

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Preliminary)

No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
Monday, May 6 • 2:30-3:30 p.m.				
101	Innovative Approaches for College Admissions Success	The ever-evolving college admissions landscape demands innovative strategies for independent educational consultants and their students. As acceptance rates plummet and the testing landscape shifts, the competition is fierce, and high school students need an edge more than ever! Applicants must stand out, master real-world skills, and use social media effectively. This illuminating panel session will provide strategies, tools, and actionable tips to succeed in today's admissions journey.	Stacey Ross Cohen, Brand Up author; Shannon Barghols, IECA Associate; Dilara Cirit, MA, IECA Associate	College
102	Managing the Relationship Between IECs and Schools	Congratulations, a promising new student has been enrolled with the help of an IEC at a boarding school that is a great match! What could possibly go wrong? Lots! Join the discussion as directors of enrollment and IECA members disclose real situations where schools and IECs disagreed over things such as student discipline and college placement. How were situations such as these resolved, and how could they have been prevented?	Jenni Biehn, Western Reserve Academy; Drew Miller, MEd, Cranbrook Schools; Holly McGlennon Treat, MEd, IECA; Heidi Molbak, MS, NCC, CEP, IECA	Schools
103	Nurturing Global Minds: Student Well-Being in Canada	Canadian universities excel in delivering diverse, tailored support for global learners. Explore their holistic approach to student well-being, examining tailored international student support, comprehensive mental and physical health services, and robust academic assistance. Uncover how these institutions prioritize creating a supportive and inclusive environment, ensuring students excel academically and thrive mentally and physically.	Denise Apostolatos, University of King's College; Ian Camara, MEd, University of Guelph; Eric Gendron, Bishop's University; Teo Salgado, MA, IECA Associate	Global (International), College
104	Helping Students Craft a Great Profile for Grad School	The panel explores pathways available to students to develop a strong and compelling application for post graduate plans by seizing every opportunity to gather skills and opportunities and prepare them to become strong candidates for grad schools, competitive scholarships, and professional schools. The panel considers ways in which students can utilize various offices on their campuses to develop an application that combines their curricular and extracurricular strengths.	Terumi Rafferty-Osaki, PhD, Northeastern University; Jayashree Shivamoggi, PhD, IECA	Graduate, Global (International), Business and Communication
105	Artful Advising: Aligning Passion and Profession	Artful Advising illuminates the journey from artistic passion to professional success with real-world case studies demonstrating how students with diverse artistic interests navigate the college selection process while honoring their educational and career goals. Participants will explore IECs' critical role in helping students evaluate possible arts programs and discern factors like curriculum, faculty, industry connections, and alumni success.	Chad Gapinski, MA, Interlochen Arts Academy; Katherine Luellen, MM, New England Conservatory; Shaun Ramsay, IECA	College

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106	Collaborating with Other IECs: We are Better Together	No one person knows everything. It is essential to draw on the expertise of other members of our profession to provide the best possible outcomes for our students and families. Collaborating with other IECs is critical at all stages of practice. Join four experienced IECs to discuss best practices for sharing information and determining when and how to collaborate with colleagues. We will have time for attendees to share their experiences as well.	Anne Holmdahl, CEP, IECA; Marilyn O'Toole, CEP, IECA; Donna Siegel, CEP, IECA; Katie Andersen, IECA Associate	Business and Communication
107	Best Practices for Early Discharge: A Conversation	This session will explore and discuss effective strategies and best practices for facilitating the early discharge of individuals from residential treatment programs. The panel will explore key components of early discharge planning, the challenges involved, and best practices for optimizing client outcomes. Attendee participation will be welcomed.	Adie Krumble, Family Health and Wellness; Jenn McMurray, Embark Behavioral Health; Josh White, MA, LPC, CGP, LCMHC, WPA, Red Mountain Sedona; Mindy Goodman, IECA	Therapeutic
108	Preparing Neurodivergent Students for Careers	How can neurodivergent students best prepare for the transition to work? A panel of experts from universities, transition programs, and workplace neurodiversity initiatives will explore the skills students should be working on now to prepare for their post-college careers, career-relevant factors students should consider in their college search, the potential impact of stigma and diagnosis disclosure in college and the workplace, and the role of disability accommodations.	Erik Brenner, EdD, Northeastern University; John Civita, MS, Winston Preparatory School/ Winston Transitions; Kyle Oddis, PhD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace; Nina Schiarizzi-Tobin, MEd, University of Rhode Island; moderated by Sherri Maxman, IECA	LD/ND, College, Schools, Graduate
109	Show Me the Clients! Sixty Easy Tips to Market Your Biz	Are you a new IEC trying to figure out how to best market your business? Or a seasoned IEC who's hit a lull in new client generation? Then join this session to learn 60 effective, inexpensive (or FREE!) and totally doable ways to market your business from a panel of IECs representing varied markets and practices. Attendees will leave with a tangible list of both short and long-term ideas, and the motivation and encouragement to begin implementing them post-conference.	Chris Andersson, MA, IECA; Kristina Dooley, MA, CEP, IECA; Aubrey Groves, MA, IECA; Jason Vallozzi, IECA	Business and Communication
110	Out of the Mouths of Deans: An Interview With Admissions Leaders from Selective Colleges	Senior admission officers from selective colleges will be interviewed, answering direct and moderated questions from moderators on their colleges' admission practices, procedures, and policies. Panelists will be asked to address what they are looking for in students, what kind of student will most likely succeed on their campuses, and give insight into the behind-the-scenes process of considering applications.	Jan Kerchner, MBA, CEP, IECA; Helese Sandler, CEP, IECA	College

