



2023 Presenters

Rebecca Andre



Rebecca Andre has been with SEVP since 2012, and a field representative since 2015. She is the field representative for territory 38, which is the western half of Georgia. She relishes training new DSOs on SEVP rules and regulations, attending conferences, visiting with her schools, and answering questions on the non-immigrant student process. When not on the road visiting the schools in her territory, she spends time with her husband and five cats. She is an avid crocheter!

Rachel Anstatt

Bio forthcoming

Gay Bennett



Gay Bennett is the Vice Principal & International Program Director at Linfield Christian School in Temecula, California. Mrs. Bennett is an educational veteran, having worked in the public and private school sector for the past 35 years. In 2010, Mrs. Bennett founded the International Program at Linfield Christian School. Throughout the past twelve years, over 550+ international students from 10 different countries of origin have moved through the program, many graduating with honors to attend top American universities.

James Brannon



James spent his early years growing up in China, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia, before moving to Southern California to attend university. There he discovered his calling while volunteering on campus to help international students cross culture and succeed in reaching their academic and personal goals.

Upon completing his undergrad (Biola University, B.S., Biochemistry), James shifted his focus to international education and exchange, developing programs that hosted over 1,000 international students from various provinces of China.

James currently resides in West Chicago, working as Wheaton Academy's Director of International Recruitment. He enjoys staying active and traveling with his family, as well as studying philosophy, science, and geopolitics.

Elizabeth Chavez



Liz Chavez serves as the International Program Director at Northland Christian School in Houston, Texas. During her undergrad at the University of Oklahoma (B.A., French and B.A., International & Area Studies: European Studies), she completed a summer program at Oxford and spent a year as an international student in France. She earned her M.A. in International Relations from King's College London with an emphasis on cross-cultural identity, and she has spent the past 15+ years working on global, multi-lingual nonprofit teams. Her primary goals for Northland's international program are to improve the school's ministry to students and continue to increase the global impact—in recent years, Northland has welcomed international students from Canada, China, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and Vietnam. In her spare time, Liz enjoys writing, learning languages including Spanish and Mandarin, and singing with the Houston Symphony Chorus.

Stephen Deck



Stephen Deck currently serves as the Senior Director of Academic Services for the Association of Christian Schools International. During his time at ACSI, Stephen has participated in numerous accreditation visits, serving multiple times on joint accreditation visits with several different agencies. He has been instrumental in the revision of ACSI's accreditation protocol. Prior to his time at ACSI, he taught in an ACSI Accredited school. Stephen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, a Master of Arts degree in Ministry, a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership, and an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership.

Carla Evans



Carla Evans has served as an educator for more than 20 years. She has held various teaching positions from kindergarten through adult studies in the United States and Europe, including a term on the mission field in the Czech Republic. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Carla was involved in many aspects of the International Student Program before becoming the Director. She has also directed the Southside Christian Summer English Academy since 2012, coordinated academic support programs and group activities for international students, and worked closely with the homestay families, homestay students, and the faculty in their support of international students. Carla provides leadership for every aspect of the International Student Program at Southside Christian School and serves on the High School administrative team. She holds bachelors' degrees from Southern Wesleyan University in music and psychology and a certification in teaching English as a second language from the University of Cambridge. Carla has a Master of Education degree from Columbia International University. She currently sits as the board chair of the South Carolina Association of International Educators. Carla and her husband have two sons, Jaxon and Jadon, Rylee, her niece, and host an international student, Menzi.

Terri Fraser



Terri Fraser grew up as a missionary kid, and came to the US for university. Her career includes international marketing and business management in corporate America, and over 10 years experience building International Student Programs at two different schools. She draws from her experience in being a student in the US on her own, as well as her work in the international space, to bring a unique perspective to those working with international students.

Vanessa Goulding



Vanessa Goulding serves as the Business Development Manager for ICEF's USA and Canada team. Having worked in the secondary education space for the past 7 years, Vanessa brings a practiced expertise in international recruitment, case development, implementation for an admission cycle and strategic client support. She previously held a position at a private secondary boarding school in Canada, where she was the Director of International Admissions overseeing hundreds of international students and providing immigration advice to best serve those students. She is a student market development specialist that looks at global and economic trends and develops an international strategy to increase international enrollments.

Julie Grant



Julie Grant, RN, BSN is the International Host Family and Student Coordinator. She attended Wheaton College and Rush University where she got her Bachelor's degree in nursing. She works closely with our school counselor attending to our international students medical and emotional needs. She also coordinates our host families.

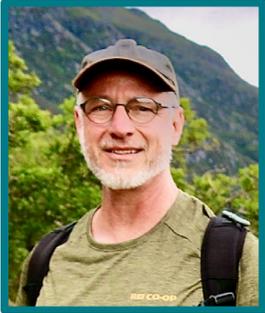
Kori Hockett



Kori Hockett has been at Wheaton Academy for 23 years and began her career teaching social studies. She majored in political science at Wheaton College and went on to earn her master's degree in teaching and her principal's certificate from Aurora University. For ten years, Kori served as the Assistant Principal at Wheaton Academy and currently serves as the Principal. Her roles

primarily focus on overseeing the day-to-day operations within the school, developing academic policies and curriculum, encouraging and guiding students and families, and encouraging faculty in professional development through observations, evaluations, and meetings.

