Committee & Task Force

Annual Plans

2026–2027

Charges, strategies, and timelines from the chairs of the 18 ACES committees and 4 task forces

ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELOR EDUCATION AND SUPERVISION

acesonline.net

The Committees and Task Forces

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE	CHAIRS / CO-CHAIRS
COMMITTEES	
Awards Committee	Laura Smestad and Sumedha Therthani
Budget and Finance Committee	Shawn Spurgeon
Bylaws and Resolutions Committee	Chi Li and Malti Tuttle
Continuing Education / Webinar Committee	Brittany G. Suggs and Carlton J. Henderson
Counseling Advisory Committee	Bailey MacLeod and Christine Karper
Government Relations and Public Policy Committee	Diana Charnley and Katie Wood
Grant Development Committee	Patrick Mullen and Melanie Calhoun
Graduate Student Committee	Saiber Shaikh
Human Rights and Social Justice Committee	Kevin McCracken and Ana Valenzuela-Feliz
Leadership and Advocacy Committee	Bentley Eskridge
Membership Committee	Madeline Castle
Nominations and Elections Committee	Spencer Niles
Product Development Committee	Ray Blanchard
Research Committee	Daniel DeCino
State Divisions Committee	Hana Meshesha and Derrick Shepard
Strategic Planning Committee	Heather Dahl-Jacinto
Supervision Committee	Justin Lauka and Staci Tessmer
Teaching Committee	Gabriel Lomas
TASK FORCES	
AI Task Force	Yusen Zhai and Hannah Coyt
International Scholarship Task Force	Ching-Chen Chen and Silvia Reyes
Leadership Academy	Clark Ausloos and Alisha Guthery
Research Grants	Harvey Peters and Gerta Bardhoshi

Awards Committee

CHAIRS	Laura Smestad and Sumedha Therthani

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Review award criteria, nomination processes, and rubrics to ensure clarity, equity, and alignment with ACES priorities.
2	Develop and implement a strategy to increase nominations for historically underutilized awards.
3	Create an annual communication plan highlighting award recipients and the impact of their contributions.

STRATEGIES

1. In June, we completed a comprehensive review and revision of award criteria, rubrics, and scoring processes to improve clarity, consistency, and equity.
2. After receiving a record number of nominations this year, we plan to continue putting out the call for nominations in March. We will review awards that received relatively few nominations this year and discuss with the committee whether any should be removed or merged with other awards.
3. We will meet with the committee to determine a timeline to highlight recipients and develop a communication plan for how to feature the impact of their work.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Charge 1	Co-chairs
Charge 2	Committee
Charge 3	Committee

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

The anticipated outcomes are increased clarity, transparency, and equity in the awards process, increased awareness and nominations for historically underutilized awards, and greater visibility of award recipients and the impact of their contributions to counselor education and supervision.

TIMELINE

November 2026	Full committee meeting to discuss future timelines.

End of December 2026	Decisions on whether we will eliminate or consolidate awards.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

We would like to request more committee members for next year's awards cycle, as we recruited 6 additional reviewers this year to process the number of nominations received. If that is not feasible, we can put out a separate call for additional reviewers like we did this year.

Budget and Finance Committee

CHAIRS	Shawn Spurgeon

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Review and recommend updates to ACES financial policies and procedures.
2	Monitor financial performance and provide quarterly recommendations to the Governing Council regarding budget priorities in concert with the treasurer and ED.
3	Develop a long-term financial sustainability framework that includes reserve targets and investment oversight recommendations aligned with the ACES Strategic Plan (ending in 2031).

STRATEGIES

We scheduled a meeting and will provide this information at the next ACES regional leadership meeting on November 13.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Same as above; detailed report provided on November 13.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Same as above.

TIMELINE

Information provided at the next ACES regional meeting.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

CHAIRS Chi Li and Malti Tuttle

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Present recommendations regarding regional bylaw alignment and assist regions with implementation.
2	Conduct a comprehensive review of ACES bylaws and identify sections requiring revision.
3	Develop a standardized annual process for reviewing governance documents and resolutions.

STRATEGIES

We will meet to discuss specific plans for each charge and divide the work equally among all the committee members.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Tasks will be shared among all committee members.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Complete all three charges.

TIMELINE

By the end of the year.

Continuing Education / Webinar Committee

CHAIRS Brittany G. Suggs and Carlton J. Henderson

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Coordinate and evaluate the ACES webinar and home-study educational offerings.
2	Develop guidelines and processes for region- and interest-network-sponsored continuing education programming.
3	Assess member educational needs and recommend future continuing education topics.

STRATEGIES

Committee Planning and Tracking Document

Charge 1: ACES Webinars and Home Study

We will conduct virtual moderator training and assign designated committee members to support each live webinar session. Additionally, we will coordinate the collection of home study materials (including recordings, presentations, and multiple-choice questions) via a centralized submission portal.