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111	Success for ASD/LD Students: Triumph Over Challenges	For many individuals with ASD/LD, navigating through the challenges of the transition from high school to college is overwhelming. In this interactive panel, participants will develop an understanding of a student's readiness in six key areas; academics, mental health, self-advocacy, life skills, and college readiness, as well as learn how to manage parent expectations in the letting go process. Panelists will also discuss how to avoid invisible and common pitfalls.	Ann Marie Kennedy, MS, Education Group; Michelle Ramsay, EdD, College Internship Program; Sharona Sommer, CPC, College Internship Program; Michelle McAnaney, EdM, IECA; Stephanie Mitchell, IECA; Linda Borden, MSW, MEd, IECA Associate; April Miller, MS, IECA Associate	LD/ND, College
112	ERP Through the Levels of Care: Treatment for School Refusal	Since the COVID-19 pandemic, school refusal cases across childhood and adolescence have increased. The pandemic interrupted children's socioemotional and academic development, exacerbating negative attitudes about school. The panel will discuss collaborative interventions and clinical approaches to mitigate school refusal symptoms across the continuum of care, including residential treatment programs and therapeutic day schools.	Amy Griffin, CMHC, Cascade Academy; Thomas Kui, PsyD, Academics West; Bryan Wilde, LCSW, Waypoint Academy	Therapeutic, Schools
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201	Craic-ing the Code: Irish University Admissions	More and more students are interested in pursuing higher education outside of the U.S. Ireland offers a safe, welcoming location with easy access to the rest of Europe as well as globally-recognized, world-class educational and career opportunities. In this session, IECs will learn directly from university reps about what Ireland has to offer, which type of student would be a good fit, and how the admission process works.	Colette Coughlan, University College Cork; Eimear Griffin, University of Limerick; Jennie Kent, MEd, CEP, IECA	Global (International), College
202	NACAC's College Admission Trends You Need to Know	The last few years have resulted in sweeping changes to the college admissions counseling landscape. In this session, NACAC will unpack the latest admissions trends, presenting key takeaways to empower your work as an IEC. NACAC's research and analysis will be enriched by perspectives from college and admission counseling professionals. You won't want to miss this deep dive into the latest shifts in the field.	Cameron Hair, NACAC; Murphy Miller, MA, NACAC	College
203	Show Me the Money: Exploring IEC Pricing Structures	There are as many business models as there are IECs. How we choose to bill for our services can directly impact the way we do business. There are three primary billing models; the presenters will explain how—and why—they utilize the different models and what the pros and cons are of each. There will also be a discussion about how to combine different systems to create your perfect business model.	Jessica Chermak, LPC, CEP, IECA; Sawyer Earwood, CEP, IECA; Anne Holmdahl, CEP, IECA; Kate Sonnenberg, JD, CEP, IECA	Business and Communication

