

# NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (September 2010)

## Announcements from the Southern District Team

The Southern District invites you to review the newly created [Southern District Operating Procedures](#). Your vote will be needed to formally establish the Operating Procedures. Please take a moment to review the document. The vote will be held at the Southern District business meeting at the NAFSA Region XII Conference in Reno, NV in October. (Date and location of the meeting will be announced soon.)

Travel Grant Applications still available until September 17! Southern District NAFSA members may apply for travel grants (yes - free money!) towards travel to the upcoming NAFSA Region XII Conference in Reno, Nevada! The application deadline is Friday, September 17. Awards will be announced before the early bird registration deadline of Tuesday, October 5. Click here to download the Travel Grant Application Form. Electronic submissions to [region12south@gmail.com](mailto:region12south@gmail.com) are preferred.

Sorry, only NAFSA members are eligible to apply for NAFSA Travel Grants. Join today, and apply for a travel grant tomorrow!

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## Community College Update

Community colleges in the United States are increasingly providing an environment where students from across the world can pursue new opportunities and fields of learning in a new land. These international students often have dreams of giving back to the place they now call home. Hased Anvari is one such student. This is his story. Hased, now 26, grew up in the war-torn city of Herat in northern Afghanistan. He recalls being unable to play outside his home as a child because of the turmoil in the streets. [Read More](#)

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## Education Abroad Update

Jump on the reentry bandwagon! The [Lessons from Abroad: Study Abroad Returnee Conferences](#) benefit study abroad returnees 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. Not only do the Lessons conferences provide great resources and support for students, since they are designed and implemented by EA professionals on an entirely volunteer basis, they also provide professional development and networking opportunities for you!

Please use the [Lessons website](#) and the [2010/2011 Flyer](#) to help you get involved in the Lessons conference nearest you and to promote Lessons to your students.

Upcoming Lessons from Abroad: Study Abroad Returnee Conferences:

Los Angeles:	November 6, 2010 at Chapman University
San Diego:	February 19, 2011 at University of California, San Diego
Bay Area:	Spring 2011, location TBA

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## International Scholar Update

Recently there have been delays with H-1B standard processing cases. Even though the processing time published on <http://www.uscis.gov/> states 2 months, petitioners have reported 3 months is more accurate. In addition, USCIS has issued Requests for Evidence for standard processing and premium processing cases that appeared approvable. Please report erroneous RFEs to the NAFSA IssueNet. Some RFEs question if the petitioner is subject to the new, additional fee under Public Law 111-230; we suggest attaching a notice to your H-1B petition explaining that your school is not H-1B dependent and thus exempt from that fee, if appropriate.

On July 20, USCIS clarified guidance on O-1s and the gap between scheduled events. [Read more.](#)

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## International Student Update

### LA PIER Meeting

Friday, October 8, 2010 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Santa Monica College | [RSVP](#)

The LA PIER (Professional International Educator Roundtable) 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. There is no fee or membership required for participation, but please RSVP to [hanna.lee@csun.edu](mailto:hanna.lee@csun.edu), so that we can plan appropriately.

What do you do when you have a case specific issue, and you don't know how to resolve it?  
Contact our Regulatory Ombudsman, Madjid Niroumand ([madjid@ccd.edu](mailto:madjid@ccd.edu)). He is currently the Director of the International Center at Orange Coast College.

In addition, you can also use IssueNet, a web-based system that you can use to report an issue or get liaison help. [Click here](#) for step by step instructions on how to "IssueNet", compliments of Madjid Niroumand.

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## Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

International enrollment management (IEM) is a key issue these days across college and university campuses. For an excellent introduction to IEM and key factors to consider in your school's IEM discussion, "International Enrollment Management: Framing the Conversation" is a must-read. The paper was written by NAFSA member Julie Sinclair and can be accessed on the [NAFSA website](#).

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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

<http://www.region12south.nafsa.org/>