



NAFSA Region I News

May 2018

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Region I Conference Welcome from EJ Brin, 2018 Chair

Dear Colleagues,

*I am truly hono(u)red to serve as chair of [NAFSA Region I](#) for 2018 and am pleased to announce that session proposals open are now open for our Region I conference. This year's conference will be held in beautiful **Vancouver, British Columbia** from **October 15-19, 2018** at the **Westin Bayshore** and we hope to see you there.*

Region I is made up of Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It is this land that unites us as a region.

As international educators, we have a collective responsibility to reflect on what brings us together and what divides us. Our two countries have a long history of drawing lines on these lands and creating policies and regulations that we did not write and often do not support. Whether we are in the US or Canada, each one of us is faced with new paradigms and perennial questions, from racism to exploitation, immigration and inclusion. I urge each one of you to look beyond borders and policies that divide and instead build new relationships, re-learn what you thought you once knew, ask new and disruptive questions, grow together, inspire each other. We cannot stand by without questioning our histories and the stories that unfold today. Change has never been so important.

*I encourage you to submit proposals that reflect this year's theme: **Grow. Inspire. Unite. Beyond Borders**. Please visit our [conference website](#) for other details about the conference, and a forum we have created again this year to help facilitate the ability for presenters to collaborate with colleagues across borders.*

We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver, BC in October!

*Best,
Elizabeth (EJ) Brin
Chair Region I*



2018 Conference Links and Important Dates

- [Region I Conference Website](#)
- [Tentative Conference Schedule](#)
- [Conference Hotel Reservations are OPEN](#)
- [Session Proposals are Open: Find collaborators! Browse hot topic session ideas!](#)
- Registration opens July 16

Region I Network a New Platform to Connect, Communicate, and Collaborate

Region I now has its own [Network.NAFSA community!](#) In this new forum, members will have the opportunity to engage, share announcements, and seek input from regional colleagues.

A Network.NAFSA login is required to join the Region I moderated forum. However, login credentials are free and do not require a paid NAFSA membership. [Learn more about how the network can be utilized by Region I colleagues.](#) We look forward to connecting with you there!



Region I Summer Summit

Save the Date! Professional Development Opportunity!

NAFSA Region I is pleased to present the first Summer Summit! Join us at **St. Martin's University** in Lacey, WA for one of 3 CEP (Core Education Program) workshops: [F-1 Student Advising for Beginners](#), [F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate](#), or [J-1 Advising for Beginners](#).

Where: [St. Martin's University, Lacey, WA](#)

When: **Friday, July 13, 2018 from 8am to 5pm**

Deadline: Registration deadline is Friday, July 6. *NOTE* there will be no on-site registration.

How: [Event registration link](#)

Cost: \$220 per registrant. Includes lunch.



Jump start your professional development with experienced trainers and engaged colleagues at the Summer Summit!

Summer Conference 2018 will be held in Vancouver from June 17–20.

BCCIE SUMMER CONFERENCE

Attend the 2018 [British Columbia Council for International Education \(BCCIE\) Summer Conference](#) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada!

The BCCIE annual conference held **June 17-20, 2018** hosts more than 500 educational sector participants from across BC, Canada and around the world to gather and discuss, share, and learn

about the fields that comprise international education in BC and the world.

The theme of this year's conference is "[Things we should be talking about in International Education](#)" and the program features prominent speakers and scholars leading conversations that are driving our sector. Of particular note are our keynote speaker, the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, Canada's first female Prime Minister, and Dr. Darla Deardorff, AIEA Executive Director and renowned international education scholar. [Register today!](#)

NORIE Spring Meeting - May 18

[Northern Oregon International Educators \(NORIE\)](#) invites colleagues in the region to their 2018 Spring Meeting at **Lewis & Clark College** in Portland, OR on **May 18th (10am-1pm)**. The meeting will discuss **Advising and Retention Strategies**. Membership and meeting attendance are FREE!

[Event details and RSVP link here](#)

Northern Oregon _____



_____ International Educators

Team Member Spotlight: Sharece Bunn, Advocacy Rep

Hello! I'm Sharece Bunn, an International Student Advisor at the University of Oregon and your NAFSA Region I Advocacy Representative! Before I go into my love of social justice and my experience in DC for Advocacy Day this March, I'd like to share a little bit about myself.

I grew up in a rural town called Dayton, Oregon where I helped my siblings with their FFA projects raising sheep and tending my sister's cats. From the very early days of farm work, I was fascinated by the cities and places abroad that I read about in books. I always knew that I wanted to travel and see the world.



Thus, in college, I went on two study abroad trips to England where I was able to continue studying literature and visiting the places I had only read about in my Jane Austen books. Living abroad as a

student inspired me to continue my life abroad as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine – twice. It was during my second term in Ukraine, this time as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, that I realized my true love for working at the university level and came back to the U.S. with hopes to become an International Educator at the college level, which is where I find myself today.

[\[Read the rest of Sharece's letter here\]](#)

Knowledge Community Updates

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT and SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS) Knowledge Community

The International Student and Scholar Regulatory Practice ([ISS RP](#)) Committee is pleased to share our IssueNet Quarterly Summary - April 2018.

Top Issues Reported in NAFSA IssueNet

- I-765 (OPT) processing times-excessive (90+ days, some much longer)
- EAD mailing issues (USCIS sent documents, never delivered, returned as undeliverable)
- CLAIMS not interfacing with SEVIS for OPT approvals, or erroneously updating as approved when the petition is still being adjudicated.
- Increased I-515A issues where DSOs are not receiving notification, or are receiving very delayed messages

Strength in Reporting

Here is an update of recent actions taken by NAFSA ISS RP:

- EAD mailing issues. NAFSA ISS RP Regulatory Ombuds continue to liaise with USCIS on this issue. Continued [IssueNet](#) reports are appreciated.

Region I – RegBud and KC ISSS Trends to Note

- Rejections for using the expired Form I-765 – We are still seeing cases being rejected by USCIS for using the Form I-765 that is currently available on USCIS’s Website (expiration date: 02/28/2018). If your students receive a rejection notice for using this expired form please report the cases through [IssueNet](#).

See something? Say something! Report trends and issues to IssueNet to help NAFSA identify areas where we can intervene with government agencies. nafsa.org/issuenet

TEACHING, LEARNING, and SCHOLARSHIP (TLS) Knowledge Community

Register for a Global Learning Signature Program and receive 25% off the cost of Annual Conference registration with code 1825REG!

[TLS Global Learning Signature Programs](#)

[TLS Workshops at NAFSA 2018](#)



Job Postings in the Region

[Region I Job Board](#)

Visit the NAFSA Region I Job Board for the most up to date job postings in the region.



Join our mailing list here!

[NAFSA Region I Team](#)