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No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
204	Current and Future Trends in Boarding School Admission	A former boarding school headmaster and current IECA Professional member will moderate a diverse panel of experienced admission professionals in a deep and wide discussion of current boarding school trends, analyze specific application profiles, discuss the rationale for decisions, and provide their wisdom on where the boarding school profession is headed relative to recruitment, admission, and retention. This will be an interactive session.	Jeff Beaton, MA, Choate Rosemary Hall; Caralyn Dea, MA, The Frederick Gunn School; Matt Hoeniger, MA, Marianapolis Prep; David Beecher, IECA	Schools
205	Nonverbal Learning Disability: What You Need to Know	NVLD is an underdiagnosed, misunderstood visual-spatial disorder. It is thought to affect nearly four million children and adolescents in the U.S., yet many health professionals and educators know little about it. In this session the presenter, a pediatric neuropsychologist, will explain exactly what NVLD is, how it presents in youngsters, what to keep in mind when working with students with NVLD, and how we can best help them achieve the success they want and deserve.	Jessica Lord Bean, PhD, CT Pediatric Neuropsychology Associates; Sherri Maxman, IECA	LD/ND
206	The Activities List in Admissions Review	The panel in this session will facilitate a lively discussion regarding the role that extracurricular activities and the Common App Activities List play in the selective holistic admission review process. How are different activities understood and evaluated during application review? How do they work together with other components of the application? How much is enough? There will be time at the end for audience Q&A.	Andy Halstead, MA, Villanova University; Derek Nido, MPA, Vanderbilt University; Elise Rowley, MA, IECA; Nancy Steenson, IECA	College
207	Semester Schools: Applied Learning for Engagement	A panel of semester school admissions directors will offer background on what the semester school opportunity is, which types of students benefit from it, and what types of changes can be expected when the experience is completed. Participants will learn about the varying themes of the semester schools, the admissions process, and how to support students with making the best choice and the most competitive application.	Jill Gardiner, High Mountain Institute; Harry Sullivan, School for Ethics and Global Leadership; Lucretia Witte, MPP, The Mountain School of Milton Academy	Schools
208	What's New in Business School Admissions and Academics?	Discover the latest trends in business school admissions and academics, including application components and curriculum updates. The presentation will highlight trends such as accepting the GRE, integrating ethics into coursework, emphasizing experiential and global learning, and the growing availability of interdisciplinary programs. University admissions representatives will discuss additional trends specific to their business schools and participate in a Q&A.	Eddie Asbie, Cornell University SC Johnson College of Business; Jessica Keating, NYU Stern School of Business; Dana MacFaun, Boston University Questrom School of Business; Lawrence Mur'ray, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth; Lauren Sutherland, Duke University Fuqua School of Business; Julie Gross, EdM, MBA, IECA; Caroline Ferrucci, MEd, IECA Associate	Graduate

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209	College Panel Discussion: Trends in Financial Aid	With the impact of financial aid (including merit) on admissions, it is essential that we stay current with the trends and methodologies that colleges employ to shape their first-year classes. Hear from a panel of financial aid and enrollment professionals to gain insight into the issues they face and how they arrive at their decisions to fulfill institutional priorities. Provider: IECA Subcommittee on College Affordability	Elizete Groenendaal, MBA, IECA Associate	College
210	Creating Value for Clients Through The Attachment Lens	Explore strategies for supporting traumatized parents in a session led by two seasoned treatment providers, grounded in attachment theory. Engage in a candid conversation about holding space in crucial discussions with clients and treatment providers. This isn't about being formal; it's about keeping it real. Join us for a session that feels like a chat among friends—warm, insightful, and with actionable takeaways.	Gabriella Campbell, CMHC, Alpine Academy; Mike Otufangavalu, Alpine Academy	Therapeutic
211	Publishing in High School: What to Do and Avoid	A substantive research publication can elevate a college application. Yet this endeavor can be risky. Publishing in the wrong journal or accidentally misrepresenting one's role can reduce the chance of acceptance at selective universities. IECs can make a difference by providing informed advice to their clients about compliance, ethics, representation claims, and the academic publishing process. This talk explains these issues and the associated risks.	Bonnie Hale, PhD, Minerva College Admissions; Robert Malkin, PhD, Duke University	College, Graduate, Business and Communication
212	Guiding Students Who Want to Become Military Officers	Many students who express interest in attending a service academy don't understand the differences between the military branches or know all the options for commissioning. A panel of military experts will enlighten you on the various paths to becoming an officer in the U.S. military and help you distinguish between the different branches so that you can guide your students to determine which options may be the best fit for them.	Lisa Hillhouse, MHR, Hillhouse College and Career Advising; Chris McMunn, MEd, United States Coast Guard Academy; Thomas Tolman, MS, United States Military Academy; Sarah Brown, MEd, IECA; Steve Colley, MPP, IECA Associate	College

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Preliminary)