Charge 2: Region and Interest Network Continuing Education Opportunities

To maintain quality assurance, the committee will distribute the standardized ACES Continuing Education review rubric, approved quiz templates, and Zoom taping guidelines to all Regional and Interest Network designees.

Charge 2: Pilot Management

We will manage a pilot continuing education program specifically for Interest Networks. We will gather participation data and network feedback to conduct formal reviews at the one-year mark.

Charge 3: Data Review

We will analyze existing evaluation data, attendance records, and proposal topic trends to identify preliminary gaps in continuing education offerings.

Charge 3: Survey Deployment

We will draft, finalize, and distribute a comprehensive member educational needs assessment survey targeting topic priorities, respondent career stages, and barriers to participation.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

See the Committee Planning and Tracking Document

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Seamless Educational Delivery

The successful coordination and delivery of the 2026-2027 webinar season, alongside the completion of the 2027-2028 proposal cycle and final date selections.

Centralized CE Repository

Approved regional and Interest Network recorded sessions will be published securely on the ACES Learning Management System. This approach will enable the automatic posting of earned CE credits to individual member transcripts.

Evidence-Based Future Programming

The member needs assessment data will directly inform the 2027-2028 national webinar selections. Furthermore, these findings will be shared with designees to guide future Regional and Interest Network continuing education offerings.

Comprehensive Accountability and Reporting

The submission of a thorough end-of-year committee report to the ACES Governing Council. This report will detail attendance, CE hours awarded, pilot reassessments, and recommended provision revisions for future terms.

TIMELINE

See the Committee Planning and Tracking Document

Counseling Advisory Committee

CHAIRS Bailey MacLeod and Christine Karper

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Develop a counseling-practice-focused resource relevant to counselor education and supervision.
2	Monitor Counseling Compact developments and provide updates and recommendations to ACES leadership. Assign a committee member to attend CC meetings and report to the President/ED after each.
3	Identify emerging counseling practice issues and recommend resources or programming to support ACES members.

STRATEGIES

1. The committee has delegated relevant ideas related to counseling practice to interested members. The committee will provide draft proposals on relevant topics in counseling to the Executive Director and ACES President for review and proposal by September 30th. The committee plans on producing one relevant resource by the end of the term.
2. A committee member has already attended one Counseling Compact meeting on 9/2/2026 and provided a summary report to Dr. Duncan and President Clark. The committee will continue sending at least one member to attend each meeting, and provide a summary report along with any committee recommendations.
3. The committee will meet monthly to review emerging issues and trends in the counseling field and provide resources to the ED and President as needed.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

1. All committee members have taken up ideas to explore.
2. Dr. MacLeod has agreed to attend CC meetings.
3. Members will bring relevant information to each monthly meeting of the committee.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Providing at least one resource for the ACES community about counseling practice issues.
2. Keep the ACES community updated on the developments of the CC.
3. Keep the ACES community aware of emerging issues/trends in counseling.

TIMELINE

By end of term.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Feedback on proposal drafts as provided to ACES.

Government Relations and Public Policy Committee

CHAIRS Diana Charnley and Katie Wood

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Develop and maintain a legislative resource hub for counselor educators and supervisors in collaboration with ACES partners.
2	Establish a coordinated process for monitoring and communicating state and federal policy developments affecting counselor education.
3	Collaborate with ACES committees and external organizations to develop at least one advocacy-focused member resource or event.

STRATEGIES

1. Continue to develop the existing Google spreadsheet with federal and state resources and identify publication options.
2. Explore resources for tracking federal and state policy updates and identify a communication platform and identified audience for receiving updates (i.e., Quorum.us, govtrack.us, legiscan.com). Collaborate with NBCC CULE to keep ACES GRPP and Leadership apprised of developments.
3. Discuss resources and platforms with ACES leadership, NBCC CULE, CSI, etc. to publish advocacy-focused resources.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

GRPP

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. An updated spreadsheet of resources to contribute to ACES members' increased awareness of increased resources across the U.S.
2. Identify additional resources and platforms to increase communication and awareness of legislative needs in Counselor Education.
3. Increased collaboration with partner organizations to promote resources surrounding federal and state legislation and advocacy opportunities.

TIMELINE

December 2026; March 2027; June 2027.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

More clarity on the scale of charge #3 or examples of what this might look like; greater understanding of the distinction between the GRPP and Advocacy Committees.

Grant Development Task Force

CHAIRS Patrick Mullen and Melanie Calhoun

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

Our committee did not receive a charge. However, we have been in contact with ACES, and we agreed to use this year to recalibrate, given the launch of the ACES Research Center. Therefore, our charge is to work alongside ACES staff and leadership to develop a new plan for this committee's work.

