



NAFSA REGION I NEWS

April 2015

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Welcome to the first edition of NAFSA Region I News!



We are excited to introduce the first edition of the NAFSA Region I

newsletter! This newsletter will now be your source for NAFSA and international education updates in the region, and will replace the Yahoo Groups platform. We look forward to sending quarterly updates, so please be on the look out for this newsletter from now on.

Best, The Region I Team

[Read more about the Region I Team on our website!](#)

Knowledge Community Updates

Education Abroad Knowledge Community Updates

Education Abroad at Portland State University is pleased to announce the first annual **NW Symposium on Faculty-Led Programs**. Faculty, Administrators, and Staff along with Faculty-Led Program Service/Program Providers are all invited to the one-day symposium focusing on sharing best practices on topics related to international faculty-led programs. The event will take place on Friday, April 10, 2015, on the PSU campus following a half-day Forum on Education Abroad Standards of Good Practice workshop which will also be hosted by PSU on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Registration for the event is now open.



[For more information, click here.](#)

Nominate a Colleague for an Education Abroad Award

Now is the time to reward those influential and inspiring education abroad professionals among us who are committed to making a difference in the field. Take a moment to reflect on someone who you think is deserving of the NAFSA's Lily von Klemperer Award or the

Education Abroad Leadership Award and nominate him or her today. Nominations should be submitted to by **May 1**.

[For more information, click here.](#)

International Enrollment Management (IEM) Knowledge Community Updates

Sign up for the IEM Spotlight newsletter. December's issue is focused on Kazakhstan. With information on the educational system, the EducationUSA office and the Bolashak Scholarship program. For past issues, go to the archives. [Visit the NAFSA IEM website to sign up.](#)

Going to the NAFSA Annual Conference? The IEM team is pleased to continue the **IEM Buddy Program**, now in its third year! This program matches professionals new to IEM and the NAFSA Annual Conference (AC) with professionals who know the field and have previously attended an AC. Deadline to sign up is April 17. For more questions, please contact [Kevin Timlin](#), IEM Regional Liaison Outreach Coordinator.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Knowledge Community Updates

Meet your Regulatory Team: A team of three volunteers stands ready to assist you with your sticky cases and tricky questions. The role of the Regulatory Ombuds includes providing case intervention with the USCIS service centers (through IssueNet Get Liaison Help), regulatory problem-solving and engaging in practice advocacy. We also report trends and provide information to the region regarding interpretation of agency practices as well as encourage reporting by you to NAFSA of strange or unusual events you are seeing with respect to immigration processing, whether at the service centers, consular affairs posts or U.S. ports of entry through IssueNet Report an Issue.

The role of the International Students and Scholar Services (KC-ISSS)

Regional Liaison is to serve as a resource for you to seek advice about day-to-day practice issues and/or questions, which may include "how do I" or "when do I". The KCISSS RL provides information on best practices especially as they relate to developing issues.

All three work together to provide assistance to student and scholar advisers within the Region.

Machelle Allman is the NAFSA Region I Regulatory Ombud for student issues, and works at the University of Washington. She has been a RegBud for 3 years. If you have Forms I-765 or I-539 stuck with USCIS, or if you get crazy RFE's, contact her through Issue Net "Get Liaison Help" or [by email](#).

Carol Holz is the Regulatory Ombud for scholar issues and works at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has been a RegBud for 4 years. If you have forms stuck with USCIS relating to scholars (I-129, I-140, etc.) or receive unusual RFEs for pending cases, contact her through Issue Net "Get Liaison Help" or [by email](#).

Catherine Creason is the NAFSA Region I KCISSS Regional Liaison and works at South Seattle College. This is her first year as the KCISSS RL and she has served on the Region 1 team for 3 years in other positions. If you have any "how do I" or "when do I" questions, [contact her by email](#).