No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
Tuesday, May 7 • 9:00-10:00 a.m.				
301	Special Event: Joint K-12 School and Therapeutic Community Event Focusing on Adolescent Mental Health	Therapeutic programs, traditional schools, and consultants all have concerns about adolescent mental health issues. Programs and schools are evolving in their approaches to these issues, and consultants are doing their best to keep up. This interactive session will allow all three groups to learn from each other about changes and initiatives in this important area.	Maureen Smith, Marvelwood School; Jody Dobson, MA, IECA; Rebecca Grappo, MEd, CEP, IECA; Krissy Naspo, MA, IECA; moderated by Bar Clarke, IECA	School, Therapeutic
302	Picking Up The Pieces: Withdrawals and Transferring	The presenters will share specific information about the transfer application process to transfer from four-year colleges or community colleges after adverse experiences. The presenters will specifically address how to respond to a client who withdrew, applies to transfer, and how some clients must proceed with retroactive withdrawal. Support for mental health will be discussed, as well as how to collaborate successfully with university professionals, parents, and providers.	Adrienne Frumberg, MA, IECA; Joanna Lilley, MA, IECA	College, Therapeutic
303	The Maze of College Prep for International Students	In an increasingly globalized world, the journey of international students toward U.S. colleges is filled with intricate preparations and unique challenges. This session is designed to delve deep into the complexities of the international student college application process. Participants will gain a deeper understanding and practical tools to effectively assist international students to navigate their path to U.S. colleges.	Mamta Accapadi, Huron Consulting; Shilpi Agarwal, DataEthics4All Foundation; Xin Li, IECA; Jayashree Shivamoggi, PhD, IECA	Global (International), College
304	Major Exploration in Emerging Computer Science and Related Fields	Computer Science is a very popular and highly selective major and as a result requires competitive applicants to start the process of exploring majors early on. It is important for students to think beyond CS and explore other CS related majors. This foundational session will identify top trends emerging in CS and CS related fields. The presenters will demonstrate through case studies how you can start exploring majors in emerging CS and related fields with your students.	Vita Cohen, MA, MAT, CEP, IECA; Jyoti Jain, MBA, IECA	College, Graduate
305	Expert Among Experts: Developing a Niche Business Model	Being an IEC requires having some kind of expertise in the school, college, graduate, and therapeutic school application process. However, when growing a business, becoming an expert among experts can help you grow your clientele while also contributing valuable content and advice to other IECs. Learn from IECs and colleagues who have a specialization or niche aspect to their business and be inspired to develop the same for your growing business.	Barak Moore, Barak Moore Test Prep; Michele Evard, PhD, IECA; Dana Ponsky, MA, IECA; Noah Nemitoff-Bresler, IECA Associate	Business and Communication

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No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
306	Campus Sexual Misconduct: A View From The Trenches	An IEC and an education attorney will talk about their real-life experiences working on 500+ campus sexual assault cases under constantly shifting regulations. The presenters will talk about the evolution of Title IX, the federal law banning sex discrimination in education, and the changes in enforcement under presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden. We can learn how to protect our students of all genders from having their educations derailed by sexual misconduct disputes—as accuser or accused.	Justin Dillon, JD, Dillon PLLC; Hanna Stotland, JD, IECA	College, Graduate, Schools
307	Coaching ADHD Students Through College Admissions	Students with ADHD struggle with planning and goal setting. Attendees will learn the science of why “standard” IEC advising approaches don’t work for the ADHD brain. This session will provide tools designed specifically for the ADHD brain to implement practical strategies for successful goal setting, and planning to consider college options and complete the application process.	Robert Alexander, EdD, MBA, University of Rochester; Jeff Rice, MS, CoachYourADHDBrain.com	LD/ND, College
308	What is a Certified Educational Planner and Why Should We Care?	What does it mean for an independent educational consultant to have the CEP credential? How do you become a CEP? This session will explore the many aspects of the credential, advantages that it brings to the profession, and discuss how IECs can earn the credential. We will also share exciting developments within AICEP and what those developments mean for the future of independent educational consulting.	Steven Antonoff, PhD, CEP, IECA; Rachel Sobel, PhD, CEP, IECA	Business and Communication
309	Case Studies in Selective College Admission	We’ve all experienced the baffling college decisions where an extremely qualified student is denied admission. We’re left wondering what was discussed in the admission committee to result in the applicant being denied and how we can better advise our families. What institutional priorities and other factors went into that decision? The heads of admission from two highly-selective colleges will walk us through the committee process and the challenges of shaping a class.	Victor Thomas, Washington University in St. Louis; College Rep, TBA; moderated by Carole Kraemer, IECA and Laurie Kopp Weingarten, CEP, IECA	College
310	Got Arts? A Performing and Visual Art Roundtable on Music	The IECA Performing & Visual Arts Affinity Group will host a roundtable of representatives from several U.S. music programs to unpack best practices for working with music students. The discussion will center on how we can guide students in building their lists and understanding the application requirements specific to their areas of interest. Panelists will offer college search strategies, followed by a Q&A about the general process, and details about each school and program.	Amy Goldin, MS, IECA; Christine Gangelhoff, DMA, IECA Associate; Amy Mednick, MA, IECA Associate	College

