

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (February 2011)

Announcements from the Southern District Team

The Southern District of NAFSA Region XII exists to support international educators in Southern California and Southern Nevada with programs, activities and information pertinent to the field. Although NAFSA membership is not required to [join the Southern District](#), we encourage you to get involved with NAFSA, to get to know NAFSA members, and to consider becoming a member yourself. [Learn more about the benefits of a NAFSA membership today.](#)

Thanks to all who participated in the Southern District elections this past November. We welcome the following new members to the Team: Chair-Elect - Kasey McCarthy, Gemological Institute of America; Treasurer - Daniel Yoder, California Institute of Technology; Registrar - Becky Guberek, University of California, San Diego; Community College Representative - Danita Kurtz, Cerritos College; International Student Representative - Rebecca Peterson, University of Southern California.

If you have any questions about your district membership or would like information about getting involved in the Region XII Southern District, please feel free to contact the [District Team](#) directly. E-mail us at region12south@gmail.com.

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

Community College Update

Special Town Hall Meeting

This is an invitation to all international educators at California State community colleges and universities (PDSOs & DSO's) to participate in assist the SEVP director in formulating his decision on whether to issue a reduced course load for international students in light of the ongoing budget crises facing California.

Presenters: Louis M. Farrell - Director, SEVP
Sharon Snyder - Chief of SEVP Policy
When: March 18, 2011, 10 am - 12 noon
Where: Long Beach City College, 4901 East Carson Street, Long Beach, CA, Room T1200

Go to info@destinationCA.org to RSVP, to ask questions and to get a parking pass and a location map.

To share any comments concerning your college needs during this meeting, go to info@destinationCA.org. The deadline for these suggestions is March 4, 2011. We look forward in seeing you on March 18.

Danita Kurtz, Community College Representative
Phone: 562.860.2451 ext 2151
Email: dkurtz@cerritos.edu

Education Abroad Update

Registration for the 3rd annual San Diego area Lessons from Abroad: Study Abroad Returnee Conference is now open! This year's theme is "From Hot Pants to Pantsuit: Student to Global Professional". The best news is that all marketing materials are now at your fingertips! You can download flyers and leaflets, link to the facebook group, and even find email text right from the [San Diego Lessons from Abroad website!](#) We hope to see you and your students at this fun and unique conference!

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

International Scholar Update

On January 5, 2011, USCIS issued a revised I-9 handbook for employers, with new guidance on issues related to temporary protected status, permanent residence, asylees, and refugees. Please see the [USCIS Handbook for Employers](#).

USCIS has delayed the implementation of the deemed export attestation on Form I-129. On December 23, 2010 a new version of Form I-129 went into effect with a question about deemed export licenses. Employers must certify whether a license from the Departments of Commerce or State is required to release the technology to the international scholar. Until February 20, 2011, petitioners may leave Part 6 blank on the new Form I-129, which deals with deemed export licenses. See the [Association Of University Export Control Officers fact sheet](#).

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

International Student Update

LA PIER: Los Angeles Professional Int'l Education Roundtable

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, February 18 | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM | Occidental College

- Special Topic - *Needs of International Students and Scholars-Implications for Programming and Advising*. Shideh Hanassab and Tina Nguyen from UCLA's Dashew Center will be sharing how their Center has been utilizing international student surveys for over a decade to determine programming and student needs but also share the most recent findings from their population.
<http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/>

Please RSVP to Becky Peterson, rebeccjp@usc.edu, if you would like to attend

Friday, April 8 | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM | California State University, CSUN

- Special Topic - *Applying for a Student Visa* – Representatives from *Wolfsdorf Immigration Law Group* will update us as to new developments in the visa application process (DS-160, biometrics, etc.) as well as share troubleshooting tips for issues that may arise. They are a nationally known and prestigious immigration law firm that has presented at NAFSA nationally and regionally. www.wolfsdorf.com

Please RSVP to Becky Peterson, rebeccjp@usc.edu, if you would like to attend

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/

Rebecca (Becky) Peterson, International Student Representative
Phone: 213.740.5252
Email: rebeccjp@usc.edu

Recruitment, Admissions & Preparations Update

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Hong Kong is the midst of implementing a new secondary education system. That means that that Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and the Hong Kong Advanced level Examination (HKALE) are in their last years, with the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) to be issued beginning in 2012. For those who see Hong Kong applicants, please note that 2010 was the last year for most students to sit for the HKCEE. The HKCEE will be offered one last time in 2011, but for private candidates only. For further information, please visit the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) website at <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/>.

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

Email: region12south@gmail.com