



Established in 2024, the ISACorps Alumni Steering Committee serves as a dedicated council of alumni committed to fostering meaningful connections with current Corps Members to enhance their social capital. The committee actively supports the growth of the ISACorps alumni network by facilitating connections among alumni and promoting participation in events. Additionally, they provide valuable insights and recommendations to strengthen and guide all alumni-focused initiatives.

### Meet our 2025-26 Committee Members!



**Jamese Carrell Epps (2011)** is the inaugural Director of the Young Women of Color Fellowship at College Track, where she provides strategic vision and leadership for the program's design, implementation, and evaluation. With over 10 years of experience across K-12, higher education, and national nonprofits, she is dedicated to ensuring the cohort is equipped to earn a degree, pursue meaningful careers, and become future leaders. Jamese also serves on the Alumni Steering Committee, where she contributes valuable insights to support a sustainable alumni pipeline. Jamese holds a bachelor's in communication from Western Illinois University and a master's in Student Affairs & Higher Education Administration from Indiana State University.



**Jessica Diaz (2020)** is a new faculty member in higher education. She currently works as a Research and Education Informationist at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Library, where she provides essential liaison services to the College of Medicine and supports evidence-based practice through teaching and collaborating closely with clinicians to ensure they have the best evidence available to provide optimal patient care. Jessica has a solid background in academic and career coordination, having previously led instructional sessions and career support initiatives at St. Augustine College. Her contributions to the field are further highlighted by her active involvement in professional associations, including the Medical Library Association and the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association, where she co-chairs the Early Career Librarian Initiative.



**Jackson Esela (2022)** Jackson is a proud first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Clinical Psychology, as well as a Master of Arts in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership—both at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His career goal is to help make higher education more accessible to all students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds. He worked as an ISACorps member in the 2022 cohort through 2024 in the Danville Area Community College district (region five) and loved it! Jackson's experience with ISAC inspires his current work as an academic advisor for college juniors and seniors at Loyola University Chicago. He looks forward to networking with anyone interested in a career in higher education or wanting advice on standing out in this competitive job market.



**Redell Hendricks (2016)** serves as the Community Relations Coordinator in the Office of Government and Community Relations at Washington University in St. Louis. As the Community Relations Coordinator, Redell is responsible for the implementation of the university's community relations initiatives in its surrounding neighborhoods, and working to ensure that the University maintains strong relationships with its neighbors. As part of the Alumni Steering Committee, she is most excited to share her unique experiences with current Corps members and connect with Corps alums. Redell received a Bachelor of English with a minor in Spanish from McKendree University, and a Master of Science in Diversity and Equity in

Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.



**Jasmine Johnson (2018)** is a dedicated social work professional with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Chicago Urbana-Champaign. With expertise in crisis intervention, case management, group leadership, and program development, she is passionate about supporting communities and empowering individuals. Jasmine looks forward to contributing to the ISACorps Alumni Network by providing creative and effective strategies to engage alumni. Her goal is to bridge connections between alumni and current cohorts, fostering professional growth and strengthening the alumni network for the future.



**Danielle Long (2014)** Danielle was part of ISACorps from 2014 - 2016 in the Rock Valley College district. Before she started with ISAC, she knew she wanted to work in higher education, but said she'd never touch financial aid. Well, now she's worked in financial aid for a decade and has no regrets about it. Danielle currently works at DePaul University as a Financial Aid Trainer. Her job prepares new hires and keep their current employees updated on everything they need to know to serve their students. She earned her bachelor's in philosophy from Northern Illinois University (minors in Spanish and Dance), and her master's in Higher Education Administration and Policy from Northwestern University immediately after leaving ISAC. Outside of work, she has been volunteering as an election judge for local and national elections since 2016. She now lives in Chicago with her husband Jonah and

likes watching sci-fi in her spare time.



**Monica Masini (2019)** is a 2019 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Go Illini!). She went on to pursue my graduate degree in School Counseling at Northeastern Illinois and graduated in 2023. ISAC was her first job after she graduated from UIUC, and she stayed there until she started her career as a school counselor. She is now currently work as a high school counselor at a private school in the suburbs of Chicago. Monica loves being able to work with students and their families, and being on ISAC's steering committee has allowed her to broaden her professional reach while contributing to a wonderful organization that has given her the opportunity to achieve many of her goals.



**Alexander Skarr M.A. FAAC® (2017)** is a consultant with Financial Aid Services, LLC where he provides technology support for college financial aid offices across the country, focusing on CollegeBoard's PowerFAIDS financial aid management system. Alex started in financial aid as a Corps member before working in the financial aid offices at Quincy University, Georgia State University, and Clayton State University, where he was the Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Alex is heavily involved in the financial aid community as a member of NASFAA, and a former member of MASFAA, SASFAA, GASFAA, and ILASFAA. He served on the staffing and benchmarking taskforce for NASFAA in 2022-2023 and had a book review published by NASFAA in 2022. Additionally, Alex has presented research at the Midwest Sociological Society and Southern Sociological Society annual conferences, the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, and ISAC's 2023

FAFSA Symposium.

Alexander received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology and Political Science (2017), and an M.A. in Political Science (2020) from the University of Illinois in Springfield. He is currently working on his Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of West Georgia. He currently lives in Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife, Katelyn.



**Citlalli Solano (2018)** began her career in education and social services as a member of the ISACorps (2018 - 2020), where she mentored students in college access, financial aid, and career exploration. She now serves as a College Match Alumni Advisor at KIPP Chicago, supporting first-generation students and underrepresented populations as they navigate college, career, and beyond. With extensive experience in caseload management, student advising, and event planning, she is dedicated to fostering educational equity and building

lasting relationships with students, families, and community partners. A bilingual professional with a passion for cross-cultural engagement, she has studied abroad in Hong Kong and South Korea, further enriching her global perspective. She brings her expertise in student advocacy and program development to her role on the Alumni Steering Committee.



**James Yost EdD (2014)** While working for the ISACorps (2014-2016) his first job after undergrad), he discovered his passion for helping students and families, worked through his mental health challenges, started a master's program, and began a journey that continues today. Since leaving the Corps, he received a master's degree in College Student Personnel and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership, focused on higher education leadership and higher education administration, respectively. For four years, he was director of all educational programming at a Sylvan Learning Center, and he is about to complete his third year of working with disadvantaged youth in the DCFS system at a residential facility, mainly training others and facilitating life skill development through resource connection. James became a member of the inaugural Alumni Steering Committee because he wanted to connect to my career beginnings, network more with the wonderful people that have worked for the Corps and assist with connecting current and future ISACorps members with an effective alumni network. Thus far, along with his fellow committee members, we have facilitated alumni connections during CorpsCon, assisted with theme generation and implementation for CCE 2024, began brainstorming for CCE 2025, worked on updating the alumni website, and attended many networking events as an alumni panelist.