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311	Integrating AI: Enhancing Your Professional Toolkit	Focused on demonstrating the practical integration of AI, specifically ChatGPT, participants will gain practical insights into how AI can be a game-changer in independent educational consulting by demonstrating real-case scenarios where ChatGPT enhances client engagement and content creation. They will leave with actionable ideas on integrating AI into their practices, enhancing their service offerings, and staying ahead in the rapidly evolving profession.	Mark Cruver, MEd, CSA, CEP, IECA	Business and Communication
312	How to Understand Neuropsychological and Academic Testing for Optimal School and College Placement and Support	Have you ever struggled to understand a student's testing? Do you worry you've missed something in the neuropsychological or academic tests that might have influenced their school placement? Join us for a straight-forward presentation on these tests. You will gain a clear understanding of what key tests and scores indicate and how they relate to each other. Additionally, we'll discuss how these tests reveal students strengths, challenges, and their support needs. Two intriguing case studies will also be reviewed and discussed by the group.	Carol Kinlan, MEd, MBA, IECA	LD/ND, College, Schools
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401	Demystifying Yield: Maximizing Admissions Success	All colleges think about yield, just like they all care about app numbers and acceptance rates. What does this mean for the applicant? What does it mean for those advising high school students? This session will discuss the ways that colleges think about yield and incorporate tools to "protect" their yield. The panel will talk about why colleges do this and how IECs of all types can be strategic when advising students as they apply to a variety of colleges.	Gloria Crawford, InitialView; Carina Cruz, InitialView; Victor Thomas, Washington University in St. Louis	College
402	Progress Monitoring: Why It Is Essential and How To Do It	Knowing how a client is progressing is essential for IECs, clinicians, parents, and programs. There are ways to monitor progress using data and systems to make it simple and helpful. By using objective data to track progress, adaption and modification can be done individually, or can be done to accommodate client trends to make sure they are receiving the cutting-edge of services designed to help young people grow, heal, and progress.	Derek Daley, SUDC, Legacy Treatment Center and Juniper Canyon Recovery Center; Madolyn Liebing, Ph.D., PhD, LP, LMFT, Legacy Treatment Center and Juniper Canyon Recovery Center for Women	Therapeutic
403	Managing a Team of IECs	Learn how to effectively manage IEC teams for all areas of expertise. Presenters will discuss essential strategies like setting up trial runs with new team members, preparing contracts, payment structures that correlate with a new associate's experience and services rendered, and expectations of team meetings and internal deadline systems. Additionally, the presenters will address creating a cohesive environment with clear roles, communication tools, and support mechanisms.	Kelly Brandes, CEP, IECA; Kathie Carnahan, CEP, IECA; Sarah Girolami, IECA	Business and Communication

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404	Supporting Families Through Boarding School Admissions	This session will examine how IECs can work alongside admissions professionals and learning supports at boarding schools to provide clarity and guidance to families. The panel pairs an IEC, a school admissions director, and a director of teaching and learning to describe how they partner throughout the process. IECs looking to understand how schools work with neurodiverse learners and how they engage their learning supports in the admission process are encouraged to attend.	Josh Labove, PhD, Kimball Union Academy; Anne Peterson, Kimball Union Academy; Brittany McKinney, IECA Associate	Schools, LD/ND
405	How to Showcase Your Creative Work When Applying to Film, Media or Performing Arts Programs	This session will focus on best practices for what to include in a creative portfolio or audition for film and media schools that will elevate your student's application and impress admissions reviewers. We will also cover the audition process for actors and musical theatre performers who are interested in training in high level performing arts programs.	Tami Alexander, New York Film Academy; Roger Del Pozo, New York Film Academy	College
406	Borderline Personality Disorder in Adolescents	This panel will provide an overview of borderline personality disorder (BPD), including the current diagnostic criteria, related behaviors, and recommended evidence-based treatments. The panel will then address how the disorder presents in teens and the importance of early detection and intervention in reducing stigma and improving outcomes. The panel draws from key research on BPD in teens, as well as source material related to dialectical behavior therapy.	Alyson Orcena, LMFT, Evolve Adolescent Behavioral Health	Therapeutic
407	The Global List: Managing Multi-Country Applications	Experienced IECs will present strategies for supporting U.S. and global students applying to universities across multiple countries. Presenters will discuss regional and country differences that impact program, financial, and overall fit and will address common issues such as navigating varied application timelines and plans, transcript, financial documentation, and predicted grade submission, and managing conditional acceptances conflicting with enrollment deadlines.	Elizabeth Cashel, IECA; Yesim Erez, MBA, IECA; Julia Gooding, EdM, CEP, IECA	College, Global (International)
408	Challenges in Admissions in a Post-SCOTUS World	The immediate past chair of NACAC and deans of admissions and enrollment will discuss how their selective institutions recruited, reviewed, and selected students for admission in a post-SCOTUS, race-blind world. Additionally, an IEC and test prep professional will discuss how best to prepare students in this challenging admission landscape. This session will provide a lively exchange of information, opinions, and questions between the presenters and audience members.	Robert Alexander, EdD, MBA, University of Rochester; Vern Granger, University of Connecticut; Alexandra Beaumont, IECA; Brian Eufinger, IECA Associate	College

