

# NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (March 2010)

## Announcements from the Southern District Team

Boost Your Resume Power! Looking for opportunities to stretch your leadership muscles? [NAFSA](#) offers a variety of ways for you to get involved. With leadership comes marketability on the job search! Here are just a few ways that you can develop your leadership skills, enhance your professional portfolio, and boost your resume power!

- Attend a conference workshop – Get in-depth training in your specific area of international education
- Present a conference session – You don't have to be an expert to present!
- Volunteer at a NAFSA conference
- Attend the 2010 Conference Symposium on Leadership – [Leading Internationalization in Times of Fiscal Restraint](#)
- Participate as a Mentor or Mentee in the NAFSA [Academy for International Education](#)
- Become a [Trainer Corps](#) Member and be trained to teach NAFSA's [Core Education Program \(CEP\) Workshops](#)

We hope to see you at the [NAFSA Annual Conference](#), May 30 – June 4 in Kansas City, Missouri. If you're not yet a NAFSA member, now is a great time to [join](#). Ask about special discounts for conference volunteers!

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## Community College Update

### The Impact of Community Colleges on International Education

by Hey-Kyung Koh (from [IIE Network](#))

U.S. higher education has been the preferred destination for increasing numbers of international students each year since the Institute of International Education began publishing the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. In 2002/2003, there were 586,323 international students in U.S. colleges and universities. The U.S. higher education system is large and characterized by a diversity of institutional types and programs. It is also a flexible system, allowing students the opportunity to study at various types of institutions and programs, including degree as well as non-degree programs. This flexibility makes U.S. higher education an open system, whereby an institution or program exists for anyone, including international students, who wishes to pursue higher education. See the [complete article](#).

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## Education Abroad Update

If you work with study abroad students, those students probably jolted to your attention when you got news of the 8.8 earthquake in Chile. Your initial thoughts may have been; how many students do I have in Chile? Where are they exactly? In which program(s) are they participating? Who is their in-country coordinator? When disaster strikes, all of these questions and more instantly come to the attention of education abroad professionals. To ensure your office's emergency response plan is current and equipped to handle future events, consult [NAFSA's resources library](#). There you will find the latest information on conditions on the ground, links to the Department of State resources, as well as crisis response best practices.

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## International Scholar Update

Recently the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in cooperation with the Department of Labor (DOL), has increased its tracking and auditing functions for H-1Bs and other employment-based visas. After seeing our anti-fraud fees fund on-campus audits last year, now we are seeing more scrutiny at POEs. To avoid confusion, scholars seeking re-entry to the U.S. should understand their immigration documents and be prepared to show them at the POE.

Recently USCIS issued some Forms I-797 (Notices of Approval) with incorrect or missing information for Forms I-129 and Forms I-539. USCIS has begun mailing corrected approval notices. Do not use incomplete or incorrect approval notices. If your I-797 falls into this scenario, please see the [USCIS update on this issue](#).

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## International Student Update

Form I-765 employment applications are no longer mailed directly to the California Service Center (CSC). See the USCIS announcement on the [Change of Filing Location for Form I-765](#).

New address for those residing in California & Nevada (effective February 24, 2010):  
USCIS  
PO Box 21281  
Phoenix, AZ 85036

[USCIS has announced that](#) "The Service Centers will forward incorrectly filed applications to the USCIS Phoenix and Dallas Lockbox facilities for the first 30 days, until March 26, 2010. After March 26, 2010, applications incorrectly filed at USCIS Service Centers will be returned to the applicant, with a note to send the application to the correct location."

We can also now request [E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance](#): If we (student and/or advisor filing the I-765) want to receive an e-mail and/or a text message that the Form I-765 has been accepted at a USCIS Lockbox facility, complete Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance and clip it to the first page of the application.

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## Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

WES has an interesting article out this month about reforms in the Chinese secondary education curriculum. The article explains the transition from a year-based to a credit-based system of secondary education, and also includes information about methods of assessment. [Click here](#) to access the article.

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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