STRATEGIES

Regular meetings and effective communication within the committee, and with ACES staff and leadership.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

The co-chairs, Patrick Mullen and Melanie Calhoun, with the help of our committee members.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Our grant development academy activities will be smoothly integrated into the ACES Research Center and ready to launch for the 2027-2028 year.

TIMELINE

We will use the fall for planning, and launch our new program starting in the spring (recruitment for the 2027-2028 year).

Graduate Student Committee

CHAIRS Saiber Shaikh

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Develop resources that increase graduate student awareness of ACES leadership, scholarship, and service opportunities.
2	Strengthen communication and collaboration among Regional Graduate Student Representatives.
3	Create recommendations to enhance graduate student engagement and retention within ACES.

STRATEGIES

- Hold Graduate Student Meetings twice a semester (already met in Summer and once now in Fall).
- Create a group chat to communicate more effectively and faster, especially during conference season.
- Supported the planning for graduate student events at all region conferences.
- Started having a more active social media presence, as grad students are more likely to check information through Instagram.
- I am encouraging GSRs to be more proactive during conference season and have listed a timeline they need to work within.
- I am planning on supporting an active Graduate Student Committee within each region so students have an avenue to find support and community.
- At the end of the conference, I plan to send a Graduate Student Survey so we can do better next time during conference season.
- In spring (and/or maybe Fall?), I plan to start an Accountability Buddy Match Up program for body doubling and support, a weekly writing group, and a monthly social hang.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

- I am taking on most of the charges as the current GSR.
- Maria (GSR-Elect) is in charge of the social media posts.
- Region GSRs are handling the conference events with our support.
- Region GSRs will also be working towards creating an active Graduate Student Committee.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

More graduate student belonging and opportunities to connect for students across regions. Awareness of ACES opportunities and engagement on the region and national level. Information for recommendations on how to improve things for our graduate students.

TIMELINE

Fall 2026 to Spring 2027.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Help with the Graduate Student Survey so we can ask relevant questions, and discussion of possible ideas that graduate students brought up.

Human Rights and Social Justice Committee

CHAIRS Kevin McCracken and Ana Valenzuela-Feliz

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Develop a framework for coordinating social justice initiatives across ACES committees and interest networks by connecting with relevant committee chairs/interest networks.
2	Produce at least one member-facing resource addressing current human rights or social justice issues affecting counselor education (white paper, newsletter, etc.).
3	Monitor emerging legislation and sociopolitical issues and provide periodic updates to ACES leadership and membership as needed.

STRATEGIES

We will establish a framework for coordinating social justice initiatives via web searching, email, and networking. The committee is currently working on producing content about the use of AI in CES, but from a social justice perspective and not a logistical or technical perspective. This content might end up as a white paper, presentation, newsletter article, and/or podcast.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

The responsibilities are diffuse at this point. Each of us will network as we attend conferences. I will contact each regional president seeking DEI-related contacts. The creation of content is nascent, and we have not yet assigned responsibilities.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

We will deliver a list of DEI-related committees and positions across the association, with contact information for each. The AI-related content will manifest as a presentation, Let's Talk podcast, roundtable discussion, and/or white paper.

TIMELINE

These tasks will be completed by June 30, 2027.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Committee member Lauren Shure stepped down from the committee to accept a leadership position within ACES that aligns more closely with her new administrative duties as an associate dean.

Leadership and Advocacy Committee

CHAIRS	Bentley Eskridge

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Updating/revising the Leadership & Advocacy Guide.
2	ACES Let's Talk Series.
3	Recommendations for strengthening leadership development across ACES.

STRATEGIES

Consistently meeting with the L&A committee, community engagement, focus groups.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

As of our first meeting, we are addressing each charge as a full group.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Comprehensive strategies to strengthen leadership development, an updated resource guide, and a Let's Talk Leadership panel conversation.

TIMELINE

Term year.

Membership Committee

CHAIRS Madeline Castle

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Launch and evaluate a new member orientation resource and membership benefits campaign in concert with the President, ED, and GC.
2	Develop recommendations for strengthening the ACES leadership pipeline through member engagement initiatives.
3	Assess membership trends and provide recommendations for recruitment and retention strategies.

STRATEGIES

1. Create a short new-member orientation toolkit (welcome video, benefits guide, 90-day checklist) and collaborate with the Social Media team to disseminate; then evaluate through a 3-month new-member survey and benefit uptake.
2. Map clear entry points into leadership (e.g., a “get involved” webinar) and use social media to profile current leaders' pathways and amplify volunteer calls.
3. Analyze 3 to 5 years of membership data and lapsed-member feedback to target retention gaps, especially the student-to-professional transition, with recruitment posts timed to renewal and graduation seasons.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Our first meeting is scheduled to take place on October 15. No assignments have been given quite yet.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. New members engage with ACES benefits sooner, with higher first-year satisfaction and renewal.
2. A larger and more diverse pool of volunteers and nominees, especially students and early-career members.
3. Data-informed recruitment and retention recommendations, leading to improved renewal rates and better student-to-professional membership conversion.

