NAFSA: ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS

GOALS AND BUSINESS PRACTICES OF THE NAFSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO
Adopted by the Board of Directors December 1, 2007
Revised March 9, 2015
Revised October 21, 2022

Goals of NAFSA’s Annual Conference & Expo
NAFSA: Association of International Educators hosts a conference each year to bring together international educators from around the world for training; professional development; networking; exposure to new programs, products, and services; and advocate for international education and exchange. The goal of the NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo is to advance knowledge in the field of international education and exchange and to provide for dissemination and promotion of professional guidance and best practices. The Annual Conference & Expo also provides opportunities for attendees to learn about the association and its mission, values, and educational programs, products, services, and for exhibitors and sponsors to showcase their programs, products, and services that serve the field.

Conference registration fees and Expo revenue constitute a major part of NAFSA’s budget. The registration fees are set as part of the annual budgeting process, which also includes projections for exhibitor revenue.

Professional Development Programming
NAFSA invites any individual or group to submit proposals for conference educational sessions and workshops. All proposals must be consistent with NAFSA’s charitable and educational purpose and should advance knowledge in the field of international education. Proposals are reviewed by the Annual Conference Committee of volunteers and are selected based on the extent to which they contribute to new knowledge in the field, their likely appeal to the conference audience, their connection to the conference theme, and the diversity and expertise of presenters. The selection criteria are published each year in the NAFSA Call for Proposals at www.nafsa.org.

In addition to sessions and workshops selected by the Annual Conference Committee, sessions and workshops may also be offered by members of the NAFSA staff and volunteer leaders to promote the association’s goals and educational programs, products, and services.

Right of Refusal of Proposals
The Annual Conference Committee reserves the right to reject any proposals that are not unique, high quality, consistent with NAFSA’s mission and/or do not represent best practice in the field. Proposals of a commercial nature are rejected by the Annual Conference Committee.
Participation of Exhibitors and Sponsors
NAFSA’s Expo, held in conjunction with the Annual Conference, allows educational and commercial organizations and institutions to promote their institutions, programs, products, or services in ways that serve members, educators, their institutions and programs, and their students and scholars.

Benefits to Exhibitors and Sponsors for Participation in the NAFSA Conference
Exhibitors may purchase space in NAFSA’s International Education Expo to gain visibility for their institutions, programs, products, and services. Each exhibitor is listed in the online conference program with a brief description of their offerings and on the NAFSA website with a link to the organization’s home page and is granted a number of complimentary registrations commensurate with the size of the booth. The full list of benefits, requirements, and limitations is published each year on the NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo website.

Sponsors may underwrite conference events, programming, or services such as plenaries, receptions, tote bags, name badge holders and lanyards, featured programs and more. Sponsor benefits include opportunities to reflect the sponsor’s brand, logo, and messaging on the sponsored item or at the sponsored event. Sponsors are also recognized at conference plenary sessions, on on-site signage, and on the NAFSA website. The full list of benefits, requirements, and limitations is published each year on the NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo website.

The NAFSA Expo supports NAFSA’s charitable and educational purpose and is conducted as a qualified convention and trade show activity under relevant Internal Revenue Service guidance.

NAFSA’s Global Partnership Program
NAFSA welcomes universities, corporations, businesses, or other relevant organizations to become NAFSA Global Partners. Global Partners support NAFSA and the field of international education and exchange through paid participation in the program. There are three tiers of Global Partnership each with their respective benefits. Benefits include but are not limited to recognition at conference plenary sessions and in on-site signage, discounts on advertising and exhibiting at the Annual Conference, complimentary conference registrations, and listing on the NAFSA website.

Organizations, institutions, or businesses that participate in NAFSA’s Global Partnership Program may purchase session time in the conference schedule. Known as “Global Partner Sessions,” they provide an educational experience for attendees and are not sales pitches for the partner’s programs, products, or services. Such sessions are reviewed by NAFSA staff and volunteers and are specially identified in the conference program. The full list of benefits, requirements, and limitations related to Global Partnership is published on the NAFSA website and is updated on a regular basis.

Right of Refusal of Exhibitors, Sponsors, or Global Partners
NAFSA reserves the right to refuse to rent exhibit space to any applicant whose product or service is not consistent with NAFSA’s charitable and educational mission and purpose.
Similarly, NAFSA reserves the right to approve or reject a potential sponsor or Global Partner for any reason.

**Disavowal of Endorsement**
NAFSA’s acceptance of a potential exhibitor, sponsor, or Global Partner should not be construed as an endorsement by NAFSA of the exhibitor, sponsor, or Global Partner, or of its programs, products, or services.

**Prize Drawings, Raffles, or Giveaways**
In those states and districts where its conferences are held, NAFSA follows all relevant legal requirements as they pertain to prize drawings, raffles, sweepstakes, door prizes, or giveaways. Similarly, NAFSA expects its sponsors and exhibitors at the Annual Conference to follow local legal requirements. In its sole discretion, NAFSA reserves the right to restrict or prohibit any content, promotion, lottery, or give-away by an exhibitor or sponsor. NAFSA also reserves the right to limit any activity of an exhibitor or sponsor that causes obstruction or disturbs other exhibitors or participants, that is illegal, or that NAFSA deems inappropriate for any other reason.