

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (April 2010)

Announcements from the Southern District Team

The Southern District invites you to attend a workshop on "F-1 Student Advising for Beginners." This NAFSA professional practice workshop is designed for beginning international student advisers with up to 15 months of experience. Registration is now open and available via [Survey Monkey](#). A full workshop description can be found on the [NAFSA Events & Training website](#).

Date: Friday, July 23
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Place: The Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA

Registration Fee:
\$250 for NAFSA members
\$275 for non-NAFSA members

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Community College Update

SEVP announces exception to full course of study requirement for California community colleges. The following SEVIS Broadcast was issued by SEVP:

"In recognition of the on-going financial crisis affecting community colleges in California, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has developed a "Decision by SEVP Director" outlining the provisions available to the designated School officials (DSOs) at these schools. We emphasize that a copy of this Director's decision should be in the file of any F or M status international student whose Full Course of Study requirements are determined under the terms of this policy decision. SEVP will contact the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office periodically to confirm any changes to the financial situation, and subsequently determine if a continuation or adjustment of the terms of the "Decision by SEVP Director" is warranted."

Since this broadcast message was issued on December 17, 2009, Mt. San Antonio College has referred students to the college's International Student Advisors to determine if they are eligible to drop below a full course of study. This Spring term, ten F-1 students (of 400) have been authorized.

As the Southern District Community College Representative, I would like to solicit stories from your community college and share them in the Southern District's next newsletter.

Please email me at chmin@mtsac.edu to tell us:

- What procedures has your office implemented to authorize this type of drop below full course?
- How many students have been affected?

Chong Hee Min, Community College Representative
Phone: 909.594.5611, ext. 5577
Email: chmin@mtsac.edu

Education Abroad Update

If you are involved in the your institution's policy decisions regarding the Department of State issued travel warning for Mexico, be sure you have the most up to date information and the input of your NAFSA colleagues. Please see [Developing Response Procedures to U.S. DOS Travel Warnings](#) in NAFSA's online resource library for background, suggested guidelines, government links, and more.

Adrienne Richart, Education Abroad Representative
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International Scholar Update

For international scholar advising, the biggest news is still the lag-time for prevailing wage determinations. Nationwide international scholar advisors are waiting 5-8 weeks for determinations from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This is significantly delaying H-1B applications. To make matters worse, many determinations are being issued with errors. Please report errors and delays on NAFSA's IssueNet so that NAFSA can address them with DOL.

You are invited!

Southern California Scholar Advisors
Friday, April 16
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
University of California, Irvine

To register, contact Sheila Cech, at scech@uci.edu.

Kevin DelMastro, International Scholar Representative
Phone: 858.822.5541
Email: kdelmastro@ucsd.edu

International Student Update

On March 14, 2010, the Department of State issued a [travel warning](#) to people traveling to Mexico. Due to the recent violent attacks in Mexico, students may want to avoid unnecessary travel to certain parts of Mexico until further notice has been released.

How does your university respond to Travel Warnings? Are you being pro-active and notifying your students? Check out this article on "[Developing Response Procedures to U.S. DOS Travel Warnings](#)."

Hanna Lee, International Student Representative
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Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

India's Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced some educational reforms in September 2009, moving towards a more holistic assessment of students in years IX and X. See [detailed information on the CBES website](#), as well additional information about the [new 9-point grading scheme](#).

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Questions? Contact Your District Team

Your Region XII Southern District Team members are ready to assist you. If you have specific content area questions, please contact the appropriate District Team representative from our [District Team member roster](#).

From your friends on the Region XII Southern District Team