TIMELINE

As soon as we meet we should have a stronger idea of this! Wanted to respect the extended deadline and share what all I have thus far; happy to resubmit after our meeting tomorrow.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

I've reached out to the Social Media team but have not heard back; happy to follow up or attend a group meeting if we can get something coordinated.

Nominations and Elections Committee

CHAIRS Spencer Niles

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1 Review nomination and elections procedures and policies. Make recommendations for any changes to the Board.

STRATEGIES

Committee meeting and confer with the President and Executive Director.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Committee.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Recommendations for changes that will enhance the nominations and elections process.

TIMELINE

By mid-November.

Product Development Committee

CHAIRS	Ray Blanchard

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Review ACES interest network and committee digital resources for alignment with ACES standards and priorities.
2	Evaluate and recommend new products, technologies, or member resources for ACES.
3	Review the ACES website for areas that need updates related to content and/or accessibility (along with other suggestions as you see fit).

STRATEGIES

Planning a committee meeting in the fall with follow-up in January to have completed by April (if not sooner).

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

To be determined.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Based on the presenting charges, we aim to provide substantive feedback to help with the website and increase the use of the website and the information provided.

TIMELINE

Completion by April 2027.

Research Committee

CHAIRS Daniel DeCino

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Work collaboratively with the ACES Research Center to identify training needs and identify under-researched areas that could be emphasized in the next ACES Research Grants call.
2	Host an ACES Let's Talk Research event focused on emerging research methodologies and trends.
3	Explore partnerships that support research dissemination and collaboration among ACES members.

STRATEGIES

1. We've already reached out to the ACES Research Center.
2. We are meeting in October to finalize a time in the Spring when we're available. We've already started generating a list of methodologies we're well versed with and hope to speak to that at the Let's Talk Research event.
3. We've begun to explore who might be a good partnership for disseminating and collaborating among ACES members.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

At this point, we're relatively taking on all tasks. Chanel R. has offered to take the lead and connect with the ACES Research Center director, Maribeth Jorgensen.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

We hope to have generated a connection for charge 1. For charge 2, I think our group will offer a diverse range of different topics to discuss. For charge 3, we hope to have a good list and interest with those who wish to disseminate research more within our discipline.

TIMELINE

We hope to have all charges completed by the end of the Spring semester.

State Divisions Committee

CHAIRS Hana Meshesha and Derrick Shepard

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Develop and maintain resources to support the formation, revitalization, and sustainability of state divisions.
2	Facilitate regular communication opportunities among state division leaders (e.g., quarterly meetings).
3	Create an annual report summarizing the status, needs, and accomplishments of ACES state divisions to share with the ED/GC and with ACES members.

STRATEGIES

1. Dissemination of the resources included in last year's annual report.
2. Host two sessions with ACES state division leaders. The sessions are tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2026 at 12:30pm MST (2:30pm EST) and during the week of April 13, 2027 (Tuesday at 2:30pm EST).
3. Collect data through a Google Form asking state divisions about their status, needs, and accomplishments, and create a summary of that survey.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

All members.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Address the charges given to the State Divisions Committee.

TIMELINE

April 2027.

Strategic Planning Committee

CHAIRS	Heather Dahl-Jacinto

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Finalize and disseminate the ACES Strategic Plan.
2	Develop measurable benchmarks and reporting mechanisms for strategic plan implementation.
3	Conduct an annual review of progress toward strategic goals and provide recommendations to the Governing Council.

STRATEGIES

1. The committee will finalize the strategic plan and send it to the EC. Dissemination will be supported by the committee through direction of the GC.
2. In consultation with the ACES GC, we will assist with roll-out of the strategic plan through information items to committees and members (e.g., write-ups, videos).
3. Since this is the roll-out year, we will meet with committees based on any questions they may have related to the new strategic plan.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

1. Committee led by Chair
2. Chair and committee members as needed
3. Chair and committee members as needed

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Successful dissemination of the new strategic plan!

TIMELINE

This is still TBD based on final approval of the strategic plan, but I anticipate late fall/early spring will be the biggest roll-out time.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Happy to do this! Our committee is excited to see the strategic plan through this year.

Supervision Committee

CHAIRS Justin Lauka and Staci Tessmer

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Complete revisions to the ACES Best Practices in Supervision document.
2	Develop and disseminate supervision-focused educational resources, webinars, or training modules related to Best Practices documents.
3	Create a plan for ongoing review and updating of supervision standards and resources.

