Ice cream baked potatoes – how clever for a conference in Boise! The ice cream was good enough to be photographed! And the conference was even more rewarding! Attending the October NAFSA Region I Conference in Boise was my first NAFSA experience. Thanks to a NAFSA travel grant and my college's support, I was able to learn, discuss, and network in the international education field. My biggest takeaway was a grounding and reminder of what I love about being in the international education field.

The sessions were informative and helpful and meeting other international educators was both enjoyable and valuable. Motivated by workshops and reflections from the conference, the International Education Programs Office at Seattle Central recently formed an Intercultural Awareness Committee that is exploring ways to bring cultural awareness opportunities and training to IEP staff. Another newly formed committee focusing on crisis management has been able to use NAFSA crisis management resources I learned of at the conference. I am excited to see the learnings from NAFSA being implemented in our office and grateful for the opportunity to have attended. Thank you NAFSA, and I look forward to seeing everyone at another conference in the future!

Jen Patterson