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409	Long-term Vision: High School to College to Grad School	While high school students discuss potential trajectories that include graduate or professional school options, undergraduates often lack the intuition or access to glean important steps to prepare for the graduate journey. IECs working with these students are uniquely situated to share this insight and facilitate development of pre-grad school planning. IECs who work with both college and grad applicants will share preparation that culminates in first-time admission.	Mark Bechtold, IECA; Julie McNair, MEd, IECA; Betsy Pruitt, MsEd, IECA	Graduate, College
410	Ready for College? Evaluating through Summer Programs	Students with learning differences (LD) are 3x more likely to drop out and half as likely to enroll in a four-year college. Join an IEC and three Summer Program educators to equip IECs with essential information and tools to evaluate summer college readiness/transition programs for students with LDs, empowering them to post-secondary success. The presenters will educate attendees on how to take college capable students and evaluate them to determine they are college ready students.	Brody Glidden, MS, Beacon College; Grant Leibersberger, MBA, Focus Collegiate; Kevin Trimble, MS, Beyond Akeela; Amy Brown, MEd, IECA Associate	College, LD/ND
411	Behind the Curtain: Inner Workings of Boarding Schools	Embark on a journey with us as we explore the intricacies of boarding school sustainability, guided by the expertise of two seasoned heads of school! Learn about the financial tapestry, such as revenue, endowment, deferred maintenance, and lending intricacies. Uncover the nexus between financial health, enrollment, and financial aid. Empower yourself to guide families adeptly through their admissions process, armed with insights transcending school size.	Brad Bates, MALS, Dublin School; Brian Hargrove, MA, MBA, Northfield Mount Hermon School; Elizabeth Hall, EdM, CEP, IECA	Schools
412	UK 101: From Degree Types to Academic Culture in the UK	The British Council and UK university representatives will explain what makes UK degrees different from those that can be obtained in the U.S. Presenters will review degree and university types, education styles, as well as similarities and differences that will be useful for participants to understand when matching students' expectations and preferences to their university options when considering studying in the UK.	Karina Pichardo, British Council, Study UK	College, Global (International)
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501	Annotating and Creating a Balanced College List For Aspiring Athletes	IECs will discuss creating a balanced list for students and how balancing a student's list with athletics in mind is a dynamic and critical part of the process for aspiring student-athletes. Presenters will discuss considerations for IECs in identifying appropriate options for students that provide a 360 degree fit.	Dave Morris, MEd, IECA; Patrickia O'Keefe, MBA, IECA; Margaret Hunkins, MA, IECA Associate	College
502	Building Better Contracts: Practical Takeaways	This presentation is tailored for newer IECs, offering insights to help avoid common mistakes in drafting consulting contracts. While no formal legal advice is provided, participants gain practical knowledge about essential elements of a contract: responsibilities, timelines, and payment schedules. Leave feeling more confident and equipped to create a robust agreement that fosters clear expectations and a successful partnership.	Elaine Cataneo, MS, IECA Associate; Jennifer Quinn, IECA Associate	Business and Communication

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503	Managing Expectations in the Admission Process	Strong consulting partnerships require good faith and shared values. But sometimes IECs' expectations collide with those of parents who insist that Junior apply to schools with no realistic chance of admission, that "helping" with essays means writing them, that the admission process can be bent to their will. This session asks participants to consider challenging cases to learn real-world strategies for managing parental expectations that challenge our values and realities.	Peter Braverman, EdM, IECA Associate; Lindsey Valente, MA, IECA Associate	Schools
504	Inspire Your Jewish Students to Find their College Home	As Jewish students look for colleges that are a good fit, they must consider how their Jewish identity will influence their college search and application process. IECs need to be equipped with knowledge and resources to effectively guide Jewish students as they research colleges, prepare to apply, assess offers of admission, and plan for a successful transition to campus. Learn what you should be thinking about and asking as you work with this student population.	Robin Friedman, JD, TribeTalk; Eydie Balsam, MSW, EdM, IECA; Alison Merzel, MLHR, IECA; Dana Ponsky, MA, IECA	College, Graduate
505	Neurodiverse Students: Why Community Should Come First	Social marginalization is too often a feature of the disability experience. Independence is a lauded feature of the American narrative. Rather than the concept of independence empowering neurodiverse students, it often isolates them. How do we change this narrative so neurodiverse young people are better prepared for college, are not isolated when attending college, and move into adulthood with stronger social ties? The presenters will share their approaches and make room for dialogue.	Tracy Bailey, Onward Transitions; Jasmine Lamb, Mansfield Hall; Matthew Woodhall, MA, Woodhall School	LD/ND, College, Schools, Therapeutic, Graduate
506	How to Stand Out When A is an Average Grade	Grade Inflation directly impacts our students and the admissions landscape. Grading cultures have shifted in recent decades, and it's not always easy to explain to a family that having A's is not nearly as special as it used to be. Colleges are grappling with grade compression and inflation, looking for ways to differentiate students. Let's explore how to best guide our students and their families about factors that can help their students stand out in a crowded field.	Jed Applerouth, PhD, Applerouth Tutoring Services; Jayson Hodge, MS, University of Connecticut; Tracy Greuning, MS, IECA; Belinda Wilkerson, PhD, IECA	College
507	Supporting Successful Student Transition	The transition from high school to college can be a challenging one. How can IECs help students prepare for their exciting new journey? How do colleges facilitate a successful transition? Our expert panel will discuss academic and social adjustments, building a support network, and what makes transition into college easier. Gather tips and tools you can share with students and parents.	Christine Bowman, Southwestern University; Catherine Finks, The College of Wooster; Ann Marano, MEd, Colleges That Change Lives; Lauren Sefton, Rhodes University; Cyndy McDonald, IECA	College