STRATEGIES

Charge 1: Best Practices in Supervision revisions

- Adhere to the approved timeline with adjusted deadlines.
  - Finalize the Delphi Method (e.g., expert panel inclusionary criteria and size; development of questionnaire, rounds of interviews, etc.).
  - Submit IRB application.
  - Establish clear roles and division of labor across committee chairs, members, principal investigator, and graduate assistant collaborators.
  - Maintain a schedule for routine updates with the ACES EC, consistent with the timeline.

Charge 2: Supervision resources

- Develop a one-page summary document and PowerPoint presentation, including visual diagrams depicting the Best Practices revision process and current status.
- Disseminate materials and participate in the ACES Let's Talk Series, discussing the process.

Charge 3: Ongoing review plan

- Review peer professional organizations' policies and procedures for developing and revising professional standards and guidelines (e.g., APA, NASW/CSWE, AMA, ACGME, etc.).
  - Analyze the data to determine frequent processes and procedures (e.g., establishing terminology, structure of working group, feedback mechanisms, timelines, etc.).
  - Develop a proposed plan for ongoing review and revision of standards with consideration of the literature reviewed and the needs and context of ACES.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Charge 1	Committee Co-Chairs in collaboration with Principal Investigator (Dr. Gulsah Kemer)
Charge 2	Committee members in collaboration with committee chair for secondary support
Charge 3	Committee members in collaboration with committee chair for secondary support

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Charge 1

- A draft of the revised ACES Best Practices in Supervision ready for review and comment by the professional membership.

Charge 2

- Increased transparency and membership engagement in the Best Practices in Supervision revision process.
- A historical account of the revision process to support future revision efforts.

Charge 3

- Proposed plan for the ongoing review of supervision standards and resources.

TIMELINE

February 2026	Charge 1: 2011 Task Force Survey completed (revision in progress).
Late January 2027	Charge 2: Develop materials.
Spring 2027	Charge 2: Participate in Let's Talk Series.
May 2027	Charge 3: Proposed plan completed.
June 1, 2027	Charge 1: Completion of 4 rounds of expert panel feedback.
July 1, 2027	Charge 1: Call for feedback to members of the ACES Supervision Interest Network.
Oct/Nov 2027	Charge 1: Committee presents and receives feedback from the ACES membership at the ACES Semi-annual Conference.

See the complete Best Practices revision timeline for further information.

Teaching Committee

CHAIRS Gabriel Lomas

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Expand the Teaching Toolkit through targeted calls for submissions and systematic peer review.
2	Develop and pilot a teaching demonstration or teaching spotlight initiative.
3	Create recommendations for maintaining the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of teaching resources.

STRATEGIES

1. Using our committee, we will make recommendations to ACES to access listservs and other member networks to make calls for submissions. We will use our expanded team to undertake the peer review process.
2. We plan to use our “Let's Talk Teaching” webinar to talk about what we would like to see in a strong lesson, giving more insight to contributors to the toolkit. We will also solicit videos from members for highlighting.
3. We will use our team to address quality control, access, and sustainability of the toolkit.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Gabe and Justin.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Growth in submissions to our toolkit.
2. The first publications to our resource page will happen this year.
3. We will receive at least one video demonstration.
4. We will refine our toolkit with a framework that addresses quality, accessibility, and sustainability.

TIMELINE

Each of these outcomes can be completed by May 2027.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

We were able to expand our committee. Once we begin to receive proposals, we will determine if we need ad hoc reviewers. I anticipate we will have many proposals to review, and I don't want to tax our committee members.

Task Forces

AI Task Force · International Scholarship Task Force · Leadership Academy · Research Grants

AI Task Force

CHAIRS	Yusen Zhai and Hannah Coyt

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Update and expand AI guidance documents and resources for counselor educators and supervisors.
2	Develop educational programming addressing ethical and effective AI use in counseling, supervision, and teaching.
3	Produce a scholarly or professional publication/presentation summarizing current best practices and emerging issues related to AI.

STRATEGIES

1. Write an ACES AI guidance report for counselor educators and supervisors. Draw on current literature and policy (NBCC, ACA, and AASCB guidance; state regulation), including a decision-making framework, supervision and teaching guidance, syllabus statements, and a companion repository of tools and resources.
2. Develop and deliver webinars and conference sessions to address ethical and effective AI use in counseling, supervision, and teaching.
3. Write a manuscript/conference proposal on best practices and emerging issues and submit them.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

All members will collaborate on the tasks, and each task will be assigned a lead as follows:

Charge 1	Yusen Zhai
Charge 2	Hannah Coyt
Charge 3	Xihe Tian

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. A new ACES AI guidance report and a searchable repository of resources and AI tools.
2. At least one webinar or training for educators and supervisors, and one conference session.
3. One publication or presentation, plus newsletter content.

