



Adriana Mesquita Rigueira serves as international relations advisor and English teacher at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Rio de Janeiro (Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia do Rio de Janeiro – IFRJ), one school in a network of 41 institutions that provide students access to top-quality free public vocational programs throughout Brazil. The network offers both secondary and tertiary level education.

For the past four years, Adriana has helped IFRJ to seek partnerships and sign cooperation agreements with universities abroad, with the goal of placing undergraduate students in exchange programs; in spite of limited resources, most IFRJ students have traveled to Portugal, and in 2016, two students received scholarships to study in Canada. In 2017, Adriana started counseling secondary level students to apply to pursue undergraduate studies at universities outside of Brazil, with New York University - Abu Dhabi as their first focus. Nominator Danny Parra, Senior Outreach Officer at the Institute of International Education, shared, "Adriana is a noticeable leader among her colleagues from other [schools in her network]. She has organized webinars and Skype calls with her colleagues where I guide them on how to support their students to apply to universities abroad, and she constantly emails me asking questions about the application process. I strongly believe she would greatly benefit from an opportunity like [International ACAC], and so would all the people around her professional network."



Emanuel John Tsingay is a geography teacher as well as a counselor and an administrator at The School of St Jude, a not-for-profit independent school that provides free education to almost 1,800 primary and secondary students from the poorest communities in the Arusha region of Tanzania. Through high-quality and well-rounded education, St Jude's aims to foster the next generation of leaders in Tanzania. In 2015, the school graduated its first Form 6 class.

In his role as counselor, Emanuel supports and guides students as they plan for higher education and careers; he also coordinates the development and implementation of the school's career guidance curriculum. St Jude's students have gained admission to a variety of universities in Tanzania and abroad; this list includes Stanford University in the US, Tula State University in Russia, and African Leadership University in Mauritius. Nominator Laura Kaub, Manager of Yale Young African Scholars Program, shared, "Emanuel and his predecessor have done a great job with their early cohorts, getting kids into MasterCard Foundation as well as places like Trinity College, University of Rochester, etc. with no prior training. The Scholars Program will help him build a strong program and be ready for the high numbers of full-need applicants he'll be supporting in the next few years."



Efua Adabie is the founding principal of the African Science Academy (ASA), a Ghana-based charity school that opened its doors in August 2016. ASA educates academically gifted university-bound girls who come from low-income backgrounds and are interested in pursuing careers in STEM. So far, ASA students have hailed from 9 different African countries. Efua also created and has led the college guidance program since the school's founding less than two years ago. In the very first year of the school's existence and with very limited resources and training, Efua assisted many of her students to go on to universities in Ghana as well as Minerva in the US and University of Edinburgh in the UK.

So far, ASA students have hailed from 9 different African countries. Efua also created and has led the college guidance program since the school's founding less than two years ago. In the very first year of the school's existence and with very limited resources and training, Efua assisted many of her students to go on to universities in Ghana as well as Minerva in the US and University of Edinburgh in the UK.

After being featured on CNN's Inside Africa, ASA's international recognition has increased, and it is Efua's hope to grow the school's reach and to support the STEM education of more high-achieving low-income African girls. Efua received multiple nominations for the Scholar Program, including from Ghana EducationUSA Adviser Bernice Affotey as well as Raphael Anderson of the British Council in Ghana. Another of Efua's nominators, Veronique Hob-Hob, Regional Manager for Africa at Minerva, shared, "Efua is a remarkable administrator. She cares a lot about her students and always tries to find ways to improve the quality of their learning and living environment."



Diana Patricia Londoño Morales has served as academic coordinator at Institución Educativa Policarpa Salavarrieta, the first bilingual public high school in Colombia, for the past three years. Previously, she taught English as a Foreign Language at the same school for six years. Policarpa Salavarrieta's bilingual program graduated its first class in 2016; in 2018, the program will graduate over 100 students, most of whom come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to her nominator, EducationUSA Adviser Martha Roman, Diana is "very open-minded and supportive and is aware of the importance of facilitating access to international education." With Diana's assistance as well as support and guidance from EducationUSA, two graduates are currently studying in universities abroad. It is Diana's hope that after participating in the Scholar Program, she will have the tools to guide many more of the over 100 students in each subsequent graduating class through the process of applying to universities abroad and acquiring needed financial aid and scholarships.



