



ACADEMIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

DIVISIONAL ACCREDITATION DIRECTOR



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Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024! I would like to start this new year by expressing what an honor and privilege it is to serve ACSI international schools through the accreditation program. I truly believe it to be one of the most powerful tools

that we have at our disposal to encourage continuous and comprehensive school improvement in a systematic, collaborative, and strategic manner.

As Tim mentioned in his previous newsletter, this is a season of new beginnings for me as well. After serving for 18 years in an international school in Guatemala, with 15 of those as head of school, I am humbled to be stepping into this role. It was a huge blessing to be able to spend two weeks in Colorado Springs to train and go through the onboarding process in person with Tim and Kim. It reminded me of new teacher orientation all over again, and I am sure I had that dazed look in my eye as I tried to process all the information that was coming my way, or as the expression goes, “drinking water out of a fire hose.”

Over the last several months, they have done their best to get me caught up to speed, introduce me to all the right people, and do everything in their power to prepare me for success. While it seems like big shoes to fill, I am grateful to have Kim by my side and excited to follow in their footsteps of continuing to develop those relationships with the schools, teachers, and leaders from around the world that they so cherish and value. I was incredibly encouraged and blessed to participate in ICEC Asia in Jakarta a few weeks ago, mostly for that reason, to start developing those relationships with the schools who present from Asia and other regions around the world. It was a wonderful time of learning and fellowship, and it was further confirmation that we are indeed Stronger Together!

ICEC Europe is scheduled for March 20-23 in Prague, Czech Republic. Pre-conference courses include *Inspire* Accreditation Training for schools. Schools with visits later this school year or in 2024-2025 should consider sending someone to attend this training. More information about the conference and *Inspire* accreditation training can be found [here](#).

I would like to encourage you to visit our [NEW Accreditation Documents](#) page for all updated *Inspire* documents. Now that the final documents have been

released, we are working to develop an international Addendum to the *Inspire* protocol that will be designed to address some of the different issues that international schools face around the world. We are in the process of identifying those parts of the protocol and other key concepts and indicators that might warrant further explanation or contextualization for the international school setting.

This school year we have 26 team visits scheduled, 17 of which will be using the new *Inspire* protocol. We also have 19 other shorter visits scheduled, including mid-term, substantive change, boarding and residential, and candidacy visits. We are excited to welcome the following schools into the accreditation program as candidates for ACSI accreditation:

- Virunga Valley Academy
- Maadi Community Study Centre
- Thinking Christian International School

I am also happy to announce that Caitlin Taylor will be joining the accreditation team in a part time role. Most of you know her as the international school events coordinator, so we are incredibly blessed to keep her on the global team, just on the accreditation side of things.

As a reminder, please email to me or Kim (email addresses above) directly with ANY questions pertaining to accreditation. Contacting any other office at ACSI will just delay a response getting to you. International schools have some unique aspects to accreditation, and we are best equipped to answer your questions.

Blessings to you all,

Michael McNabb

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ACADEMIC SERVICES NEWS

ACSI Inspire Joint Protocols

ACSI has agreements with each of the regional accreditors in the United States (Cognia, MSA, NEASC, and WASC) that allow for ACSI to be the lead agency in a single process on the accreditation visit. If your school is interested in dual accreditation with any of the regional accreditors, we would be happy to assist. Also, if your school is not currently accredited by ACSI, but is currently accredited by one of regional accrediting agencies, we have a Crosswalk process to allow your school to add ACSI accreditation in a streamlined way.

We also regularly conduct joint visits with other associations (such as CESA, FCIS, HAIS, FCIS, and others). If you are interested in a joint process with another association in the lead position, we have a protocol that provides a streamlined process for the school.

If you are interested in information on any of the above processes, contact your [Divisional Accreditation Director](#) to learn more.

***Inspire* Addendums**

Along with the *Inspire* protocol, we have published a number of addendums covering [EE programs](#), [online schools](#), [hybrid schools](#), [International Student Programs](#) (ISP), and [Residential programs](#). Each addendum provides information on when a school must utilize that addendum in conjunction with the *Inspire* protocol. For schools with an ISP program or Residential program, the requirement to utilize the ISP addendum and/or the Residential addendum will go into effect with visits starting during the fall of 2025. Each addendum provides thresholds indicating when the addendum is required.

Please note: Use of an ACSI alternate accreditation protocol, endorsement protocol, or addendum may require ACSI to add visiting team members with specialized training, knowledge, or experience who would need to travel from a greater distance than team members on a typical visiting team. Reasonable travel expenses would need to be accounted for accordingly and reimbursed by the school.

Foundational Accreditation:

In order to support the initiative of ensuring that all ACSI member schools are committed to a formal school improvement program, as well as to support emerging schools, ACSI now offers Foundational Accreditation to schools that meet certain foundational requirements from the *Inspire* protocol. Foundational Accreditation is an introductory status for schools that are working toward a full ACSI self-study and site visit. The school's accreditation status will be listed as "Foundational" on the ACSI website and must be communicated as such in any school communications. Schools who are currently unaccredited or that are scheduled to open in

the near future can complete the [Foundational Accreditation informational form](#) in order to have an ACSI representative reach out with more information. *(Note: Foundational Accreditation is sufficient for schools in some states to participate in specific funding programs—such as tax credits, vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, etc. However, Foundational Accreditation may not be recognized in all states or by all regional accrediting agencies for dual accreditation. All schools, especially those operating an early education program, need to review their own state laws and regulations to ensure that they fulfill all the requirements to open and operate within their state/local district before applying with ACSI.)*

Christian Philosophy of Education

ACSI's new Christian Philosophy of Education course is live!

[CPoE: Foundations](#) (NEW Sept. 30, 2023) | 10 CEUs (8 Educational and 2 Bible)

[CPoE: Worldview](#) (NEW: Oct. 31, 2023) | 10 CEUs (5 Educational and 5 Bible)

[CPoE: Biblical Integration](#) (NEW Nov. 30, 2023) | 8 CEUs (all Educational)

In order to use the course to fulfill the ACSI Certification requirement to complete training in the Christian Philosophy of Education, teachers and administrators will follow this process:

Step 1: Learner secures an ACSI Online PD Subscription.

Step 2: Learner enrolls in and completes all 3 courses on ACSI Online PD (all videos, reading materials, and other resources are included directly

within the platform; the learning will still need to complete some assignments on their own).

Step 3: In Learning Builder (on VPP), learner sees CEUs under “Continuing Education.”

Step 4: Within Certification application under “Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE)” learner selects *Document CPoE* and selects *Completed ACSI’s Christian Philosophy of Education Course Series (2023)* and identifies their administrator.

Step 5: Learning Builder automatically emails administrator requesting confirmation of artifact review and, upon confirmation, the requirement is marked complete within the application.

Note: ACSI’s current Christian Philosophy of Education checklist will remain in place for the near future.

TRAININGS AND EVENTS

ACSI Inspire Training

We have completed introductory training modules for school coordinators, visiting team chairs, and visiting team members. Those training modules are available here: [Accreditation Training](#).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



[ACSI | Association of Christian Schools International](#)

Post Office Box 62249, Colorado Springs, CO 80962

Connect with us on social media and fellow Christian educators through the [ACSI Community!](#)

We respect your privacy. We do not sell, rent, or abuse our customer email list.

We strive to send valuable, timely emails to our members and friends.

[MANAGE SUBSCRIPTION PREFERENCES](#)

If you no longer wish to receive ANY of ACSI's emails, please globally unsubscribe [here](#).