Sarah S. Cox, *Journal* Editor



UPHEAVAL IS OPPORTUNITY

I’m writing this as Hurricane Isaias’ leftovers hit the DC area. It’s pouring on and off, and the wind is steady. It’s pretty cozy being holed up in my house, but the dark-slate cloud cover is tapping the little energy I have left. My mom’s here, helping me with the girls, but I still feel incredibly scattered and worried that this feeling will be part of my new normal. But now my 5-year-old is belting her best *Frozen 2* from the bathroom and it blocks the oncoming wave of anxiety. For a moment, I stop to be thankful. I would guess I’m not the only person living this pattern as we all wait for coronavirus to weaken and, hopefully, die.

Working on this issue of the *Journal* has opened my eyes to the torrent of complexities college admission counselors are facing. Almost nothing looks the same as it did before the virus landed—save the mission to help students wisely navigate this portion of their lives. Your offices have been closed, but some of you are essential. Some campuses are open, while many schools have moved everything online. Testing is a mess. Enrollment is unpredictable. Funding is disappearing. And, most importantly, we are confronted by truths about the racial injustices that are entrenched in every aspect of our nation.

What’s most apparent is that NACAC members are dedicated to coming out the other side of the coronavirus as better professionals—and better people. Upheaval is opportunity, and this is evident in your adaptability, your generosity, and your commitment.

NACAC members are creating more possibilities for students. To support you, the association is creating more trusted resources to meet you where you are. Virtual college fairs, virtual GWI,

and a virtual conference that includes year-round professional development are just the beginning.

The *Journal*, too, will continue to bring you news, advice, and inspiration. To make sure we are timely—and not dumping magazines into empty offices—we are moving to a digital-only format, which will include the familiar quarterly issue and supplemental articles posted on the NACAC website. This issue is COVID-themed and coming issues will include an array of topics and exciting interactive elements.

While the coronavirus will be with us for months to come and its effects will permanently change the education landscape, we can take comfort in the shelter of being in this together. I know sometimes that can be trite, especially after being flooded with commercials borrowing this theme. Still, know that nearly 14,000 are with you. Stay with us through the storm... and listen for the song coming from your bathroom.

Sarah S. Cox is NACAC’s associate director of editorial and creative services.

Did you miss us over the summer? Don’t worry, the 12 summer *Journal* articles are still online at nacacnet.org/read-the-summer-journal. They include information about what colleagues are experiencing, navigating the impact of racism, and staying student-focused.

View NACAC’s most relevant COVID-19 resources at nacacnet.org/coronavirus.