Ermek Esenaliev has served as Head of the English Department at International Sapat Education Institution, a network of 16 private high schools in the Kyrgyz Republic, for the past nine years. In this role, he coordinates almost 100 teachers. In 2009, Ermek voluntarily assumed the role of Sapat's first-ever careers counselor.

He mentors top students from all 16 high schools to prepare them to apply to the best universities and supervises 16 other Career and College Counselors. Ermek supports his students through the university application process by coordinating SAT/TOEFL prep classes, assisting in the completion of financial aid forms and working with them to develop and edit their personal statements and supplemental essays. With Ermek's guidance, students have enrolled in universities all over the world; this list includes, among many others, Lafayette College in the US, University of Toronto in Canada, Jacobs University in Germany, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Nominator Joan Liu, former International ACAC Vice President for Inclusion, Access, and Success, shared: "Ermek has the kind of character and openness that our best scholars have had; he would make the most of the opportunity, and would network, and would embrace all that he could. I think he can make a big impact not just in his capital city but beyond."



Gregory Dube taught History and Development Studies for 14 years and served as A-Level Coordinator at Legae Academy, one of the top independent schools in Botswana, before joining Livingstone Kolobeng College as A-Level Coordinator this January. Each year, both Legae Academy and Livingstone Kolobeng enroll

students who receive the Top Achievers Scholarship; the Government of Botswana fully funds scholarship recipients' undergraduate education in STEM fields at institutions all over the world.

Since 2009, Greg has been advising scholarship students who are interested in pursuing tertiary education outside of Botswana: he is particularly passionate about helping them choose the universities that will be the right fit for their personal needs and goals. Greg also organizes career fairs, university presentations and short internships for students and regularly liaises with organisations such as EducationUSA, WUSC and the British Council to learn more about educational options in the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Nominator Christina Callahan, Assistant Director of Admission and Financial Aid at Northwestern University, shared, "Greg does outreach work and coordinates with local public schools' staff and students, [and by participating in the International ACAC Scholar Program], he may continue to develop this network and not only aid his students at [Livingstone] but extend his reach further into the community."



James Akaba is the Country Director of Open Dreams for Cameroon. Open Dreams is a budding access organization that is a member of the HALI Access Network, which works to increase scholarship opportunities and support for high-achieving low-income students in Africa. He also serves as a science teacher at

Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bamenda. His GBHS colleague and nominator Emelda Lum shared, "He has inspired many of his most talented students to excel and apply themselves within institutions of higher learning, both within Cameroon and outside the country and continent, including the co-founder of Open Dreams, whom he had the honor of teaching some years ago."

At Open Dreams, James provides his students with academic mentorship and counseling. With his guidance, his students have enrolled in universities around the world, including Harvard, Washington & Lee, and University of Maryland in the US, McGill and Concordia in Canada, and Peoples' Friendship University in Russia.

In 2016, James was one of three teachers selected to represent Cameroon in the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program, a US State Department initiative to give outstanding teachers from all over the world an opportunity to build their teaching skills and learn more about the United States.



Maia Otiashvili has been teaching English and French since 2009 at LEPL V.Komarovi Tbilisi Physics and Mathematics N199 Public School, one of the top public schools in Georgia. She also currently serves as the school's sole university and career counselor. To enroll in her

school, students from all over Georgia take highly rigorous math and physics entrance exams.