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508	A Practical Guide to Psychiatric Assessment in Complex Cases	Many young adults struggle with psychiatric symptoms, sometimes severe. Combinations of substance use, disordered eating, self-injury, suicidality, and more can lead to unsuccessful treatments. Untangling it can be beneficial, but how? This breakout session will detail what goes into a multi-method assessment process, and use examples to show how personality disorders, trauma, psychosis and more can underlie severe and chronic difficulties. Walk away as a more educated consumer of how comprehensive assessments can provide a roadmap for your clients.	Michael Groat, PhD, Lindner Center of HOPE	Therapeutic, College, Schools, Graduate
509	Collaboration Across the Continuum	This interactive discussion will explore how IECs, school administrators, and therapeutic programs can better work together in a collaborative, holistic approach that addresses the diverse needs of students grappling with mental health challenges. Fostering open communication, implementing shared case management, providing professional development, and involving parents are key strategies for creating a cohesive support system.	Everett Logan, MA, GC, Mountain Valley Treatment Center; Jessica Toffey, MEd, Winchendon School; Will White, DA, LCSW, MLADC, Moosilauke Visions; Bar Clarke, IECA	Therapeutic, Schools
510	Expanding Our Reach and Raising Our Voice: IECA's Government Relations Committee	In recent years, proposed legislation has significantly impacted how IECs run their practices. IECA's Government Relations Committee (GRC) is dedicated to raising awareness of legislation and regulation that impact our profession. Drawing upon the GRC accomplishments of the past year, the panel will discuss the importance of advocacy and IECA's role in supporting our profession. This session will highlight the March Advocacy Day and regional activities.	Whitney Bruce, CEP, IECA; Cheryl Chamberlain, CEP, IECA; Jeana Kawamura, MA, CEP, IECA	Business and Communication
511	A Holistic Look at Non-Holistic, Non-U.S. Admissions	International universities can offer lower costs and language immersion, yet admissions differ markedly from U.S. norms, often putting emphasis on qualifications (testing). Join internationally-focused IECs and Onsen Education's founder for a deep dive into European and UK admissions. They'll uncover key strategies—preparation, application nuances, the unique role of testing (SAT/ACT and school-specific tests)—to navigate entry into emerging, top-ranked, non-U.S. institutions.	Sean Quinn, Onsen Education; Yesim Erez, MBA, IECA; Laura O'Brien Gatzionis, MEd, CEP, IECA	College, Global (International)
512	Supporting Aging Adults with IDD	As young adults with IDD and ASD age out of transition and post-secondary programming, limited options exist for age in place communities. Their need to remain independent, healthy, and vital does not change, but their needs and medical profiles do. Admissions trends also note an increase in inquiries from aging parents whose adults have never left home. How can IECs and providers best serve this growing population? A panel of program providers will share trends and best practices.	Andy Conover, MEd, St. Louis Life; Will Hoermann, Marbridge; Jen Murphree, MA, Rainbow Acres; Sunny Richards, Chapel Haven Schleifer Center	LD/ND, Therapeutic

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Preliminary)

