



International Student Best Practices Symposium Speakers

Hollee Ball

Hollee Ball is the School Social Worker and former international student host parent at Wheaton Academy. Through her time at Wheaton Academy, she has counseled international students through many common as well as unique and difficult situations.

Todd Beard

Todd Beard has been involved in education for over 15 years, internationally and domestically. He has been actively involved in leading and teaching in programs for students learning English in K-12, higher education, private, and public institutions. Currently working at a private 4-year higher education institution in Nashville, Tennessee, Beard leads an intensive English program for international and local students. He stays up-to-date with trends and issues related to domestic and international education as well as innovative pedagogical strategies and research in language acquisition. A regular presenter at local and regional conferences, he enjoys sharing ideas and inspiring people to live to their potential. In addition to his full-time work, he serves as co-chair for Study Tennessee, a higher education consortium for international recruitment, as the International Enrollment Liaison for NAFSA Region VII, and previously served on the board of Tennessee TESOL.

Julie Grant

Julie Grant is a certified nurse, earning her B.S., R.N. from Rush University Chicago. Julie serves as the school nurse as well as the International Host Family Coordinator at Wheaton Academy.

Charity Moon

Charity Moon has been teaching English to international students for the past 11 years, and for the past 7 years has served as the ELL Coordinator at Wheaton Academy. One year after graduating from Dallas Baptist University with a BAS in Sociology, Charity moved to China to teach with English Language Institute China. During her five years in China, she taught both EFL both to primary and college students at a variety of language levels. In 2013, she completed her MA in TESOL/International Studies at Wheaton College and move from Dallas, TX to teach at Wheaton Academy. Together with her husband, she enjoys being in nature, traveling as well as interacting with international students and learning more about different cultures.

Davona Reynolds

Davona Reynolds is entering her 3rd full year at Wheaton Academy as the International Program Assistant. Davona is a graduate of Wheaton Academy, and Wheaton College, and has a Master of Education from Concordia University. Davona is an elementary teacher by trade and has taught Kindergarten- 2nd grade for over 10 years but felt the call of God to go and be a missionary in Zimbabwe, Africa in 2012. While there Davona served as the School Administrator and helped grow and expand the educational programs of the ZAOGA Forward in Faith ministries that she was working with. Davona also gained a lifetime of invaluable experiences by living cross-culturally. Upon her return in 2017, she felt God leading her to Wheaton Academy to work with the International Program to utilize the experiences she had to help the students in the program acclimate to a new culture and to further the Kingdom Community Culture at Wheaton Academy. Davona enjoys singing, spending time with her nephews, being a Host Mom, and leading the children's ministry at her church.

Dr. Brenda Vishanoff

Dr. Brenda Vishanoff has worked at Wheaton Academy for 24 years and currently serves in the roles of Wheaton Academy Vice Principal and WA Global Network Executive Director. Dr. Vishanoff holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University, master's degrees from Northwestern University and Aurora University, and a doctorate Educational Leadership from Northern Illinois University. Brenda has a passion for school leadership, specifically in the area of school governance, developing staff, and caring for students in a cross-cultural setting. She enjoys speaking at residence life and global conferences. Brenda, her husband, Bob, and their three children students live in West Chicago, IL.

Doug Williams

Doug Williams is the Dean of Spiritual Formation and AP US History teacher at Lipscomb Academy. He has graduate degrees in both theology and education. Doug's interests include Christian education, history, theology, travel, coffee, and adventuring with his wife and two children.

Jennifer Zepparelli

Jennifer Zepparelli is the only International Admissions Counselor for Lipscomb University. She has over four years of experience in the International recruitment field and has worked for Lipscomb University for a total of seven years. Jennifer is originally from Italy, grew up between Italy and Brazil and came to the States for College as an international student. She speaks five languages and has been passionate about different cultures and international integration for as long as she can remember. Jennifer is finishing her Masters in Conflict Management this summer and intends to continue to work in the international mobility field throughout her life. When not at work, you can find her enjoying a day in nature, unplugged by the daily busyness, or traveling around the world.