

by Christopher Murphy

## Employing Optimism

**A**S WE ARE ALL WELL AWARE, the world economy isn't exactly firing on all cylinders and most economists are forecasting that, as is usual with deep recessions, the rate of unemployment will likely be one of the last areas to show improvement as national economies begin to recover. International education is certainly not immune and there are fewer jobs in the field available currently than in some recent years.

However, I was encouraged to find that the NAFSA Job Registry (<http://jobregistry.nafsa.org>) is not the barren desert one might expect in such a challenging environment. In fact, the registry continues to have a wide variety of good positions advertised. In early December (as I am writing this column) there are some first-rate openings listed on the registry that indicate that the field continues to be one of the more robust areas on many campuses at a time when even some senior faculty positions are not secure. There were openings advertised in 26 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Lebanon, and the United Kingdom. Positions available included everything from vice provost for international affairs at a large public university on the West Coast to immigration adviser at a prestigious private university in the South to a study abroad adviser/academic counseling professor at a major land-grant university in the Midwest, and just about everything imaginable in between.

Of course, this isn't to deny that there are challenges for anyone in the field looking to land a quality position. That's why we have devoted a special section in this issue of *International Educator* to employment and career advancement. Two articles, "Where the Jobs Are in International Education" and "The Rise of Senior International Officers," look at different aspects of the current trends for careers in international education-related areas. We hope you'll find these features to be useful tools in your own career planning.

### Also in This Issue...

We continue our occasional series on the education of women in regions of the world where there are significant difficulties to be overcome with "The Unprivileged Child" by Susan Ladika. The article focuses on a few of the many examples of colleges and universities that are working with African institutions to improve the lot of Africa's daughters through education.

And finally, Christopher Connell examines both the challenges and opportunities that the current world economy is posing for community colleges in the United States in their efforts to internationalize.

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