

ACCEPT

ADMISSIONS COMMUNITY CULTIVATING
EQUITY & PEACE TODAY

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Mission: ACCEPT empowers college admissions professionals who seek to center anti-racism, equity and justice in our work and communities.

Vision: ACCEPT will lead the college admissions profession in dismantling inequitable systems and constructing anti-racist and just pathways to post-secondary education.

Current Projects

- ACCEPT Facebook group
- Meetups
- Direct Support Initiative
- Self-reported test score advocacy
- Black Lives Matter wristbands
- Disaster relief outreach
- Mentor Group
- "ACCEPT Guide To..." conference guides
- Professional development workshops

Launching Next

- Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) & 501(c)(4) nonprofit status processes
- Consultancy/advising
- Media Club
- Webinar Series
- Critical Race Theory online class
- Affirmative Action support training
- Curriculum-access assessment tool

Two-Year Goals

- Hire 3-5 full-time employees
- Develop research-to-practice center
- Host an ACCEPT Conference
- Create job placement/employee retention program
- Engage in broad assessment of barriers in college admissions process

IRS Status

- As an early-stage nonprofit, ACCEPT seeks start-up funding, organizational guidance, and partnerships to help us achieve our mission.
- ACCEPT is currently pursuing IRS nonprofit status. Donations are appreciated, but not tax-deductible, at this time.

Why ACCEPT?



Marie Bigham

Admin · July 8, 2016 · Add Topics

Why College Admissions Professionals should fight hate and inequity:
Two of the people murdered by Dylan Roof in Charleston were members of our profession.

Several of the 49 killed in Orlando were college students.

For many of my Black friends, the movie Dear White People was a documentary, not a satire.

Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin and Sandra Bland and Philando Castile and and and...they all could have been our students, colleagues, friends, and neighbors. They could have been many of us.

I struggle to address the Real Talk of what it's like to be an Other in higher ed when advising my high school students. But to not do so would be a disservice, even negligent.

Abigail Fisher's case was allowed to go forward multiple times despite having no standing at all.

Higher education is the only path to social-economic mobility in this nation. Higher ed grows increasingly out of reach. Disparity grows, inequity grows.

As a profession, we build communities of learners in secondary and post-secondary institutions. We understand the necessity of diverse communities.

We are human. We care about each other, even those we don't know.



ACCEPT Leadership

Steve Frappier (Co-leader) is a first-generation college attendee who has worked 19 years in college admissions and school-based college counseling. Steve's interests include inclusive community-building, analyzing data and demographic trends, and advocating for expanded mental health counseling services as a survivor of the 2017 Ft. Lauderdale airport shooting. Steve's superpower is making numbers dance.

Marie Bigham (Founder & Co-leader) With over 20 years in college admissions, Marie is Director of College Counseling at an independent school in New Orleans. Starting June 2019, she will lead ACCEPT full-time. Marie has served on the Board of Directors for two national and two regional professional associations. A multiracial woman, Marie's superpower is existing in multiple spaces at once.

Brandi Smith (Co-leader) is the first in her role as a College Advisor in a large public high school in Georgia. A national leader, Brandi served as a Board Director for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Past President of Southern Association of College Admission Counseling (SACAC), and Co-Chair for the College Board "A Dream Deferred Conference." Brandi's superpower is transforming bystanders into accomplices.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
ACCEPT



JULY 2016

ACCEPT Founded
1st in-person meetup



NOVEMBER 2016

2500 members in **ACCEPT**
Facebook group



DECEMBER 2016

1st Self-Care Sunday post



JANUARY 2017

20th in-person meetup



JUNE 2017

ACCEPT attends
2017 Facebook Community Summit



AUGUST 2017

1st Direct Support Initiative action



OCTOBER 2017

ACCEPT hosts Rise Above Houston event
Self-reported test score advocacy



NOVEMBER 2017

4000 members in **ACCEPT**
Facebook group



FEBRUARY 2018

ACCEPT supports student-protestors



APRIL 2018

Southern Assn. College Admission Counseling
2018 President's Award for Excellence



JUNE 2018

50th in-person meetup



SEPTEMBER 2018

National Assn. College Admission Counseling
2018 Excellence in Education Award



NOVEMBER 2018

22,000 Black Lives Matter wristbands
distributed at high schools & colleges



DECEMBER 2018

ACCEPT Mentor Program launches



JANUARY 2019

5000 members in **ACCEPT Facebook group**



FEBRUARY 2019

ACCEPT speaks at
2019 Facebook Community Summit