J-1 Advisors - Reminder: Department of State Virtual Brown Bag

Please remember to join NAFSA this **Thursday, April 2, at 3:00 p.m. (EDT)** for the free virtual brown bag: "Introducing the Department of State's Office of Private Sector Exchange Administration-Academic and Government Programs Unit (OPA-AG)." OPA-AG is responsible for monitoring and ensuring exchange visitor program sponsors' compliance with regulations and policies. It also responds to complaints and "incidents." ROs, AROs, and others involved in exchange visitor program administration will be interested to hear more about this new office and

its initiatives.

[For more information and instructions for logging in, please click here.](#)

Region Announcements

Now Recruiting a Region I Coach for the NAFSA Academy

Region I is looking for a seasoned international education professional to serve as a coach for the NAFSA Academy.

The Academy for International Education is a year-long professional development program designed to provide newcomers with an introduction to the field of international education and those more experienced with an opportunity to broaden their perspectives. Experienced international educators serve as coaches and guide the learning of a cohort of up to six Academy trainees. The coach for Region I is supported financially by the region.



To read about the time commitment, responsibilities, and to download an application, [click here to learn more](#). Applications are due by **Tuesday, July 15, 2015**.

Study Washington Updates

Study Washington is partnering with the US Commercial Service to present a poster session at the national NAFSA



conference in Boston. The session will be highlighting how member schools in Washington promote diverse offerings for courses of study in the state. Be sure to stop by and check out the poster session in Boston!

Study Washington is an association of colleges, universities, independent schools and education service providers in Washington State. The mission

of "Study Washington" is to promote the State of Washington as the best destination for international students who wish to study in the USA. Member schools represent all levels of education and are located in every part of the state.

Visit Study Washington's website to learn more.

Northern Oregon International Educators (NORIE) Updates

Northern Oregon International Educators

(NORIE) is an organization created and run by international educators in the state of Oregon. NORIE provides a network for communication and professional among professionals working in International Education. We meet quarterly



and welcome you to join our meetings! **Save-the-date for our next meeting: June 26, 2015 at George Fox University in Newberg, OR.**

To join our mailing list, [email us to request to be added to our membership](#). And ["Like" us on Facebook](#). We look forward to connecting with you!

Region I Spotlight: Advocacy Day

On March 19th, International Education professionals came to Washington D.C. for the **Annual NAFSA Advocacy Day**. Over 100 people from around the country stormed the Hill to gather support for Immigration Reform and The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act. Region I members had the opportunity to meet with



Mariah Crystal, University of Washington Bothell and Taylor Klein, Seattle Pacific University advocating for

the offices of their Senators and immigration reform at NAFSA Advocacy Day. Congressmen. Each meeting gave participants the opportunities to share with staff members stories from their campuses and the experiences of their students. The day was busy, but filled with opportunities to connect with new colleagues, get a better idea of the governmental process and learn more about how we can add our voices to the issues and causes that are important to our field.

To Learn More about NAFSA Advocacy Days, visit [this link](#).

Did you know that Region I offers travel grants so members can attend Advocacy Day? Click [here](#) to read more about Advocacy Day travel grants.

Conference Updates

Region I Conference in Boise, Idaho October 19-24, 2015

The Region I team is already hard at work planning our next regional conference. Please save-the-date and join us in Idaho, the "Gem State", at the **Riverside Hotel in Boise, October 19-24, 2015!**

Our 2015 regional conference theme is **"Exploring the Hidden Gems in International Education"**. We encourage you to consider proposing sessions, poster sessions, and homegrown workshops that address innovative topics that will contribute to our professional development.



Although the online submission form for sessions, poster sessions, and homegrown workshops will not open until **May 4th**, please feel free to

start thinking and throwing ideas around topics that you would like to present. Starting to prepare your proposal now will help you find a great and diverse team of presenters, which will be considered when proposals are reviewed.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information, and for the opening of the online proposal form on May 4th! Any questions regarding the session proposal process can be emailed to [Robert Rigg](#).

Job Postings in the Region

Visit the [NAFSA Region I Job Board](#) for the most up to date job postings in the region. [Click here!](#)



NAFSA Region I Team

[Visit our website](#) and connect with us on social media at the links below.



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