

## **An Insider's Guide to ACCTA**

**Passages** is one of the opening workshops at ACCTA. The term “passages” refers to psychological and attitudinal changes that Training Directors can go through over time. Members self identify as to which group they would like to join for discussion. Handouts that contain questions and key issues relevant to each stage are provided.

**Songs & Singing:** Singing dates back to the earliest ACCTA meetings which often took place in a camp-like setting. Writing songs to reflect issues and feelings most salient at ACCTA is a way members have shared the ACCTA experience. ACCTA honors this tradition through singing at the closing of the conference.

**Evening Social:** Informal optional nightly socials, including a game night, are sometimes held at the conference hotel or at a local establishment. The locations and times are announced during the conference, typically using the white board. Members are encouraged to add activities.

**Conference Connectors:** ACCTA has long valued efforts to welcome and orient new members to the organization. Conference Connectors pairs new members with returning members who volunteer to answer any questions prior to the conference and to join the new member for dinner during the first night of the conference. This supports our new members in getting connected at the conference, and having questions answered regarding programs, history and aspects of ACCTA culture.

**Mentor Program:** The Mentor Program was developed in 2011 in response to new member requests for ongoing mentorship above and beyond the ACCTA conference. More experienced members volunteer to serve as mentors for new members who request this support or assistance. Mentoring may involve assistance in internship start-up, the accreditation process, and general acclimation to the training director role.

**Group Picture:** A group picture is taken at each conference with all of that year's attendees, including invited guests. This picture and other conference photos are often shared on the listserv and posted on the website after each conference. In addition, pictures are taken by members and uploaded (if a member chooses to do so with 3-5 pictures) to a social media platform that is private and accessible only to ACCTA members.

**Ad Hoc Groups:** Prior to and during the conference, members may suggest meeting to informally discuss a particular issue. A list is generated during the conference and is announced to membership. Meeting times and locations for each ad hoc group are determined by those interested in attending.

**Affinity Groups:** Affinity Groups were created in 2003 to provide members with the opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss their professional and/or personal experiences as members who share that particular group identity. They are part of the

organization's efforts to promote dialogues about multiculturalism, connectedness to each other, and to continue to work toward inclusiveness and greater cultural awareness.

**Excursions:** The conference organizers plan voluntary excursions for members at each conference. The excursions are designed to provide members with an activity to re-charge during the conference, have an opportunity for more casual interactions, and to explore the culture and/or history of the conference setting.

**Culture Sharing** is a tradition in which all who desire gather to share aspects of their cultural identities and experiences. People tell stories, share pictures, mementos, music, or demonstrations, and just talk. The goals are to learn, to grow, to share, to understand, and to connect. All conference attendees are invited to participate by attending and/or presenting.

**Running for the Board:** All ACCTA members who represent active internship programs which are in good standing with the Association are encouraged to run for a board position, even during the first year of ACCTA membership. Members may self-nominate or nominate others. The solicitation for nominations on the ACCTA listserv begins prior to the conference and continues during the conference. Candidates submit written descriptions of candidacy to be shared with the membership and voting occurs electronically following each conference. The Standing Committee for Diversity (SCD) submits a slate of three candidates to further ensure diversity on the board. The SCD slate member who receives the highest number of votes will be elected to the board. If the other one or two SCD slate members receive enough general election votes (depending on the number of open Board positions and general Board candidates), then those SCD slate members may also be elected to the Board.

**Standing Committees:** Members are encouraged to get involved by volunteering to serve on any of these Committees. Attendance at committee meetings during the Conference is open to any interested members.

**The Standing Committee on Diversity (SCD)** promotes cultural diversity, multiculturalism, social justice, and advocacy issues within ACCTA, and works to ensure that such issues remain in the consciousness of the organization. The SCD also strives to promote the professional development of our membership, through the culture sharing program, ensuring there are diversity-related presentations, overseeing the Diversity Mentorship Scholarship program, and helping coordinate the Affinity Groups. It also elects a SCD Steering Committee for the year and presents a nomination slate for the Board elections.

**The Standing Committee on Bylaws, Policies and Procedures** is charged with maintaining the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures of the Association.

**The Standing Committee on Research** is charged with developing, conducting and presenting scholarly work that facilitates quality training in university settings. Research projects may be requested by the Board, other members, or initiated within the

Committee. It is also responsible for conducting the annual ACCTA survey.

**The Standing Committee on Training Resources** is charged with gathering, organizing, and sharing training resources utilized by internship programs and having them posted on the web site.

**The Standing Committee on Nominations**, led by the Voting Coordinator who is selected by the President, is charged with soliciting nominations from the ACCTA membership for board and executive board positions, being as inclusive as possible, and particularly taking into consideration the preamble to the bylaws by encouraging diversity in all of its forms.