



WHEATON ACADEMY
GLOBAL

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
PROGRAM CONFERENCE

Session Descriptions

Program Essentials

10 Things Principals Should Know and Do to Support an International Program [Kori Hockett: Wheaton Academy Principal] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)

Support from teachers and school leadership is essential to the success and ultimate buy-in of an international student program. The principal's articulation of program goals and how this ties into mission, vision, and strategic plan is really important. Come hear how school leaders can support the international staff as they build these important programs on campus.

10 Strategies for Communicating with Asian Parents [Rochelle Yang Wheaton Academy ISP Director] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)

Come discuss common questions that most of the 1st year Asian students and parents have. We will provide some examples of these types of questions and how you might go about answering these questions.

ACSI Inspire: Inspiring Schools to Flourish through Accreditation and the International Student Program Endorsement [Stephen Deck: ACSI Senior Director Academic Services] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

The ACSI Inspire accreditation protocol, aligned with the Flourishing School Culture Model, implements an increased emphasis on collaboration and school improvement, as evident in the rating of the indicators, the structure of the self-study, and the process of the visit. ACSI Inspire moves away from "compliance" language, having schools rate themselves on how effectively they are meeting each indicator and provide a reflection for each Domain. Based on the analysis of data, indicator ratings, and areas for improvement, schools will conclude the self-study process by articulating prioritized goals for improvement. The International Student Program (ISP) Addendum is intended to be used as a side-by-side document with the Inspire protocol and will provide the school with an opportunity to self-assess their international student program and include it in the school's improvement goals. This session will provide details on the new Inspire accreditation protocol and demonstrate how the ISP Addendum can be used for program improvement.

Record Keeping and Reporting [Rebecca Andre-SEVP Field Rep Western GA] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

This training will advise DSO's on what records to maintain in the student files and reporting timelines

ISP Quality: Key Takeaways from a Study of ACSI Schools [Rachel Anstatt: Exchange Program Coordinator The George Washington University] Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

What is a high-quality international student program? Have you ever wondered whether the practices at your school are similar to other host schools? In this session, we will discuss key takeaways of a recent study of international student programs at a group of ACSI schools and offer practical suggestions on how to improve the quality of your ISP.

Advanced DSO Training [Rebecca Andre-SEVP Field Rep Western GA] Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

This training is meant to enhance DSO's understanding of the I-20, records creation, transferring, termination, and maintaining of student status.

Building a Excellent Foundation for an International Program [Rochelle Yang: Wheaton Academy ISP Director & Charity Moon: Wheaton Academy ISP Assistant] Session #4 (6-15 1-2:15pm)

During this session we will share 10 key building blocks of an International Student Program. Whether you are starting out or experienced in your program, the principles discussed will help you to evaluate and structure your program with a firm foundation. Discussion topics include philosophy and mission, student care supports as well as academic and school culture considerations.

Does school leadership support matter? [David Pruett Northland Head of School & Elizabeth Chavez Northland ISP Director] Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

You may feel passionately about the importance of your school's international program, so does it matter if the rest of the administration, the Head of School, the principal, and the School Board support the program? Absolutely yes. School leadership support is essential for maintaining and growing a healthy and successful international program. In this session, we discuss this relationship from both the International Program Director and Head of School perspectives, and we will present ideas for creating buy-in at all levels of your school leadership.

Creating a Strategic Plan for your ISP [Phil Strzalka: Executive Director Wheaton Academy Institute] Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

Do you have a strategic plan for your international student program that is aligned with your school's mission, vision and plan? A strategic plan represents a unified vision that supports and provides a challenging and enriching path for all to pursue together. It serves to align administration, the board, faculty, and staff on measuring success. It helps you to invest strategically. In this session, we will discuss the "why" behind an international student program and the elements of a strategic plan. You will leave equipped with an assessment of your current state, a view of the world, and the elements of a strategic plan for your international program. You will return ready to effectively communicate the value and steps of your plan to stakeholders.

Academic

Reaching the Unreached: A Strategic, Missional Approach to International Students in the Bible Classroom [Britnie Reid: Maranatha Christian-San Diego ISP Director] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)/ Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

Should Christian schools provide Bible courses specifically for international students, OR should they be mainstreamed with the rest of the student body from day 1? Schools with strong programs stand on both sides of the debate. This session will provide one perspective that's been effective in leading students with little to no background knowledge of the Christian faith to consistently becoming some of the most outspoken evangelists on our campus! Together, we'll take a deep dive into the how & why behind our school's Sheltered Bible course & curriculum.

Strategies to support ELLs with or without an ESL class [Charity Moon Wheaton Academy ISP Assistant] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

During this workshop we'll identify the academic fundamentals needed to support ELLs in the classroom whether you they are mainstreamed or sheltered. We'll look at both English language skills to develop as well as participation strategies. The principles we discuss will benefit any type of classroom!

You recruited international students - now the real work begins [Elizabeth Chavez: Northland ISP Director] Session #4 (6-15 1-2:15pm)

Recruiting international students, especially the ones that will be the best fit for your school, takes a

tremendous amount of time, effort, and resources, but the real work starts when they arrive on campus. Caring for international students and maintaining the trust that their families have placed in your program is more than a one-person job. Their support system can start in your international program office, but it needs to extend campus-wide to your faculty and general school staff. Join this session to learn how to equip your teachers and other staff members to understand and respond to the unique needs of international students so that together you provide a network of care that supports them in their educational journey.

Student Care & Support

How to Develop a Program that Meets the Psychosocial Needs of International Students [Julie Grant: Wheaton Academy Host Family Coordinator] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)

Our international students come to us with many unique needs. A strong multi-faceted student services team is key to meeting the medical and mental health needs of our students. Learn some ideas for preventing, predicting and coping with these needs in your program.

