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## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS HIRE SACRAMENTO LOBBYIST

SACRAMENTO, CA—The Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC) has hired Sacramento-based education lobbyist Pamela Bachilla to represent the Association's priorities in California and Nevada. WACAC announced the decision at its annual Sacramento legislative conference, and Bachilla delivered her first testimony on behalf of the organization at a hearing of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education on February 10.

"I'm excited to represent WACAC at this most critical time in education politics," said Bachilla, who is recognized for her expertise in issues affecting school counseling programs. "We've seen multiple policy proposals over the past year that would drastically reduce the level of financial support for college students. This includes the Governor's latest budget proposal to eliminate competitive Cal Grants. "

Professional advocacy services will aid WACAC in pursuing legislative priorities outlined for 2010, which include efforts to protect financial support for college students, actions to build visibility and relationships with key education policy-makers and like-minded organizations, and work to engage in discussions about the relationship between career readiness and preparation for college.

"Lawmakers work around the clock on issues that impact our students, and having a full-time lobbyist representing our issues will mean that nothing gets by us while we're busy doing our day jobs," said Minh-Ha Hoang, WACAC President and Associate Director of Admissions at the University of San Diego. "Since our legislative conference in Sacramento just last week, Ms. Bachilla has already begun the work of following up on our meetings with legislators and staff, and has delivered testimony in a formal committee hearing. She's going to make sure we have a constant presence, and that will translate into greater influence for WACAC."

WACAC advocates for student rights in the college selection process and encourages participation of traditionally underrepresented populations in post-secondary education while helping students realize their potential as they make the transition from secondary schools to college and universities. An affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), WACAC represents school counselors, college admissions counselors and independent counselors in California and Nevada.

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