

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (June 2010)

Announcements from the Southern District Team

There are a number of local networking/training opportunities available to international education professionals in the Southern District this summer. LA PIER and San Diego PIER (see the links on the [District Website](#)) both provide opportunities for participants to discuss issues and regulations affecting international students and scholars. As you will see below, there will soon be two new EA PIER groups for Education Abroad professionals. Finally, on Friday, July 23, we will hold a Workshop on [F-1 Student Advising for Beginners](#). Space in the F-1 Workshop is limited, so see the [Southern District website](#) for registration information.

While we promote NAFSA membership, we recognize that there are many professionals in our field who are not NAFSA members. We would like to encourage our non-member colleagues to participate in Southern District activities. Please share our invitation to [join the Southern District](#) with others who you feel would benefit from, and perhaps contribute to our mission. If you have any questions or concerns, or have ideas for Southern District activities, please let us know.

Laura Flower Kim, Chair
Phone: 626.395.6330
Email: laura.flowerkim@caltech.edu

Donald Delgado, Chair-Elect
Phone: 909.607.7868
Email: ddelgado@cmc.edu

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

This summer, the Southern District will form two new EA PIER (Education Abroad Professional International Education Roundtable) groups in Southern California! The groups will meet in San Diego and Los Angeles and will strengthen relationships among local education abroad professionals by encouraging sharing of best practices and promoting regional collaboration. If you are located in or near LA and would like to lead the

formation of the LA group, please contact me at the email address below. You do not need to be a NAFSA member to take advantage of this excellent opportunity for professional development! I look forward to hearing from you!

Adrienne Richart, Education Abroad Representative
Phone: 619.594.2475/1982
Email: arichart@mail.sdsu.edu

International Scholar Update

Prevailing wage determinations are currently taking 5-9 weeks. Unfortunately many schools report determinations that are incorrect or are too high for their needs. As a result, many schools are leaving the safe harbor of the prevailing wage process and making their own determinations based on the [U.S. Department of Labor's worksheet](#) and other guidelines.

There are still plenty of cap-subject H-1Bs available, according to the latest USCIS data. When advising, it may be best to recommend filing soon, as the cap may be reached at any time.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [announced that it has redesigned the permanent resident card](#) ("green card"). The new card has new security features and is actually colored green, as its name always suggested.

USCIS released guidance on the [automatic extension of F-1 student status](#) with pending cap-subject H-1B petitions (the "Cap-Gap" provision).

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

International Student Update

L.A. Professional International Education Roundtable (PIER) Meeting Friday, June 18 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM | University of Southern California

The LA 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. After the meeting, participants will have the opportunity to tour the USC campus and the Office of International Services. So that we can plan appropriately, please RSVP to Hanna Lee at hanna.lee@csun.edu.

Hanna Lee, International Student Representative
Phone: 818.677.3053
Email: hanna.lee@csun.edu

Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

IERF recently published a new resource called the "Index of Secondary Credentials". The handbook lists the names of the secondary credentials from many countries, plus includes sample documents of many of those credentials. It's a great resource for anyone who has to deal with secondary records, and, best of all, it's (currently) free. If you weren't lucky enough to pick up a handbook at the annual NAFSA conference, you can contact IERF directly for a copy (www.ierf.org).

Laura Macchia Amescua, Recruitment, Admissions, & Preparation Representative
Phone: 310.206.7142
Email: lmacchia@saonet.ucla.edu

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