



Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, October 13, 2025; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attendees: Anita Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Steve Kenney; Colleen O’Malley, CSJ; Adele O’Sullivan, CSJ; Sandy Vargas; Anne Weyandt

Staff: Andrée Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Comfort Dondo

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened in-person and online at 2:30 p.m.

DEI Statement: Anne read the DEI Statement.

Spiritual Centering: Anne led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The September minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Colleen moved and Sandy seconded to approve the September minutes. All present members voted to approve.

2025-2026 Committee Work Plan

The committee workplan was reviewed for FY26. Anne requested feedback from committee members. Goals include:

- Careful listening and reflection
- Careful definition of topics and questions for inquiry and cultivation of new relationships
- Careful preparation of recommendations to the Board for new outreach approaches and potential partnerships that align with Accola’s mission and values.

Anita suggested adding specific outcome goals. There was a conversation about Accola’s self development and the need to ask hard questions. There was a discussion about the committee’s role in evaluating Accola’s programs. The committee charter was reviewed. The committee discussed the importance of partnerships and potential advocacy/policy roles that might develop.

Ann reiterated that the workplan reflects a two-pronged approach with regards to a guided reflection on who Accola is/what it wants to be, as well as current opportunities/partnerships that can be utilized. Andree said that the programs do have current partnerships with various organizations. This information will be emailed out. The committee discussed community support and what this could look like from an Accola standpoint.

Discussion and Preparation for November Meeting

It was reported that Atum Azzahir will meet with the committee in November. The purpose of this conversation will be to learn about how Atum approaches community building and discuss community needs.

Anne suggested extending the meeting time from 2:30-4 p.m. to 2:30-4:30 p.m. Lacy will update the calendar invite. Matt will send the committee a list of questions. A brief background will also be emailed to the committee.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola

