

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (June/July 2011)

Announcements from Southern District Team

International Student Update

1. L.A. PIER: Los Angeles Professional Int'l Education Roundtable

Upcoming:

- **Tuesday, August 2** | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM | California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
- Topic will be information presented at the NAFSA national conference in Vancouver
- Please RSVP along with other desired topic ideas to Becky Peterson, rebeccjp@usc.edu

To join the L.A. Pier Google Group : <http://groups.google.com/group/la-pier>

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

2. USCIS California Service Center (CSC) to Hold Stakeholder Meeting and Teleconference August 10

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) California Service Center will host a stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (PDT). You may participate via telephone or in-person. The meeting will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to raise questions and receive updates from California Service Center leadership. Suggested discussion topics will be accepted in advance. Register by e-mailing your full name, the organization you represent, and manner of participation (in person or via telephone) to Ana Rili, Community Engagement Officer, at ana.rili@dhs.gov, by Friday, July 22. E-mail questions or suggested discussion topics to Ana Rili by Wednesday, July 13.

3. SEVIS II Implementation

SEVP announced it hopes to have SEVIS II ready for implementation in Spring 2012 for Batch users and Spring 2013 for RTI with full implementation in late Fall 2012 for Batch users and late Fall 2013 for RTI users. To get all the details about SEVIS II, SEVP highly recommends joining the Yahoo SEVIS II user groups at the links below. In August 2011, a transition workshop will be held by SEVP with selected school DSO's and workshop materials from this meeting will be posted in the Yahoo Groups.

To join:

- Batch Users: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sevisiibatch/>
- RTI Users: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sevisii/>

Also, SEVP has provided screen shots from SEVIS II as an opportunity to give feedback and comment on the transition:

- Transition: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SEVISIITransition>
- Booth demos: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SEVISIIDemos>
- General: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SEVISIIFeedback>

SEVIS II FAQ's: <http://www.nafsa.org/resource/library/default.aspx?id=26823>

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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International Scholar Update

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it is still accepting H-1B petitions from cap-subject employers for FY 2011-2012. Please see <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4b7cdd1d5fd37210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=73566811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD> for current numbers.

Employers who received funds through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) or under section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act ("covered funding") are no longer required to answer Question 1d in Part A of the H-1B Data Collection and Filing Fee Exemption Supplement. The Employ American Workers Act (EAWA) had placed additional requirements on H-1B petitioners who received covered funding. These requirements ended on February 16, 2011. The additional requirements under EAWA no longer apply to any H-1B petition requesting an employment start date of February 17, 2011, or later.

USCIS has begun issuing employment and travel authorization on a single card for certain applicants filing Form I-485. The card looks similar to the current Employment Authorization Document (EAD) but will include text that reads, "Serves as I-512 Advance Parole." A card with this text will serve as both an employment authorization and Advance Parole document. The new card is also more secure and more durable than the current paper Advance Parole document. An announcement about the new card can be found here:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=44028bcbf851e210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=c94e6d26d17df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD>.

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RAP Update

If you weren't able to attend the NAFSA Annual Conference in Vancouver, don't despair! You can access many of the session handouts related to Recruitment, Admissions & Preparation by clicking on the following link: <http://acsearch.nafsa.org/KCSessions2011.aspx?KC=RAP>. Some of my favorite sessions included "Alternative Postsecondary Institutions and Credentials from China" and "A Case of Mistaken Identity: Indian and Pakistani Public Schools", but you are certain to find valuable information in all of the available handouts.

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Community College Update

Destination California

Interview with Zepur Solakian, Executive Vice President Global Communication and Public Relations, Center for Global Advancement of Community Colleges (CGACC)

The financial future of community colleges in California has been hit hard by the budget decreases coming out of Sacramento. In this current environment, any revenue community colleges can generate independently without state support is beneficial to their bottom line. Several community colleges have been recruiting for years while other community college administrators are only beginning to or who need to realize that the revenue generated by international students stays on the college campus and that it is more advantageous to recruit these students to their campuses. According to the IIE Open Doors report on international educational exchange, international students contributed not only to campus life and to the dialogue within classrooms, but also to the U.S. economy at the local, state, and national levels. In 2009/10, international students contributed almost \$20 billion to the U.S. economy as well as over \$ 2.8 billion dollars to the state of California, second only to the state of New York.

Some states are using aggressive recruitment tactics and financial incentives in their quest to bring international student to their college campuses and to their states. California always had the reputation of attracting a large number of international students and now, as we face an economic setback, we need these students more than ever. It is rumored that the shadow of economic doom is slowly eroding the number of international students coming to California with rumors of cancellation of classes, the layoff of instructors, tuition increases and the financial hardships facing our campuses.

This might be the time for California community colleges to collaborate and bring California back to the top destination for international students. **Destination California** has been in existence for approximately 3 years and could be seen as a viable solution for us to come together and support each other in the recruitment process. With this in mind, the following interview with Zepur Solakian, Executive Vice President of the Center for Global Advancement of Community Colleges could be considered a solution in reclaiming California as the top destination for international students from around the world.

Hello Zepur, thank you for this interview. Introduce yourself and tell us how you fit into Destination California?

I am Executive Vice President, Global Communication & Public Relations Center for Global Advancement of Community Colleges (CGACC) www.cgacc.org. I am also the Chair of **Destination California** It is my goal to bring all the knowledge and the partnership of CGACC to help with **Destination California**

What is Destination California?