No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
Wednesday, May 8 • 9:00-10:00 a.m.				
601	Everyday I'm IEC'ing	Are you supporting yourself and/or your family from your IEC business? In our profession, practitioners come from all walks of life. Some of us are retired, others are looking for supplemental income. This expert panel will discuss the challenges and benefits of being an IEC as your primary source of income and/or your full-time job.	Jessica Chermak, LPC, CEP, IECA; Zach Galin, IECA; Katie Garrett, CEP, IECA; Melanie Talesnick, CEP, IECA; Lauren DeMeo, IECA Associate	Business and Communication
602	Social Emotional Learning–Don't Leave Home Without It	Social-emotional learning (SEL) is not just a buzzword, it is the cornerstone of all successful relationships. The presenters will define SEL using a universal language; identify the key components in high school and higher education programs; discuss the criteria for evaluating effective SEL programs, and examine emerging trends. Attendees will gain insights into what SEL looks like in a high-quality program and how to assess programs successfully.	Alex Morris-Wood, MS, Beacon College; Annie Quest, Frankenberger Associates Learning Solutions Center; Ashley Taber, St. Andrew's School; Caryl Frankenberger, EdM, IECA	Schools, College, LD/ND
603	Finding the Right Fit: Demystifying Disability Support in Higher Education	As the laws governing disability change from high school to college, IECs and families need to understand that services and accommodations may change as well. The workshop will identify what individuals and families can do to create a realistic plan of where to apply. The presenters will discuss the different levels of academic and social support in higher education, cultural centers around disability services, and how to craft appropriate questions before applying.	Max Sederer, MA, Northeastern University; Ildiko Szekely, MA, IECA Associate	LD/ND, College
604	Real Talk and Real Answers To 'Why That College' Questions	Join veteran senior enrollment managers and seasoned IECs for a lively conversation on how to bust the myths around what makes a college a "good" school and one to recommend to students and families. The presenters will share real experiences and outcome data that you can use right away in working with families.	Catherine Finks, The College of Wooster; Lydia Mann, MEd, Clark University; Ann Marano, MEd, Colleges That Change Lives; Whitney Bruce, CEP, IECA	College
605	Exploring the Mental Health Community Impact of New Governance in Utah	This moderated panel discussion with members of the mental health community will focus on the impact of the new congregate care legislation and the legal ramifications of disregard for the same. We will include time for questions at the end of the session.	Holly Hunter, SafePassage Global; Brian Shepherd, Transport Company	Therapeutic
606	Intersectional Panel: Strategies to See LGBTQ+ Students	LGBTQ+ students have multiple identities, including race and socioeconomic status, all at once, and each student views their world through a highly specific lens. This panel of IECs will share research, stories, resources, and cultural and historical context—as well as pose questions—as they discuss the positions, strengths, challenges, and nuances of students with multiple identities to identify strategies IECs can use to help students in their practices.	Justin Mendillo, Connecticut College; Yvonne Espinoza, CEP, IECA; Suzanne Lewis, MEd, IECA; Robert Powers, MA, IECA; Brandon Mack, MEd, IECA Associate	College, Graduate, Schools, Therapeutic, LD/ND, Global (International), Global (International)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Preliminary)

No.	Title	Description	Presenters	Track
607	Catholic Colleges: A to Z	Augustinian, Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit...How can IECs identify and explain the differences among Catholic colleges in terms of their philosophies, educational missions, and student experiences? How can IECs determine which are “best fits” for a student, regardless of the student’s (or IEC’s) religious identity? Panelists include admissions representatives from several U.S. Catholic Colleges and a representative from the National Catholic College Admission Association.	Debbie Schwartz, MPPM, IECA	College
608	Cracking the Code for When to Choose a Major	Compare college admission strategies: “admit by major” vs. “exploratory studies.” College representatives provide insights regarding an applicant’s curriculum and experiences and how that relates to potential majors. When is it beneficial for students to pursue specific majors? When is it best to pursue an undecided path? Are there other options?	Kathie Carnahan, CEP, IECA; Sarah Girolami, IECA	College
609	Mastering Ontario Unis Supplemental Apps	Ontario, Canada’s largest province by post-secondary student population, has witnessed a 64% surge in U.S. college applications since 2015. Every year, thousands of students seek guidance from IECs for Ontario university apps. Beyond the standard application process, many Ontario universities require nuanced and unique supplemental applications for specific programs. Explore the intricacies of these supplements with admissions/recruitment experts in a dedicated session.	Ruby Boutilier, York University; Caroline Breitman, Wilfrid Laurier University; Ian Camara, MED, University of Guelph; Amy Ernest, MEDI, University of Waterloo; Andy Moonsammy, McMaster University; Teo Salgado, MA, IECA Associate	College, Global (International)
610	Northeast State Universities: Admissions Panel and Trends	Join the College Committee’s dynamic panel with admission officers from top Northeast state universities! Dive into the latest trends in college admissions and discover the ideal student profile for success on their campuses. Don’t miss the lively Q&A session. It’s your gateway to understanding the evolving world of higher education admissions!	Mark Cruver, MEd, CSA, CEP, IECA; Jan Lerner Esposito, MA, CEP, IECA	College
611	The Advantages of Junior Boarding Schools	There are many reasons families choose independent schools. Learn how junior boarding schools help parents achieve what they want for their child. Whether we are providing a safe learning environment, opportunities to grow and prepare for competitive secondary schools, time to foster independence and support social and emotional growth, or academic challenge or support, boarding in middle school years can pave a more successful path for students.	John Bayreuther, Cardigan Mountain School; Lesley Gibbs, MA, The Rectory School; Greg Hendrick, MBA, MA, The Fessenden School; Kimberly Loughlin, CAEP, The Bement School	Schools
612	The Benefits of Blended Learning During Treatment	Choosing a therapeutic program often means interrupting the school year. Anxiety and school refusal are on the rise and it’s common that issues around school are the catalyst for treatment in the first place. Knowing this, is it always helpful to remove the student from academics entirely? Blended learning during treatment can often be the perfect middle ground. Our experienced presenters look at this from three angles: clinical, academic, and from the perspective of the IEC.	Mike DeLuca, LCSW, Summit Achievement; Doug Dobkowski, MED, Summit Achievement; Krissy Naspo, MA, IECA	Therapeutic, Schools, LD/ND