

**Spring 2016 Meeting  
International Educators of  
Rhode Island**

April 20th,  
2016 11:30-  
2:30pm  
Johnson & Wales University  
Culinary Arts Museum

Notes:

11:30 – 11:45 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Lunch

11:45 – 12:30 a.m. Announcements and Upcoming Events

National Conference

- JWU will be attending, exhibitor booth #1724, and showcasing the Denver Campus
- Brown will also be in attendance

Regional Conference - **10/18-20/2016**

- NAFSA is pushing for more inclusivity and increase presence of education abroad as well as secondary schools reps.
- Proposals for sessions will open during the annual conference in Denver
- Session content does not need to be fully laid out on the proposals
- Region XI have never rejected proposal but have modified and encouraged collaboration across institutions and departments of international education stakeholders

12:30 -1pm p.m. Speaker – Risa Gilpin, Executive Director if the International House of Rhode Island. Risa discussed International House initiatives, specifically the International Student and Scholars of RI conversation with Mayor Elorza.

1:00-2:00p.m. Break-out groups (Education Abroad and International Student and Scholar Services) to discuss specific concerns with public office reps. Please bring any specific questions or cases you would like to discuss with your colleagues.

Education Abroad

- JWU and PC present (I would encourage more participants from other institutions in RI)
- Working with affiliates/third party providers
- Getting students appropriate information about VISA application process

International Student and Scholar Services

- US Army/ MAVNI Program
  - Military program that international students from certain countries can enlist in and be fast tracked to naturalized citizenship by serving in the US Army
  - USCIS advised P/DSOs with students in this program during their OPT, students need to maintain F1 status until they have completed boot camp. After they have passed boot camp the P/DSO would terminate F1 status for “change of status approved”
  - For P/DSOs with students who are currently in their academic program, once the student reports for boot camp the P/DSOs will terminate the students SEVIS record for “otherwise failing to maintain status”
  - Let it also be noted that MAVNI would like to host a future (possibly fall) IERI meeting at an Army facility
- RI DMV
  - Chuck Hollis And Gina Martinez in attendance
  - [Charles.hollis@dmv.ri.gov](mailto:Charles.hollis@dmv.ri.gov)
  - Reported that students are generally successful at receiving state IDs and driver’s licenses during their first trip to the DMV
  - Students must bring their I-20, Passport, VISA, I-94 record, and denial letter from Social Security (if they do not have a SSN) in order to receive their driver’s license.
  - DMV requested a grace period status letter with for student who wish to drive during their post academic program or post opt grace period because they have authorization to stay in the US for 60 days after each.
    - Attached with the notes is a sample of a grace period status letter that the rest of IERI can observe and modify so that we are all submitting the same documentation
- USCIS/ Providence office
  - Carole Karlowicz and John Small in attendance
    - Discussed collaborative efforts with MAVNI as well as social security
- Social Security Administration
  - Catherine LeBlanc and Kenneth Bell in attendance
  - Advised sending students into SSO in the mid-end of the month for shorter wait times
  - Beneficial but not mandatory to have employer of student to have employer ID number for faster card processing
  - Students must have all original documents, no copies
  - Students with multiple name names will run into longer processing time of 6-8 weeks due to background checking with USCIS
  - Students on OPT without social security cards must wait until the start date on the EAD to apply for a social security number
  - Processing can take up to 4 weeks, so be sure to work with student employment and internship offices to get the students in as early as possible.

2:00-2:30p.m. Summer meeting/BBQ

- Meeting will be at Salve Regina (thank you Grace!) in Newport on Wednesday June

29<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm

- Menu is Southern BBQ style. Please see the menu options below:

Country Potato Salad

Cole Slaw

Potato Chips

Sliced Watermelon

Hamburger and Hot Dog Buns

Grilled Hamburgers

Grilled Hot Dogs

Veggie Burgers

Lettuce, Sliced Tomatoes, Dill Pickles, Relish, Onions

Ketchup, Mustard and Mayonnaise

Assorted Cookies and Brownies

Canned Pepsi Soft Drinks, Regular and Diet

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm