



Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do.

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Message from the President

Virginia González-Vélez



Dear Members and Friends of ACTO,

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of our times globally, and support our students and clients to do the same, I'm reminded of a story a dear colleague shared with me. The story is about a storm that ripped through an isolated neighborhood one night. All of the oak trees and pine trees split and fell to the ground due to the force of the winds, but one family noticed that the willow tree was still standing.

The story of the willow tree is a parable of resilience and strength. Often found near water, the willow is known for its flexibility and adaptability to harsh conditions. Unlike other trees that break under the powerful winds of a storm, the willow bends and sways. It might bow down until its branches touch the ground but never snaps or gives way entirely. Instead, it endures, standing tall once the storm passes.

For me, this story highlights the moment I feel we are living in. If we are flexible and resilient enough to endure the storm, even if it lashes us, we will be able to celebrate our resourcefulness and our renewed strength for whatever comes next on our journeys. This is mainly because we will see it with the eyes of having overcome a great storm, which has made us more humble, human, determined, and creative.

It seemed appropriate to share this story at this time when we feel battered by storms, to remind us that we can be willows and find joy in our collective strength.

Happy September!

Virginia González-Vélez

ACTO President

ACTO NEWS

ACTO Monthly Community Conversations Calls!

Please join us on Thursday, September 5 at noon EDT for our next call. The Community Conversations calls are continuing to provide connection and thought-provoking discussions during our monthly calls. The discussion topic for each call is decided by the group after suggestions are considered. We've explored what diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging mean in various global contexts and also how indigenous and cultural wisdom can be woven into coaching more intentionally. What are you curious or passionate about that we can consider discussing on one of our upcoming calls? As we continue to explore and stretch the boundaries of coaching, we increase the applicability to a wider range of people and cultural contexts.

Would you like to facilitate an upcoming call? With community facilitation support, we can offer these calls at times that are more convenient for some in our global community.

Feel free to invite a one-time guest to experience this ACTO member benefit. You can learn more and see the full schedule [here](#).

***NEW* ACTO Virtual Workshop on September 9th**

Please join us for this upcoming workshop: **Job Crafting and Task-Fit Analysis: How Human Factors Empower Coaching Within Organisations**, facilitated by: Dianne Commissaris

This workshop will supercharge your coaching with new tools that come from Human Factors, a scientific discipline and profession with goals like ours in organizational coaching: optimizing human well-being and overall system performance.

Date/Time:

Sept 9, 2024, 1:30 – 3:30 PM (EDT)

You **MUST** be available to attend the workshop live. The session will be hosted through Zoom.

Cost:

Free for members (though donations are welcome). Prospective members: \$20 USD. Prospective members will receive a payment link after submitting the registration form, registration is not complete until payment is received.

[Register Now](#)

***COMING SOON* Group Calls for Coach Training School Owners**

On October 9th, we will be launching a series of calls to convene a mastermind of thought leaders in the coach training and organizational ownership sphere. Many thanks to Laurel Elders, MCC, CEC, for kindly offering to facilitate this series. Laurel is the CEO, Senior Faculty, and Mentor Coach at The Institute for Integrative Intelligence. **Please mark your calendar for this exciting new offering, and register early to save your spot.**

The objective of the series is to view one another as a cohesive community of collaborators dedicated to delivering exceptional service to our respective clienteles. The planned format will be quarterly 90 min calls. Participants may gain support around an opportunity or challenge they are facing.

Objectives:

- Create intimacy, connection and collaboration in attaining our unique coach training goals.
- Define excellence for ourselves and our companies.
- Spend 1 year together with a growth mindset.

Requirements:

- School/Program must be ICF accredited for at least 2 years.
- Minimum participants 6. Maximum 8.
- Live participation.

Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm EDT

For more information email laurel@integrativeintelligence.global.

[Register Now](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTO September Community Conversations Call

Date: September 5, 2024 Time: 12 noon EDT

[Registration Link](#)

ACTO Workshop: Job Crafting and Task-Fit Analysis: How Human Factors Empower Coaching Within Organisations

Date: September 9, 2024, Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM EDT

[Registration Link](#)

Group Calls for Coach Training School Owners

Date: October 9, 2024 Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm EDT

[Registration Link](#)



ACTO STAND

ACTO is a community of coaches and coach trainers dedicated to co-creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive coaching profession. Through dialogue, learning opportunities, and change initiatives, we seed coaching excellence that values diverse cultural perspectives and eliminates bias and harm.

To read the full details of the ACTO Stand, please visit [our website](#).



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Join our committees! Volunteer with ACTO and help shape a more inclusive coaching profession. Visit our website to learn more and explore opportunities to get involved.

[Visit our Website](#)



September Multicultural Calendar

We invite you to acknowledge and explore a diversity of significant dates and cultural celebrations with us. These dates were sourced from [Diversity Resources](#). Please visit their website to learn more about each date's significance. If you have important dates from your culture that you'd like our community to learn about, please let us know!

September 4 – Richard Wright's Birthday

September 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 20 – HeForShe

September 21 – International Day of Peace

September 23 - International Day of Sign Languages

September 23 - Bisexuality Visibility Day

ACTO MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Halli MacNab, MCC

I was an engineer in my past career, and became a full time coach in 2010. While I still believe engineering is a great profession, I didn't see it as a good fit for me. Being able to see a situation from many different angles is a gift I brought with me from engineering.

I value independence, simplicity and silence, and very much see these reflected in my work.

I am a member of ACTO because coach training and social justice are both important to me. I really believe that coaches have the skills to change the world. We help clients see what they cannot see every day. And we are compassionate, heart-centered people. With social justice work too, there are things that we cannot see that are part of the fabric of our society and institutions that need to change. And as heart-centered people, we do the right thing even when it's hard or uncomfortable.

As Robin DiAngelo would say, we don't need to blame ourselves for things that happened before we were born or that we can't see. But once we see them, we need to do something about it.

I was on the ACTO Board for many years, and the President in 2018-2019. I had the organization develop a focus on social justice and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, and was instrumental in developing The Stand. I also led the organization of the 2019 Conference in Victoria, Canada that was 100% focused on social justice, where Robin DiAngelo and Monique Gray-Smith were the keynotes.

For the future of ACTO and the coaching profession, I see the both-and. ACTO supporting vibrant and abundant coach training organizations and producing great coaches who have a social justice lens naturally. People that can help others see the unseen.

Words of wisdom for coaches and coach trainers: *Stay open to the possibility that we can have it all.*

We want to highlight and celebrate our members who embody the ACTO Stand for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their coaching practice and training. Would you or your coach training organization like to be featured in our Member Highlights section? We're looking for individuals and organizations whose stories inspire others in our community. [Reach out to us](#) to share your story!

Help Us Grow Our Community

Invite your coach friends and colleagues to join us! Share the benefits of [ACTO membership](#), including access to our informative monthly forums. They can also join our community calls as your one-time guests for a taste of what we offer. We appreciate your support in cultivating a vibrant community!



Share Your Feedback with Us!

We value your feedback. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions with us at ACTO@ACTOonline.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

ACTO | 9490 W 130th St | Cleveland, OH 44136-2758 US

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