Destination California is considered a website space where community colleges and universities in California can come together to communicate our message to the world in one voice. This could be our opportunity to combine the resources of member institutions to market and recruit cooperatively, thus establishing and strengthening connections between the education institutions, the government, and commerce issues around the world. **Destination California** provides a forum for international education professionals to meet, network, develop new skills, and exchange ideas, as well as to pool together valuable resources. Together, we can act as an

advocate for international education at the state, national, and global level for the State of California.

What are the advantages of being a member of Destination California?

- Cost sharing and savings in recruitment activities
- Working together, knowledge and best practices can be shared
- Increased enrollments of international students on all participating campuses
- Increased revenue to institutions, communities and the state
- Increased diversity of students
- Strengthened relationships among California's educational institutions
- Internationalization and enhancement of educational experiences for all students

What are the challenges facing California community colleges that need to be addressed?

Community colleges are faced with massive budget cuts and colleges are making these cuts reactively rather than proactively. The need is not to cut out the cash cow. This is what many major multimillion dollar corporations did in difficult times that are not around today to talk about it. College leaders and their boards need to think long term and look at trends and make decisions that will bring economic stability to the colleges and communities. Leaders need to look at the opportunities that international/global education can bring and not at the negatives - for global is not coming soon, it is here now...

The globalization of economies, the rise of the economy in both China and India, advances in science and communications technology, acceleration of global mobility—and the fact that virtually every major health, environmental, and human security challenges Americans face today can be solved only through international collaboration— this will require our graduates to be far more knowledgeable about world regions, cultures, and global issues. Colleges who accept these facts and embrace global education will allow their student to be regionally and globally marketable.

What community colleges are already participating in Destination California?

Pioneering Colleges who came forward to make this project possible are: Cerritos College, Cypress College, Fullerton College, Long Beach City College, Los Angeles City College, Mission College (Silicon Valley), Riverside Community College, Santa Monica College, West Los Angeles College

What measures can be used to address administrators, board of trustees or others at community colleges who may not understand the role of international students on a community college campus and do not want to recruit them?

We need to educate CEOs and BOTs on the benefits of international students. As **Destination California** we are organizing a small group of leaders that have a large international student population or have tremendous interest in growing their international programs. The goal of this group is to find venues where we can educate CEO's and BOTs on the benefits of international student recruitment. To get Sacramento involved and to better understand the benefits of recruiting international students, not just from a monetary prospective today, but from economic developmental opportunities of tomorrow. The group in Sacramento can bring multinational and global businesses to the table to communicate the benefits of a global workforce from a local and global perspective. This group will also work on ways to communicate the relevance of international students to the colleges and to the communities. Colleges that actively recruit international student are more able to keep more classes open due to the additional funds the international students pay. This advantage is not properly communicated to the rest of the college community.

In this current tough economic environment, why would spending money on recruitment be advantageous to community colleges, especially in California and how can Destination California assist in this venture?

The State coffers are dry and this situation will not change for a long time to come. Colleges need to find alternative ways to survive and recruiting international students should most certainly be one of the options colleges need to look at.

The global middle class is growing as is the global demand for International Higher Education. It is projected that student mobility will grow 70% by the year 2025. International Students contributed approximately 18.78 billion to the US economy during the 2009-2010 academic years; it is this country's fifth-largest service-sector export, according to the Department of Commerce. However as more countries get into global recruitment, the U.S. is losing its global market shares due to the perception of high education costs and budget cuts that is effecting all institutions of higher Education and visa issues. The U.S. global market share has fallen from 28% in 2001 to less than 20% in 2009.

We need to stay proactive from an opportunistic prospective... The U.S. education must prepare students for a world where the opportunities for success require the ability to compete and cooperate on a global scale.

How do you address college personnel who thinks the domestic student should register first and be taken care of on campus before the international students?

We need to provide information collectively as to the amount of monies the international students bring to the campus and the community. Furthermore, Colleges need to be transparent on how they use the funds generated by the international students and share this information with the campus and the surrounding communities. Many Colleges were able to keep classes open for hundreds of students as well as pay for other expenses due to the international student funds. We need to continue dialoguing and understand that international students are not taking anything away from the colleges, but actually adding revenue and keeping many classes open for hundreds of resident students.

How can the community colleges work together to make California the top destination for international students?

Community Colleges working together can:

- increase the name recognition of California as a top study destination
- increase the number of international students accessing California educational programs
- facilitate partnerships between California colleges and schools around the world
- foster communication and collaboration between institutions
- capitalize upon the services and support provided by state and federal agencies

What are other community colleges in other states doing to increase their international students?

There are more than 20 consortiums in different states and regions that have come together over the past 10 years to attract students to their states or to their cause. Some of the successful consortiums are: Study Washington, Study Missouri, Destination Indiana, SUNY Global and more. As budgets are cut, it becomes more sensible, logical and cost effective for colleges and universities to pull together their resources for the purpose of marketing and recruitment.

Study Washington and SUNY Global would be excellent models for **Destination California** to study and develop our own methods.

Can Destination California form focus groups of community college personnel who actively recruit international students to assist other community college in their recruitment strategies?

Yes. It is the goal of **Destination California** to form a few focus groups at the office managerial level as well as the management level to discuss sharing opportunities. We are also thinking of conducting workshops and town hall meetings to bring larger groups together to see where the needs are. **Destination California** will conduct a survey of the colleges to see what areas the colleges need help in and organize workshops by experts in the field to meet those specific needs.

Where can I go to learn more about Destination California?

www.destinationca.org for students www.destinationcalifornia.org for Colleges

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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