

IECA Membership Application

Myth Busters



True or False? Obtaining professional references for the IECA membership application is tough because the Membership Committee wants to see prestigious names from admission offices.

False. What the Committee would like to see from a reference is information giving a sense of your professionalism, knowledge, and commitment to the profession and ethics of independent educational consulting.

The best collection of references (three are required for Professional Membership) come from a diverse group of professionals.

Having at least one reference from an admission officer with whom you have worked is always a plus. That is easier in a school or therapeutic placement, but most applicants for professional membership have established a professional relationship with a college rep who is their regional representative. Other educational professionals are also valuable: those who specialize in LD placements may find the director of a learning center on campus to be a more knowledgeable source.

Co-workers, especially those with whom you have worked in a school setting, are often great references, able to communicate information about your work ethic, knowledge, thoroughness, and more. For applicants who have worked in a large firm, having the principal IEC or managing partner serve as a reference can be valuable. The best reference in this regard would include an explanation of the work of the applicant, their specific responsibilities,

and how the reference assisted the applicant in advising client families.

Those who have had a mentor—whether an IECA member or not—should include him/her as one of their references. The mentor has a great deal of information about the evolution of the applicant's practice, the nature of the questions raised, and the way the applicant approaches clients and placements. All this can be part of a great reference.

References from a client family are valuable as well. The best references from clients explain the capacity in which they worked with the applicant, the role the IEC played with the students and the family, and provides some insight into the working relationship. Some references have come from community members with whom the applicant has worked, but are strongest when the writer has seen the IEC work with students and can attest to the nature of this work.

In addition, of value is a reference from an IECA member. Although never required, a testimonial from someone who is an IECA Professional Member, who can speak to the applicants' professional development, types of questions, ethics, and the like, often makes for a strong statement.

The best advice is to let your references know that a form will be emailed to them from IECA, and to ask them to respond in a timely fashion so your application does not get delayed.