

NAFSA: Region XII
Southern District E-Newsletter
July 2012 Issue

Chair's Corner

Greetings from the Region XII Southern District

2012 Regional Conference San Jose, California

This year's Region XII Annual Conference will be held in the heart of the Silicon Valley October 22-26, 2012, in beautiful San Jose, California. More details to follow, in the meantime, you can keep up to date on NAFSA Region XII's Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/NAFSARegionXII>. Would you like to volunteer at the conference? Please email sanjoseconference@gmail.com. Hotel reservations are now open for the Hilton San Jose. Single and double rooms start at \$169 per night, so make your reservation today through this link and receive the special NAFSA rate

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SJCSHHF-NAF-20121021/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

REGION XII Needs Your Help! Region XII Member and Constituent Survey

Dear International Education Professional,

You are receiving this message because you work in the field of international education in California, Nevada, or Hawaii-Pacific. The NAFSA Region XII Leadership Team needs your participation in our first member and non-member constituent survey. The aim of the Region XII Leadership team is to learn more about you, our members and non-member constituents, and how we can better serve your unique professional goals. We are hoping to get feedback from you on how we are doing as an association in meeting the needs of your rapidly changing profession, and what other training or services we can deliver to better serve you. If you are not a member, please feel free to comment openly on what we can do as an organization to offer services outside of member events and services. We also want to hear why or why not you have chosen to be a member.

The survey is anonymous and very simple to complete, taking less than 10 minutes on average.

[Complete the survey!](#)

The region is doing everything we can to make sure this survey gets distributed to as many members and non-members as possible. It is being sent out through various channels, including the Region XII newsletter, directly via email to all current members, and through various social media platforms. However even with all these channels, we still need your help! Please help us to get this survey out to as many friends and colleagues you know that work in the international education in California, Nevada, and Hawaii-Pacific. All you need to do is to forward the link anyone can sign in and complete the survey.

On behalf of Region XII and NAFSA, I thank you in advance for your participation and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions directly. I look forward to continuing to work with you and thank you for the honor to serve the Region. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
David C. Diamond
Chair Elect
NAFSA Region XII: CA, NV, HI
President
Global Student Experience
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(949) 756-2443 phone

Southern District Team Nominations

In late summer, the Southern District will send an email with a Survey Monkey link to nominate your colleagues or yourself for a position on the Southern District Team. It is a great way to meet colleagues in the region and become involved with NAFSA. Several positions are open and we call on the Southern District members to nominate their colleagues or their self for the positions. The following positions are open:

Chair Elect
Treasurer
International Student Rep
Community College Rep
Registrar
IEM (formerly RAP) Rep
So. Nevada Rep

If you are interested or know someone who would be a great candidate, please keep a lookout for the nomination form in your mailbox in late summer.

Kasey McCarthy
NAFSA Region XII Southern District Chair
Kasey.McCarthy@gia.edu

Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation Update

Have you ever wished that someone would compile a list of resources related to credential evaluation? If so, then you'll be happy to (re)discover a 2007 free publication called "Researching International Education Systems and Institutions" by Peggy Bell Hendrickson. You can download the PDF at <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/Default.aspx?id=8893>. You'll find both general resources and resources listed by country, and it's all compiled in one document. Even though the list is almost 5 years old, it's still a great starting point!

International Student Updates

OPT Application Denials

USCIS currently seems to be enforcing that OPT applications must be received no more than 30 days from the date OPT is REQUESTED in SEVIS. If not received within 30 days of the SEVIS request, the application is denied. This is based on 8 CFR 214.2(f)(11)(i)(B)(2) which states:

For post-completion OPT...The student must also file the Form I-765 with USCIS within 30 days of the date the DSO enters the recommendation for OPT into his or her SEVIS record.

Previously, some schools found that if a student did not get the packet mailed within 30 days of original OPT I-20 generation, a reprint of the OPT I-20 with the updated date for DSO signature, sufficed for an approved application. It now appears that this is no longer occurring and denials are being issued. Currently, it is unclear if an appeal to reverse these denials will be considered.

Automation of I-94 card

DHS has announced that it will be automating the I-94 card, potentially by the end of this year. The intent is for the paper forms that are filled-out on the plane to be phased out and for numbers to be automatically generated as travelers pass through the ports.

It is unclear at this time if the final system will be completely online that travelers can access later or if some type of paper receipt will be printed by CBP and given to the traveler. For more information: <http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=33618>

Launch of ELIS system

On May 22, 2012, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) launched the first phase of the new electronic immigration system, known as USCIS ELIS. Currently, USCIS ELIS is available for certain students and visitors who need to file a stand-alone Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-539).

- USCIS memo on submission of Form I-20 or DS-2019 in support of Form I-539 Change Of Status:
<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/Default.aspx?id=32992>
- General information: www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis

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Region XII Southern District Team
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International Scholar Updates

EB-2 Visa Retrogression: As of the July 2012 visa bulletin, the EB-2 category for worldwide has retrogressed to January 1, 2009 and for those from China and India it is unavailable. In October 2012, the begin of the new 2013 fiscal year, the new visa numbers will come out and potentially have the worldwide EB-2 category become current and the China and India EB-2 category will move to August or September 2007.

Karla Macias, International Scholar Representative

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Education Abroad Updates

Lessons from Abroad Returnee Conference

On behalf of the Lessons from Abroad Los Angeles planning committee, we invite you and your students to participate in this year's Lessons from Abroad Returnee Conference: Los Angeles! The event will be held Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Loyola Marymount University.

As you may know, this returnee conference is a collaboration of professionals across the field of international education. The goal of this conference is to address the often overlooked needs of our recently returned study abroad students. By pooling our time and resources at the regional level, we can each provide our students with greater resources and networking opportunities. The keynote presentation offers insight into how study abroad translates socially, academically, and professionally. Afternoon breakout sessions provide time for reflection and share tools necessary for practical application of these lessons. Attendees of this conference learn ways to utilize their study abroad experience to land a job, and have found the resources offered to be of tremendous value.

More information will soon be available at www.lessonsfromabroad.org/losangeles. Early bird registration is just \$15 for students and will open in August.

We invite your support of and participation in this event. There remain plenty of opportunities to get involved; as an exhibitor or sponsor, a session presenter, a day-of volunteer, and most importantly as a recruiter of your students for this conference.

Please contact conference co-chairs Katie Hunter Perkins (katie.e.perkins@gmail.com) or Lisa Loberg (loberg@callutheran.edu) if you would like to get involved, or if you have any questions or suggestions!

Diversity Abroad Conference

Diversity Abroad is pleased to announce the first annual Diversity Abroad Conference:

'Changing Landscapes: Strategies & Opportunities for Greater Access'

This stimulating conference, hosted by Loyola University Chicago, will be held on **April 1 - 2, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois**. The conference will provide professionals at various levels with the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking exchanges of ideas and approaches to diversifying the types of students involved in education abroad experiences.

Save the date! More details will be available at <http://www.diversitynetwork.org/conference>.

NAFSA Conference Visa Updates

If you missed going to NAFSA Annual Conference, here are the current visas updates given at the [Visas for U.S. Students: An Update for U.S. Professionals](#) session.

LaSharon McLean Perez

Education Abroad Representative

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