Michael Pollock



Michael is a leader in TCK care steeped in over 30 years of educating, coaching, debriefing, and training third culture individuals, families, schools, and organizations. He grew up among multiple U.S. states and Kenya. With his wife, Kristen, he raised three children in China, where he was an international school principal and TCK development leader. In addition to leading Daraja, he also served as Director of Interaction International for almost 3 years and established a hub of international TCK caregivers in 2019 to facilitate global networking. The son of Dr. David Pollock, Michael co-authored *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds (3rd Ed.)* with Ruth Van Reken. Michael believes TCKs are poised to powerfully impact the world.

David Pruett



David has served in both K-12 and higher education administration for over 40 years. He is just stepping away from serving Northland Christian School in Houston, Texas after seven years, including six as Head of School, and he has launched his own business, Global Summit Solutions, that partners with businesses in leadership and global training and works with international programs with a focus on Asia and the United States. David has had the opportunity to travel to more than 35 countries where he has invested in the study of cross-cultural educational methods and models. He has worked with a number of schools and organizations, including the Greater European Mission, Bucharest Christian Academy, the International School of Prague, Vienna Christian School, Vienna International School, Beskedy Mountain Academy in the Czech Republic, and the International School of Kenya. David has an M.Ed. in Secondary School Administration and an Ed.S. in School Law from Central Oklahoma University, and he completed a postgraduate program in Executive Leadership and Coaching from Georgetown University.

Charity Moon



Charity Moon has been at Wheaton Academy for the past 10 years serving in a variety of roles within the International Program including the Assistant Director, ELL teacher for 9 years and currently is the Program Assistant as well as the Wheaton Academy Global Network Admissions and ISPC Coordinator. After graduating from Dallas Baptist University with a BAS in Sociology, Charity moved to China to teach English. During her five years in China, she taught EFL both to primary and college age students at a variety of language levels. She received her MA in TESOL/Intercultural Studies from Wheaton College and continues to use her experience from both teaching and living overseas to help international students adapt to their life in the States. Through the years, she has presented at numerous conferences on ways to support international students and serves as a resource for schools with international programs.

Britnie Reid



Britnie has worked with international student programming in San Diego, CA since 2015, having developed & taught curriculum for Sheltered Bible and ESL courses, and served as International Program Director since 2021. Before moving to California, she worked in Special Education and served for 2.5 years as a teacher and missionary in Xhosa-speaking schools of South Africa. Since 2005, she's designed & led youth camps all around the US as well as in India, Alaska, Kenya, and Zambia. Originally from South Carolina, she received her M.A. in Christian Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, her TESOL Certification from the University of California San Diego, and her B.S. in Psychology from North Greenville University. More than anything, she has a love for God's Word and her heart is to reach the unreached. In her spare time, she loves adventuring outdoors - playing tennis, hiking, kayaking, & relaxing on the beach!

Davona Reynolds



Davona is in her 6th year as International Student Program Coordinator at Wheaton Academy. Davona joined Wheaton Academy after returning home from missions work in Zimbabwe, Africa

in 2017. Davona has a love for the international student community and desire to see them thrive and grow throughout their experience. Davona is also currently teaching Bible to 1st year international students at WA. In her spare time Davona enjoys singing, children's ministry, coaching basketball, softball, and being a host parent.

Steve Stark



Steve and his wife Patty have been married for 28 years. They have four children between the ages of 16 and 24. Steve and Patty worked in China for 22 years before moving to Columbia, South Carolina in 2015 when Steve assumed the role of Boarding Program Director at Ben Lippen School. Since 2021 they have also served as houseparents at Ben Lippen and Patty teaches K4. In his free time, Steve enjoys his two dogs, trivia, spicy food, and playing crokinole.

Phil Strzalka



I joined the faculty at Wheaton Academy and then the Wheaton Academy Institute as its Executive Director with more than 25 years of experience as an attorney and a management consultant developing and implementing people and operational solutions within educational institutions and other not-for-profit organizations across the country. My deep experience includes strategic planning and the implementation of significant performance improvement, organizational design, business process redesign, and talent/leadership development initiatives for administrators, faculty, and staff. I have grown to become a regular thought leader, author, and speaker.

In my roles and as a parent of three children, I have witnessed, first-hand, the landscape of education changing rapidly. I strongly believe that Christian educators have never been so well positioned to make an impact. It is my honor to currently serve as the Institute's Executive Director. Soli Deo Gloria!

Rochelle Yang



Rochelle Yang has worked at Wheaton Academy for nine years and currently serves as the International Students Director at WA. She also teaches Mandarin Chinese. This is her first year serving as the program director; in her previous role, she provides support to International Parents overseas. Rochelle Yang holds an undergraduate degree from Sanda University in Shanghai and a Master's in Math Education from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Rebecca Yoon



Rebecca Yoon has more than 15 years experience in teaching, assessment, program development, and administration in English Language Programs and K-12 international education. Currently, Rebecca is the founding director of English Language Studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, where she liaises between the admissions office, the international office, academic departments, and student support services to serve non-native English speakers from diverse backgrounds. Rebecca has a Master's in TESOL from the University of Central Florida, a Master's in Biblical Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary, and is currently a doctoral student in Educational Leadership at Appalachian State University. Rebecca is an active member of TESOL, NAFSA, StudyNC, and is a trained CEA peer reviewer.