Below are specific recommendations for advancing international education:

**Bureau of Industry and Security**

- **Protect Sensitive Research While Remaining Open to Global Academic Engagement.**
  DOC must balance efforts to protect sensitive research and technology developed at U.S. higher education institutions without implementing policies that target wide swaths of international students, scholars, and researchers based on their nationality. Treating international students and scholars broadly as a threat and imposing progressively restrictive and unnecessary requirements without any demonstrable national security benefit makes our nation weaker and less secure. The government should work in close partnership with U.S. higher education to ensure both an open and secure environment for internationally collaborative study and research.

**International Trade Administration**

- **Develop a National International Student Recruitment Strategy in Partnership with the U.S. Departments of State, Education, and Homeland Security.**
  To ensure that the U.S. government’s policies and messages create a welcoming environment for international students, scholars and researchers, a whole-of-government national recruitment strategy is necessary. DOC should work in partnership with the named agencies above on an international student recruitment strategy, to include a streamlined, one-government, marketing campaign designed to attract a diverse group of international students from all regions of the world to study in the United States.

**UPDATE: On July 26, 2021, the U.S. Departments of State and Education, with support from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security, released a “Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education”, outlining their shared commitment to promoting international education, and to undertaking actions to support a renewed focus on international education.**

**Adopted Recommendations**

**Bureau of Economic Analysis**

- **Provide Detailed Methodology for Calculating U.S. Trade in Services, Education-Related Personal Travel.**
  DOC’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) calculates the economic contributions of international students, through the tuition and living expenses they pay, as a trade in services export, defined as “Education-related Personal Travel”. In 2020, DOC calculated the contribution of international students at $39 billion. NAFSA also calculates the economic contributions of international students;
for the 2020-2021 academic year, we calculated a contribution of $28.4 billion to the U.S. economy. Given the gap between our respective calculations, we urge DOC to provide a detailed methodology on the process used to arrive at their calculation. DOC also calculates the economic impact of study abroad on the U.S. economy; a detailed methodology on this calculation is also requested.