



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

**2012 AIEA CONFERENCE SUMMARY**

With a theme of “Building a Secure World through International Education,” the 2012 AIEA Conference was held Feb. 19-22 in Washington DC. Chaired by Dr. Donna Scarboro of George Washington University, this was the largest and most diverse conference in the history of AIEA, with over 800 participants from 45+ different countries. With 366 presenters, 108 sessions, 28 showcase sessions and 6 well-received pre-conference workshops, the conference program provided participants with the rich opportunity to explore relevant issues within international higher education such as curriculum integration, strategic planning, partnerships, faculty engagement, and regional trends.

The overwhelming highlight of the conference for many was the Luncheon Plenary with Eboo Patel with participants commenting that he was “one of the best and most relevant speakers of any international conference” and that his talk was “riveting,” “truly inspirational” and “groundbreaking,” “giving hope for the future.” Other highlights of the 2012 AIEA Conference, based on post-conference evaluations, were the 30th anniversary opening reception at the National Press Club (“fabulous” with “outstanding food”) the excellent networking, the Presidential Plenary with Justice Unity Dow (“fascinating”), the ACE opportunities, the Ambassadors’ session, the Brazilian speakers at the Associational Breakfast, the women’s leadership session, and the concurrent sessions which featured “engaged speakers,” “challenging topics,” and “research-based presentations” with “thought-provoking” and “relevant” content. Participants were also glad to connect with colleagues from such organizations as the US Department of State and EducationUSA. Participants also commented that they appreciated the “diversity of speakers,” “very high level discussions,” the “quality and variety of sessions,” and the “presence of so many colleagues from all over the world.” Others noted that it was the “right mix of SIOs” and another concurred by observing that it’s the “right group of people for useful meetings,” with one person concluding “best program ever.”

AIEA was pleased to collaborate with the American Council on Education on co-sponsoring the pre-conference ACE Collaborative, in which numerous AIEA members participated. Another highlight of the conference was the awarding of the Klasek Award to Peggy Blumenthal of the Institute for International Education for her outstanding service to the field of international education and the presentation of the Rutenber Award to past AIEA president Stephen Dunnett

for his exceptional and dedicated service to the association. The Josephson Award for outstanding graduate work went to Jason Pedicone, a doctoral student at Princeton who founded the Paideia Institute, a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting the humanities through innovative educational programming in Europe. A special thank you to Awards Committee Chair Susan Carvalho and her committee members for their work on the awards process this year.

While some participants commented on the growing size of the conference as becoming “too big,” others remarked on the “relatively small size of the conference compared to others” which was “very conducive to networking effectively.” Suggestions included having more sessions presented by international participants, topics that cover cutting-edge practices, and more informal networking opportunities. Excellent suggestions were made as to session topics and plenary speakers for next year's conference as well as other helpful feedback, all of which will be carefully considered by 2013 Conference Chair Sabine Klahr and the Conference Advisory Board, who will work to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible into the 2013 conference next year in New Orleans on Feb. 17-20. Please note that the Call for Proposals for the 2013 conference will be sent out in May, with an Aug. 15 deadline. The theme of the 2013 conference is “Re-Imagining Higher Education in a Global Context.” We look forward to your participation at next year's AIEA conference!

Deep appreciation is expressed to all those who made the conference possible including AIEA Conference Chair Donna Scarboro, the AIEA Conference Planning committees, all of our extraordinary presenters, volunteers, AIEA staff and interns and the local host universities of American University, The George Washington University and Georgetown University, which provided the wonderful volunteers at the conference. Appreciation also goes to the conference sponsors and exhibitors for their support of this conference with a special thank you to AIEA's All-Conference Sponsor Platinum Sponsors, ELS Educational Services, Australia's Group of 8, IDP Education, and i-graduate, whose generous support helped make this conference possible.

Note: For those of you who may want to access some of the presentations (or links to presentations) made in Washington DC, you can find those online on the AIEA website (<http://aieaworld.org/events/2012-conference-presentations.htm>). Appreciation is expressed to those presenters who shared their presentations and/or links with AIEA. (Note that not all presenters submitted presentation materials for the website but you may want to check back periodically for new additions.)

See you in New Orleans on February 17-20 for the 2013 AIEA Conference!

- Dr. Darla Deardorff, AIEA