

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (January 2010)

Announcements from the District Team

In 2010, the District Team will be working hard to bring you some exciting professional development opportunities. We received a number of thoughtful suggestions from the membership, including requests for workshops that address regulatory and programming issues, SEVIS II, admissions practices and credential evaluation, developing education abroad programs, coping with stress, and more! We are also considering suggestions for a networking reception, a tour of the California Service Center or a discussion with consular officers. Although we cannot tackle all of these great ideas in one year, our goal for 2010 is to offer one or two professional development programs.

In 2011, we will hold a one-day District Conference. Our goal is to alternate every-other-year between a conference and topic-specific professional development opportunities.

But, don't wait until a workshop or a conference to get up-to-date information for your day-to-day work. Please visit the District website for information and links to current updates and hot topics in the field. And, please stay tuned for program announcements.

As we all know, the New Year has already brought tragedy to our neighbors in Haiti. NAFSA has prepared online Resources for International Educators regarding the earthquake in Haiti. This might be an appropriate time to review NAFSA's resources on Health, Safety, and Crisis Response in education abroad as well as Department of State's online Travel Alerts and Travel Warnings.

Please know that the District Team is committed to serving the entire membership as much as possible through our volunteerism. We look forward to serving you, and working with you, throughout 2010. We wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy New Year!

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Community College Update

International / Global Education seeks to provide educational opportunities that enable community college students to obtain an understanding of the increasingly global and international world. It has been a few years since California Colleges for International Education (CCIE) has conducted a State-of-the-Art survey for our field. The linked survey epitomizes the fundamental goal of CCIE, i.e. cooperation and the sharing of information by documenting that the variety of activities in which all California community colleges are involved.

The benefits of a completed survey are substantial. Reports will be shared throughout the state, to national community college groups and will be included in the ERIC Community College files. In sum, data from this survey will re-confirm California community colleges as leaders in the field of international education.

To access the survey, please follow the link below.
The International Student Director or Coordinator Survey

PLEASE RETURN THE SURVEY BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 22.

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance. Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Rosalind Latiner Raby (818) 882-9931; rabyrl@aol.com; www.ccieworld.org.

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Education Abroad Update

The [San Diego Lessons from Abroad: Study Abroad Returnee Conference](#) is an excellent resource for your study abroad alumni! The conference will benefit them personally and professionally as they reflect upon their experiences, lessons learned, and skills gained; network with students and professionals; and consider further opportunities at home and abroad. The 2nd annual conference will take place at Point Loma Nazarene University on Saturday, February 20th. Encourage your students to register today at www.lessonsfromabroad.org.

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International Scholar Update

In J-1 news:

We are still waiting to hear more details about SEVIS II. The implementation date continues to be delayed. To stay current on SEVIS II developments, please visit the NAFSA website.

In the H-1B world:

Our campuses can expect more site visits, according to a recent article (US Moves to Strengthen H1B Enforcement). However, inspectors usually just ask for basic information about the H-1B employee, the international office, and the worksite.

An additional challenge for H-1B advisors will be the new prevailing wage process, which became effective January 1, 2010. Prevailing wage requests will now go through a centralized Department of Labor office and, at this point, submitted by mail. Hopefully by the end of January they will roll out an electronic filing system. For tips on using the new form, ETA Form 9141, and the new system, please see the NAFSA website.

As of December 21, 2009, USCIS has received sufficient petitions to reach the statutory cap for Fiscal Year 2010. USCIS has also received more than 20,000 H-1B petitions on behalf of persons exempt from the cap under the advanced degree exemption. USCIS will reject cap-subject petitions for new H-1B specialty occupation workers seeking an employment start date in FY2010 that are received after December 21, 2009. USCIS will apply a computer-generated random selection process to all petitions that are subject to the cap and were received on December 21, 2009.

For all visa classifications:

There is a new form for our scholars. Due to the success of Form DS-160 at select consulates, the form will now be phased in at all consulates. The State Department's goal is to have it fully implemented worldwide by April 30, 2010. The DS-160 replaces the Electronic Visa Application Form (EAVF). For more information, please see the Department of State website.

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International Student Update

L.A. PIER

Friday, February 19 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Oldenborg Center – Pomona College | RSVP required

The L.A. Professional International Educators Roundtable (PIER) focuses on a variety of F-1 and J-1 student issues and is open to anyone who works with F-1 and/or J-1 students. Participation is free, but participants are responsible for their own transportation, parking fees (if applicable), and meals. RSVP to oldenborg@pomona.edu. Pomona College is an easy commute via the Metrolink, so please come out and join us!

San Diego PIER

January 20 | 2:00pm | Point Loma Nazarine University | kasey.mccarthy@gia.edu

The San Diego Professional International Educators Roundtable (PIER) is a non-profit membership organization that provides international educators throughout San Diego County with an opportunity to discuss issues and regulations affecting international students and scholars. Membership required with fee. Please see the PIER website for membership and event details.

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Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

World Education Services (WES) publishes a free monthly e-newsletter, "World Education News and Reviews" or WENR, to help you stay on top of trends and changes in international education. The newsletter not only provides a feature article each month, but also includes education-related news updates from around the globe. Registering for WES Resources at <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/registration.asp> gives you access to WENR, as well to WES grading scales and other valuable information.

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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