

## **Important Update from NAFSA President**

*December 1, 2020*

Dear Colleague,

This year has provided numerous unforeseen challenges to the field of international education, foremost being the COVID-19 pandemic. After surveying thousands of past attendees, it was confirmed that travel restrictions would prevent many from attending an in-person annual conference. The COVID-19 pandemic and its related effects make it impossible to hold the event as planned. We listened to your feedback, and due to our deep concern for the safety of our community, the NAFSA Board of Directors decided to offer an all-virtual NAFSA 2021 Annual Conference & Expo.

However, with challenges, come opportunities. This online event will make it possible to broaden learning and engagement. Attendees can collaborate virtually in vital conversations with peers from around the world and discover the latest strategies and best practices for the field. Networking is a cornerstone of our annual event and attendees will be able to participate in interactive and engaging experiences through a dynamic virtual conference platform. Sessions will be easily accessible on-demand for conference attendees to conveniently view and review. Please check our annual conference website for updates on the program, as well as registration and sponsorship information.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and support through this very difficult time. I would also like to thank NAFSA's dedicated members and volunteers, especially the 2021 Annual Conference Committee, who have been working to curate the educational program for the conference and who will continue to guide us in offering rich and relevant content in this virtual format.

There is no better opportunity to engage with colleagues and make new connections from around the world than the NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo, and we look forward to designing our shared future together with you from June 1 to June 4, 2021.

Sincerely,

Ravi Shankar,  
NAFSA President and Chair of the Board of Directors