

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (April 2011)

Announcements from Southern District Team

Give us your Ideas!

The Southern District Team is responsible for planning and implementing all activities for the membership of the Southern District of NAFSA Region XII. We would like to hear from YOU and other members of the Southern District to know what you want. Please let us know what professional development workshops or activities you would like made available here in the Southern District by taking a [short survey](#). Your input will help us plan for the 2011 calendar year. What types of ideas are we looking for? We include some example topics within this survey, but we truly want to know what you would like to learn, so please use this survey as an opportunity to tell us know what tools and programs will help you do your job better as an international educator.

NAFSA Conference Registration Grant – Deadline Friday, April 22

In cooperation with Region XII of NAFSA, the Southern District will award a NAFSA Conference Registration Fee to 2 international education professionals from the Southern District (Southern California including Santa Barbara County and all area south and east of it plus Southern Nevada). To apply, complete and forward the [Registration Fee Grant Application](#) along with a Statement of Objectives and Letter of Recommendation to Donald Delgado, Southern District Chair (ddelgado@cmc.edu or fax 909-621-8549) by Friday, April 22.

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International Student Update

LA PIER: Los Angeles Professional Int'l Education Roundtable

To join LA Pier Google Group to keep up with announcements and upcoming meetings:

<http://groups.google.com/group/la-pier>

1. "[Sign in and apply for membership](#)"
2. Create Account (on right side of page, if you do not have a Google log-in account yet)

LA PIER focuses on a variety of F-1 and J-1 student issues and is open to anyone (NAFSA membership not required to participate) who works with or hopes to work with F-1 and/or J-1 students. So whether you are a student who is starting out in the field, an "old-timer" who loves to connect with peers and colleagues, or are somewhere in between, these meetings are for you!

We meet every few months, at different campus locations around Los Angeles and Orange County. Participation is free, but participants are responsible for their own transportation, parking fees (if applicable), and meals. RSVPs are requested for planning purposes and topics of general and timely interest are solicited from those who are attending. Hot topic immigration updates are also a regular part of the agenda.

Finding assistance with an immigration issues:

<http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=7923>

Updates from NAFSA on regulatory info:

<http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx>

Join the International Student Advising Network!

Connect with your NAFSA colleagues to ask and share advice and feedback on concerns and issues:

http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_student_3/

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Community College Update

Long Beach City College, along with the Center for Global Advancement of Community Colleges (CGACC), ZINCH, and Destination California hosted a Special Town Hall Meeting on March 18, 2011. The purpose of this meeting was to have all international educators from state community college and universities representing the NAFSA Region XII Southern District to have a voice in providing input and gather relevant information in the formation of the next SEVP Director's decision regarding reduced course loads in the light of the ongoing California budget crises. Special guests were Mr. Louis Farrell, Director of SEVP and Sharon Snyder, Chief of SEVP Policy from Washington, DC who facilitated this meeting.

Mr. Farrell thanked the participants for taking the initiative in organizing the Town Hall Meeting and explained the enormous task SEVP undertook post 9-11 to carefully balance national security issues while continuing to promote the policy to welcome international student and exchange programs. He further stated that many educational institution administrators are now realizing that the enormous revenue generated by international students' attending their college/university will remain on their campus and can help supplement the funds of departments facing the current economic crises.

Mr. Farrell and Ms. Snyder wanted to obtain a better understanding of the current situation regarding the economic downturn's impact on California state community colleges and universities. Each participant was given an opportunity to address the problems facing their own individual campuses due to this economic impact facing California and then provided possible solutions for which SEVP may have legal and statutory authority which will consider the 'pros' and 'cons' of each option.

There still appears to be a misunderstanding pertaining to the memorandum dated November 12, 2009 that allowed international students attending a community college to take less than 12 units due to the cancellation of classes and the economic crises on their campuses. The memo was only to serve for one semester (Spring, 2010). Mr. Farrell will soon write a memo clarifying the misunderstanding and requests anyone continuing to use this memo as a guideline to stop immediately until further notice.

While many important issues were raised during this meeting, the overall discussion addressed the major issue facing all institutions represented – the policy that will allow F-1 students to drop below 12 units due to the cancellation of classes or as it pertains to specialized majors, such as the nursing program. There were no firm decisions made at this meeting, rather, they listened and will carefully consider the input and recommendations presented. Once they return to Washington, DC, the problems will be reviewed and the options considered and will soon be announced via the Chancellor's office. Thank you to all who attended this meeting, your input was invaluable.

We would like to build on that discussion by posting all possible suggestions and ideas and ways of working together to help each other during these times. Please post your suggestions or comments by going to the following link: <http://ccca2011.blogspot.com/>

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Community College Representative
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International Scholar Update

On January 27, 2011, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that the cap for H-1B subject filings has been reached for fiscal year (FY) 2011.

The Department of State has released the Visa Bulletin for March 2011. Priority dates in several employment-based (EB) categories moved ahead, although not by much overall. Find the March 2011 Visa Bulletin here: http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_5337.html.

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RAP Update

IERF has recently published Volume 2 of *The New Country Index*, a valuable resource for credentials evaluation. The cost is \$150 plus shipping/handling. For a list of countries that are included in Volume 2, to preview a country profile, or to order a copy of the book, please visit http://ierf.org/index.php/institutions/country_index_vol_ii/.

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Education Abroad Update

As the people of Japan continue to struggle with the devastation of the recent earthquake, subsequent tsunami and nuclear disaster; NAFSAs Education Abroad Health and Safety Subcommittee has compiled a list of resources for international educators. If you are faced with the decision of allowing your students to participate in spring programs in Japan, this web resource is an excellent place to get the facts so you can make an informed decision. Please take a moment to visit the [web resource](#) for links to the US Embassy in Japan warden message, reputable news sites, as well as resources on nuclear issues.

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Education Abroad Representative
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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

Email: region12south@gmail.com