In 2012, Maia started informing her highest-achieving students about higher education opportunities abroad. Over the years, she has sought information on her own about studying in the US to help her students find universities that are the right fit. Impressively, 15 of her students have received fully-funded offers at a variety of US universities, including MIT, University of Pennsylvania, and Duke. In addition to working at a high school, Maia is a French lecturer at International Black Sea University, where she also advises students on different exchange programs and scholarships abroad that they can take advantage of.

Nominator Julie Loveless, Associate Director of Admissions at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, shared: "I truly believe Maia would benefit from the International ACAC Scholar Program as it would allow her to be connected to a community that she hasn't even started to dream about. She is right now certainly doing a great job of figuring things out as she goes, but I can't imagine what an impact attending the conference would have for her."



Masresha Esayas is currently serving her first year as a guidance and college counselor at Lebawi Academy, a not-for-profit independent secondary school that provides quality education to high-achieving, low-income students in Ethiopia. After graduating from Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern

Africa, Masresha studied Psychology at Lake Forest College in Illinois on a full scholarship. Upon returning to her native Ethiopia after working in Chicago for a year, Masresha got the opportunity to volunteer as a college counselor at Lebawi. A few months later, she was hired as the school's first official counselor. This means that over the past year she has been responsible for building the department on the Lebawi Academy framework of unlocking each student's potential and helping them become fully expressed human beings.

Masresha's work with her students is driven by her own personal experience of the transformative power of education. She guides all her senior students through every step of the college application process -- from SAT practice tests to financial aid application workshops; she also works closely with all faculty members on recommendation letters. Additionally, she helps her juniors apply to summer programs around the world. In the previous year, Lebawi sent students to China, Ghana, Uganda, India and USA under the Yale Young Global/African Scholars summer programs with full scholarships. Masresha was nominated by her former university adviser at Waterford Kamhlaba United World College, John Storer.



For over ten years, **Rabi Prasad Baral** has served as the Principal of Gandaki Boarding School (GBS) and Gandaki College of Engineering and Science (GCES), which are considered among the best academic institutions in all of Nepal. He has over three decades of dedication towards quality education in Nepal. As principal of GBS, Rabi has strengthened the school's scholarship fund so it can continue to provide free education to academically gifted yet economically disadvantaged students from all over Nepal.


Rabi has offered career counseling to his students in the form of career talks at assemblies, visits to tertiary institutions and universities, and motivational talks from professionals. Additionally, he has been organizing and hosting a seminar on career guidance and further studies at GBS with support from the US Embassy in Nepal and EducationUSA Nepal since 2008. So far, more than two hundred of his students have successfully enrolled in universities across the US.

Nominator Priyani Shah, an EducationUSA adviser in Nepal, shared: "Rabi has been very supportive in hosting US university mini-fairs at his school. He has been very kind to welcome students from other schools in his town to the mini-fairs so that they also benefit from it. I feel that the Scholar Program would help him get in-depth knowledge of US higher education. He would share his knowledge upon his return with his students as well as other students in the community."




Vanja Rakočević has been serving as a pedagogue (school counselor) since 2006 at the Slobodan Skerovic Gymnasium, the largest and one of the best high schools in Montenegro. Vanja is also the president of the Pedagogue Association of Montenegro, as well as expert associate of the SOS Telefon Podgorica and the Pedagogical Center of Montenegro. Her project on prevention and combating violence and hate speech online has been implemented in more than 15 high schools.

In a graduating class of over 300 students, 20% apply to universities outside of Montenegro. With Vanja's guidance, her students have enrolled in a wide variety of universities, including Brown University, Jacksonville University, and Lehigh University in the US; University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and Queen Mary University of London in the UK; Bocconi University in Italy; and countless others. Nominator Anica Vujnovic, EducationUSA adviser in Montenegro, shared, "I am positive that getting Vanja to the conference would benefit not just Vanja and EducationUSA but all other people in our country who are involved in university application processes." Through participating in the Scholar Program, Vanja hopes to find "new ways of providing university counseling to students", including ideas on structuring a counseling program, on reaching more students, and on motivating students to play a more active role in the university counseling process.



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