TIMELINE

By December 1, 2027	Present webinars on the topic of AI in counseling practice, counselor education, and research.
By March 30, 2027	Complete a full report draft, plan programming, and submit conference proposals.
By April 30, 2027	Release the report and repository, and deliver programming. Complete the manuscript draft.
By June 30, 2027	Finalize the publication or presentation and submit the end-of-year report.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. AI policy is changing quickly, so the report may need updates beyond this term.
2. The committee is seeking opportunities to write an invited commentary or a consensus journal article for ACES outlets, such as the CES and TPB journals. These publications will focus on best practices and emerging issues regarding AI in CES and the counseling profession as a whole.

International Scholarship Task Force

CHAIRS Ching-Chen Chen and Silvia Reyes

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Assess the current state of international scholarship engagement within ACES and identify opportunities to strengthen global collaboration, research, and professional exchange.
2	Develop recommendations for increasing international participation in ACES through conferences, publications, webinars, leadership opportunities, and collaborative scholarship initiatives.
3	Create a strategic framework for fostering sustainable partnerships with international counselor education organizations, scholars, and institutions that align with the ACES mission and strategic priorities.

STRATEGIES

Charge 1

We will compile and review existing international contacts, partnerships, organizations, and institutional connections to assess international scholarship engagement within ACES. We will develop a brief survey to identify international partners' interests, expectations, and priorities for collaboration. We will also work collaboratively with the Counselor Education and Supervision (CES) editor to review international submission data and better understand international scholars' engagement with the journal. International counseling leaders will be invited to share information about counseling systems, counselor education, research, and professional structures in their countries to identify opportunities for global collaboration and professional exchange.

Charge 2

We will develop webinars or research training opportunities focused on international scholarship and cross-national research collaboration. We will explore international panels and forums at ACES conferences, opportunities for international scholars to contribute to ACES publications in editorial or scholarly roles, and scholarships or funding to support international participation in ACES conferences and activities. In collaboration with the CES editor, we will discuss the possibility of developing a special issue to encourage international research collaborations and increase submissions from international scholars. We will also create opportunities for U.S.-based counselor educators and students to learn about international counseling perspectives and how to initiate international research collaborations. ACES communication channels will be used to promote international scholarship opportunities, including special issues, grants, and awards.

Charge 3

We will use the international partner directory and insights from CES international submission data to identify strategic partnership priorities. We will build relationships with counseling associations, counselor education programs, universities, ministries, and international scholars whose work aligns with ACES priorities. We will develop criteria for selecting and sustaining partnerships that emphasize reciprocal research, scholarship, professional exchange, and counselor education. We will also explore formal and informal partnership mechanisms, including memoranda of understanding when appropriate, to support sustainable collaboration.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Charge 1

Silvia will upload the existing directory of international contacts and organizations. Saiber will draft the preliminary international partner survey. Injung will reach out to Korean counseling leaders and potential international contributors. Ching-Chen and Hsin-Ya will contact counseling leaders in South Korea, Taiwan, and Malaysia, while Adenike will contact counselor educators in Nigeria and Ghana. Ching-Chen will work with the CES editor to review international submission data. All members will identify additional international partners and contribute information about existing connections. Ching-Chen and Silvia will compile findings and organize recommendations.

Charge 2

Hsin-Ya and Injung will identify potential presenters, panelists, collaborators, and scholars for webinars. Ching-Chen and Silvia will work with ACES leadership to explore webinar procedures, CEU requirements, and marketing processes. Ching-Chen will work with the CES editor to discuss the possibility of a special issue that encourages international research collaborations and increases submissions from international scholars.

Charge 3

All members will identify potential strategic partners, contribute to the shared annual-plan document, and facilitate introductions to international leaders through existing professional networks. Ching-Chen will share insights from collaboration with the CES editor and international submission data to inform partnership priorities and the strategic framework.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Charge 1

Anticipated outcomes include an initial map of ACES-related international relationships and potential partners, a better understanding of international partners' needs and expectations, and identification of priority countries, organizations, and areas for research and professional exchange. Collaboration with the CES editor will provide a clearer understanding of international submission patterns and opportunities to strengthen international scholars' engagement with the journal.

Charge 2

Anticipated outcomes include at least one proposed international research or professional development webinar or training initiative and recommendations for increasing international participation in conferences, publications, collaborative research, and scholarly exchange. Discussions with the CES editor will clarify the feasibility and potential focus of a special issue designed to encourage international collaboration and

submissions from international scholars. These efforts are expected to expand opportunities for international scholars and U.S.-based ACES members to engage in global scholarship.

Charge 3

Anticipated outcomes include an initial list of priority organizations and institutions for engagement and a strategic framework for developing and sustaining international partnerships. The framework will establish criteria for selecting partners and a clear process for moving from initial contact to collaborative scholarship, professional exchange, and possible formal partnerships. Insights from CES international submission data will help inform partnership priorities.