The Good Life: Creating social connections and increasing involvement within the school community [Gay Bennett: Linfield Christian ISP Director & Carla Evans: Southside Christian ISP Director] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)

How can I make friends? What activity can I do? These questions without a doubt are only few of the thoughts international students wrestle with as they seek friendship and belonging within our school communities. This session will present and discuss different ideas of how to create and nurture a vibrant student life amongst your international students.

Recruiting, Training, and Evaluating Your Host Family [Julie Grant: Wheaton Academy Host Family Coordinator] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

Your program is only as good as those who are caring for your students in their home. The right host families are key to a successful program. Come hear ways to build on your host family team through recruiting, training and evaluating them.

Stories that Travel: Helping Communities Connect [Michael Pollock: Daraja founder/Co-author of *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

Our stories are powerful, both for the unique content that makes us individuals and for the shared experiences and common themes that bind us together powerfully as human beings. Understanding and telling our stories well takes intentionality and practice. This workshop gives a framework for doing the work and helps schools and caregivers create space to prioritize and value the stories that make us 'persons' to one another.

Kingdom Community: Why Does It Matter? [Davona Reynolds: Wheaton Academy International Student Coordinator] Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

With our current world fractured in so many ways, and so many differing opinions on how to fix it, it is important for our students to have the tools they need to navigate these issues through a Biblical lens. The Kingdom Community student group exists to give students the skills they need to know who they are, how to live in community with one another, and how to address the pressures of our society utilizing a Biblical Worldview.

COVID "Long Haul" for our Chinese students [Terri Fraser: Tree of Life Christian ISP Director] Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

COVID ended for the majority of the world, but many of our Chinese students were faced with additional challenges as they were not able to return home for an extended time. In this session we will talk about how these challenges impact long-term mental and physical health, cultural identity and family dynamics, as well as gain some tools to help these students process their experiences.

Parachute Kids and how to provide wraparound support [Terri Fraser: Tree of Life Christian ISP Director] Session #4 (6-15 1-2:15pm)

We will discuss unique needs that our international students have as “parachute kids” who have been launched into a new country alone. Learn how being away from home parents during formative years can create unique issues, and how to address those issues in providing wraparound support as we care for our students. Gain tools to improve your student interactions from arrival through departure.

Self-Care Isn't Selfish: Sustainable Practices for Resilience [Michael Pollock: Daraja founder/Co-author of *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*] Session #4 (6-15 1-2:15pm)

Our ‘selves’, said Dallas Willard, are our first kingdom, and we are stewards. As a young school principal in Baltimore, MD, those words went deep, even when I have failed to steward my health and wellbeing over the ensuing 35 years. We will look at principles and practices of Self Care for educators and caregivers. Then we can offer the same to our students; one cannot give away what one does not own.

Transition Tools for Best Practice: 2 Models [Michael Pollock: Daraja founder/Co-author of *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*] Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

Everyone has experienced some form of ‘Arriving, Staying, and Leaving’. RAFT, standing for Reconciliation, Affirmation, Farewells, and Think Destination has become a standard pre-departure tool created by David Pollock for international schools serving highly mobile populations. In the mid-20-teens Michael created another tool, LEAP, standing for Leverage, Express, Adapt, and Partner (v.) for the next phase of transit and arrival. We'll unpack and practice these tools for the school context.

Motivation, Burnout, and Resilience: Self Care for ISP Staff [Rebecca Yoon: Appalachian State ELS Director] Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

Do you feel like you're going 100mph with uncertainty at every turn? In this work, it is easy to face burnout and lose program vision in the weeds. This self-care session will examine common fatigue factors and suggest practical ways to facilitate balance for staff, host families, students, and home families alongside a Biblical worldview of our work.

Admissions & Recruitment

“New-School Admissions”: Disruptive Technologies and How to Leverage Them [James Brannon: Wheaton Academy Global Director of Recruitment] Session #1 (6-14 1:45-3:15pm)/Session #5 (6-16 9:30-10:45am)

The tides of the digital landscape are changing faster than ever before, transforming the ways we find information, connect with each other, and make important life decisions -- like choosing a school! While this creates many new ways of connecting with families in other countries, it also changes the way we think about international student admissions. Learn about the latest technologies that are disrupting the world of international education, and how you can use them to leverage your current resources and maximize your impact.

Maximizing International Recruitment Within a Budget [Vanessa Goulding-ICEF] Session #2 (6-15 9-10:15am)

Take a deep dive into what other school recruiters do as they look at planning an international recruitment trip. This session will go through case studies, budget plans, the ability to cohort with other schools, and the proper channel's to use in order to make it successful - including resources for researching student market trends. Join two other schools as they discuss how they navigate this and what they have learned over the years.

Preparing International Students for US Universities [Rebecca Yoon: Appalachian State ELS Director]
Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

While schools excel at preparing students for the rigor of university studies, there are several aspects of the "hidden curriculum" that are needed to successfully transition to international student life at a US university. Hear from a university perspective about the critical areas of struggle for freshman international students including immigration, engagement, and academic advising.

Marketing to the International Student [Phil Strzalka: Executive Director Wheaton Academy Institute]
Session #3 (6-15 10:30-11:45am)

A key to a healthy international program is developing a healthy enrollment funnel. In this session, we will talk about strategies to not only increase your funnel of students, and utilize the information you learn about potential students to improve your success. We will discuss how to look at your funnel, maximize data, consider personas, and customize messaging to help your school's international enrollment! Phil will use a workshop format to allow you to apply lessons learned to your own school.

Relationships Matter: How K-12 Admissions Teams Maximize Agent Partnerships, a panel discussion with ICEF [Vanessa Goulding-ICEF] Session #4 (6-15 1-2:15pm)