TIMELINE

Fall 2026	Charge 1: Develop the international partner directory and survey, begin outreach to selected international partners, and initiate discussions with the CES editor to review international submission data. Findings and priority areas for future collaboration will be summarized in the initial or annual report.
Fall 2026	Charge 2: Identify potential webinar presenters and collaborators, explore webinar and CEU procedures with ACES leadership, and begin discussions with the CES editor about a potential special issue.
Fall 2026	Charge 3: Identify priority partners and develop an initial strategic framework, drawing on the partner directory and available CES international submission data.
Spring 2027	Charge 2: Begin implementing feasible webinar, training, and conference initiatives. Longer-term recommendations will inform future ACES conference and publication planning. Any special issue timeline will be developed in consultation with the CES editor.
Spring 2027	Charge 3: Strengthen relationships, pilot selected collaborations, and refine the framework based on initial experiences and partner feedback.

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Charge 1

We request information about existing ACES international partnerships and available international membership and engagement data, including conference participation. Support in coordinating with the CES editor to review available aggregate international submission data would help identify opportunities to strengthen international scholarship engagement.

Charge 2

We request clarification regarding CEU approval, webinar platforms and technical support, ACES marketing channels, and conference programming procedures. We also seek information about possible funding for international speakers and participants. Support for exploring a potential special issue with the CES editor would be helpful, with publication decisions guided by the journal's editorial processes.

Charge 3

We request Governing Council guidance on which international partnerships to prioritize and what level of formal ACES approval is required. Information about legal review requirements and ACES procedures for potential memoranda of understanding or contracts would support the development of sustainable partnerships aligned with ACES's mission and strategic priorities.

Leadership Academy

CHAIRS Clark Ausloos and Alisha Guthery

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Continue the Leadership Academy and make plans for its continued improvement.
2	Based on conversations with Dr. Kelly Duncan and President Dr. Maddie Clark: establish a Leadership Academy presence at the 2027 ACES Conference, including a community gathering and a pre-conference opportunity to showcase Academy artifacts.

STRATEGIES

Charge 1: Continue and improve the Leadership Academy

- Sustain the tiered structure. Maintain the four-tier model built in FY 2026 (Advisory Council, Mentors, Associate Mentors, and Mentees), which absorbed high mentor interest without diluting mentor-mentee connection.
- Resume the monthly cadence in September. Subgroups return to monthly meetings after the intentional summer pause, preserving the rhythm established in February 2026.
- Carry artifacts to completion. Move the 24 subgroups from proposal to finished deliverable. Advisory Council feedback on the June 2026 proposals is delivered by September 2026 as supportive input, explicitly not redirection.
- Add lightweight progress check-ins. Establish brief, low-burden touchpoints between Co-Chairs and subgroup leads across the six leadership categories, replacing ad hoc follow-up with a predictable rhythm.
- Formalize the Advisory Council as connective tissue. Define its role in writing (alumni engagement, institutional memory, artifact feedback) so continuity does not depend on individual chairs.
- Preserve the design philosophy. The Academy is deliberately less structured than conventional mentorship programs, treating lived experience in community as curriculum. Improvements strengthen scaffolding without converting the model into a prescribed reading program.
- Sustain cross-committee alignment. Continue conversations with the Leadership & Advocacy Committee and open alignment with the Membership Committee so the Academy is explicitly situated within the ACES leadership pipeline.

Charge 2: ACES 2027 Conference presence

- Propose a pre-conference event reviewing Academy artifacts and highlighting the community's work, as a capstone showcase of Academy outcomes.
- Plan a conference gathering for mentors, mentees, and alumni, building on the informal gathering that occurred at the 2025 ACES Conference.

- Coordinate early with ACES leadership on format, timing, and any space or budget implications.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Co-Chairs (Dr. Clark Ausloos, Dr. Alisha Guthery)	Overall coordination, subgroup check-ins, cross-committee alignment, ACES 2027 proposal development, Governing Council communication.
Dr. Alisha Guthery	Newsletter intake, editorial coordination, and submission to the ACES Executive Director.
Advisory Council	Experienced mentors and associate mentors from prior cohorts: supportive feedback on subgroup artifact proposals, alumni engagement, institutional memory, and support for the ACES 2027 showcase.
Mentors and Associate Mentors (44 across 24 subgroups)	Facilitate monthly subgroup meetings and guide artifact development within their leadership category.
Subgroup leads	Own artifact completion, report status at check-ins, and identify newsletter-ready material.
Mentees	Active participation in subgroup work and co-creation of deliverables.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Structural

- The four-tier model (Advisory Council / Mentors / Associate Mentors / Mentees) operates through a full year and is documented well enough to hand to future chairs.
- The Advisory Council has a written role description and a defined feedback function, making alumni engagement a structure rather than an informal habit.
- Monthly subgroup cadence holds across all six leadership categories from September 2026 through May 2027.

Programmatic

- A substantial majority of the 24 subgroups complete their artifacts: journal articles, podcast series, programs of care, best-practice documents, community projects, and newsletter submissions.
- Completed artifacts are catalogued in a form that can be showcased at ACES 2027 and shared with the broader membership.
- A nine-article newsletter series runs September 2026 through May 2027, with a queue maintained at least two months ahead.

Relational and positional

- A Leadership Academy proposal is submitted for ACES 2027, with a community gathering planned alongside it.

- The Academy's relationship to the Leadership & Advocacy Committee is clarified, with at least one joint activity attempted.
- Participants report sustained connection and community, the outcome the model was designed to produce.

TIMELINE

Sept 2026	Academy resumes regular rhythm; subgroups restart monthly meetings. Advisory Council delivers supportive feedback on artifact proposals submitted via the project/artifact spreadsheet. (Co-Chairs; Advisory Council)
Sept 2026	Newsletter series relaunches; first FY2027 article submitted to ACES Executive Director. (Dr. Guthery, newsletter lead)
Oct 2026	Chairs launch lightweight check-ins with subgroup leads across all six leadership categories. (Co-Chairs; subgroup leads)
Oct-Nov 2026	Alignment meeting with Leadership & Advocacy Committee; scope a joint “Let's Talk” webinar and confirm the Academy's place in the ACES leadership pipeline. (Co-Chairs; L&A Committee liaison)
Nov-Dec 2026	Draft and submit ACES 2027 pre-conference/conference proposal per ACES submission process. (Co-Chairs; Advisory Council)
Jan 2027	Mid-year review: subgroup artifact status audit; Advisory Council role formalized in writing. (Co-Chairs; Advisory Council)
Feb-Mar 2027	Joint “Let's Talk” webinar with Leadership & Advocacy Committee, if scheduling permits. (Co-Chairs; L&A Committee)
Mar-Apr 2027	Artifact completion push; identify which artifacts are conference-ready and which route to the newsletter. (Subgroup leads; Co-Chairs)
Apr 2027	Confirm ACES 2027 conference gathering logistics with ACES leadership. (Co-Chairs)
May 2027	Ninth and final newsletter article of the Sept-May series submitted. (Dr. Guthery)
May 1, 2027	FY2027 End of Year Report submitted to ACES. (Co-Chairs)
Summer 2027	Intentional pause. Optional subgroup work at each group's own capacity; newsletter submissions still accepted. (All)

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Budget

No additional funding is requested at this time. Should the ACES 2027 pre-conference event move forward, we may return to the Governing Council with a request tied to space or materials.

Research Grants

CHAIRS Harvey Peters and Gerta Bardhoshi

CHARGES FOR 2026–2027

1	Administer annual ACES research grant competitions and review processes.
2	Evaluate the impact of funded projects and develop a process for sharing outcomes with members (e.g., newsletter + social media).
3	Review grant categories and funding priorities to ensure alignment with ACES strategic goals and strategic plan.

STRATEGIES

1. Develop and maintain a clear annual grant cycle that includes updated application materials, eligibility criteria, review procedures, scoring rubrics, reviewer guidance, timelines, and communication with applicants. Recruit and coordinate qualified reviewers, support consistency across the review process, and identify opportunities to improve efficiency, transparency, and fairness.
2. Establish a systematic process for collecting final reports and key outcomes from funded projects, including publications, presentations, practice implications, student involvement, and other scholarly or professional products. Develop mechanisms for disseminating grant outcomes to ACES members through newsletters, social media, conference programming, the ACES website, and other appropriate communication channels.
3. Conduct a review of existing grant categories, funding priorities, eligibility requirements, and funding levels. Compare these areas with current ACES strategic priorities, emerging needs in counselor education and supervision, and feedback from members and grant applicants. Recommend revisions when needed to strengthen alignment, accessibility, relevance, and impact.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Harvey Peters and Gerta Bardhoshi.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. A consistent, transparent, and efficient annual grant review and award process.
2. A clear process for documenting grant outcomes and increasing the visibility of funded research among ACES members.
3. Grant categories and funding priorities that remain current, responsive, and aligned with ACES strategic goals.

TIMELINE

The annual grant cycle includes ongoing review and refinement of grant materials, priorities, and procedures. A new ACES grants webpage has been developed, new grant reviewers have been recruited, and the application and review process has been streamlined to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency.

May-June	Graduate student grant applications received in May, with reviews and award decisions in May and June.
Aug-Oct	Professional member grant applications received in August and September, with reviews and award decisions in September and October.
Ongoing	Awardees provide brief summaries of their funded projects and outcomes for dissemination through ACES social media and newsletters.
Annually	Grant categories, funding priorities, and alignment with the ACES strategic plan reviewed, with revisions incorporated into subsequent grant cycles.