



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS (AIEA) PRESENTS 2015
RUTENBER AWARD AND KLASEK AWARD TO DR. GIL MERKX**

At the 2015 Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) Conference in Washington, DC, Dr. Gil Merx of Duke University received both the Timothy J. Rutenber Award and the Charles Klasek Award for outstanding service to the field of international education. This occasion marked the first time in the Association's history that an individual has been recognized for his achievements by receiving both awards in the same year.

Each year AIEA presents its most prestigious award, the Charles Klasek Award, as a tribute to Charles "Chuck" Klasek, a founding member of AIEA and the association's third president. The Klasek Award recognizes long-term and outstanding service to the field of International Education. The Timothy J. Rutenber Award honors AIEA members who have rendered long-term and outstanding service to the Association.

Gil Merx has demonstrated exceptional service to the Association since he was first invited to be a speaker at AIEA's 1985 conference in Washington, DC. In 2002, Professor Merx was elected to the AIEA Executive Committee. In 2004 he made a successful bid to host the AIEA Secretariat at Duke University. In 2005, he was named AIEA Treasurer. In 2007, he became President-Elect of AIEA, and in 2008, he served as AIEA President., and as Treasurer of AIEA, Merx established the AIEA endowment fund, now valued at over one million dollars. As President of AIEA, Merx introduced the Presidential Fellows Program as well as a number of other initiatives, including AIEA Thematic Forums and the SIO Academy, to be hosted at Duke University in Spring 2015. He continues to serve on the Board and on the AIEA Endowment Committee, and also has served on both of the recent AIEA strategic Planning Task Forces and on the AIEA Policy Advisory Committee.

The single criterion for the Charles Klasek Award is that the recipient should have given long-term and outstanding service to the field of International Education. David Fleshler, who nominated Gil Merx, for this award, says "I can think of no one who fits that criterion more than, and no one in the field of international education administration who is more deserving of the award than Gil Merx."

Merx has been a dedicated advocate for international education for more than half a century. He has made significant contributions to international education as a researcher, editor, author, administrator, organizer, and President and officer of AIEA. Beyond his encyclopedic knowledge, personal understandings of the key issues in the field, and his genuine desire to advance the work of international



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higher education, Dr. Gil Merckx is truly a person of integrity and honor. He has spent his life advancing the work of international higher education and is one of the giants in the international education field.

Founded in 1982, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), hosted at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, is a professional membership organization composed of institutional leaders representing over 300 institutions engaged in advancing the international dimensions of higher education.

For additional information, visit www.aieaworld.org or contact AIEA at aiea@duke.edu or 1-919- 668-1928.

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MERCKX BIO

Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Merckx has an A.B. from Harvard University, and an MA and PHD from Yale University in Sociology. He has been a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad de Huamanga in Ayacucho, Peru, and a visiting scholar at Stockholm University and at the Instituto Torcuato De Tella in Buenos Aires. He has taught at Yale University, the University of New Mexico, Gothenburg University (Sweden), and Duke University, and has conducted field research in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay.

He was the founding director of the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico, which he directed from 1980-2000. He served as the Editor of *the Latin American Research Review* from 1981-2001, and was a member of the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association during the same period. He was a founding member of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, which was established at a conference that he organized at the University of New Mexico in 1984. He was the founder of *Encounters: A Quincentenary Review*, which he directed from 1989 to 1993. He is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies. He has also served on the editorial boards of *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de America Latina y El Caribe* (Tel Aviv), *Seguridad Estrategica Regional* (Buenos Aires), and *Pensamiento Propio* (Managua). Professor Merckx currently serves on the boards of the Scholars at Risk Network (New York) and of the Venice International University (Italy).

Professor Merckx was a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the Advancement of Foreign Languages and International Studies (CAFLIS), Washington, DC from 1987-1990. He was on the Fulbright Area Advisory Committee for Latin America, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), 1990-1993, which he chaired during 1992-1993. He served on the Inter-Association Task Force of ACE, AAU, NASULGC, AASCU, NAICU, and AACCC for HEA-TitleVI/Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6) reauthorization during 1990-92. He also served on the Association of American Universities Research Libraries Task Force on Acquisition and Distribution of Foreign Languages and Area Studies Materials (1992-1994), and on the Commission on International Education, American Council on Education (1994-1996).



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In 1992 Professor Merx founded the Council of Directors of Title VI National Resource Centers for Language and Area Studies (CNRC), which he has co-chaired until the present. He played a leading role in establishing the Coalition for International Education (CIE), of which CNRC was a founding member, and which now represents more than 30 organizations. He has worked closely with Miriam Kazanjian, the Coalition's consultant, ever since. The Coalition has been a staunch advocate for international education programs in the Department of Education.

Professor Merx collaborated with the staff of Senator David Boren during the drafting of the National Security Education Act of 1991, and served as the chairman of the Group of Advisors of the National Security Education Program, Washington, DC, from 1994-1998.

In 2001, Professor Merx became Vice Provost for International Affairs at Duke University, responsible for all aspects of international education at Duke. In addition, he has served as Director of the Duke Center for International Studies (DUCIS), Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Director of the Center for Islamic Studies, and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies. He is currently Director of the Office of International and Area Studies (OASIS), as well as Director of DUCIS and professor of sociology at Duke.

Professor Merx's recent writings include *A Brave New World: Area, International, and Foreign Language Studies in the Global Area* (Wm. And Mary, 2014); "The History of Internationalization of Higher Education," co-authored with Hans de Wit, in the *SAGE Handbook of International Higher Education* (2012), "International and Area Studies: Past, Present, and Future" in *Relevant/Obsolete? Rethinking Area Studies in the US Academy* (Michigan, 2012); "Gulliver's Travels: The History and Consequences of Title VI" in *International and Language Education for a Global Future* (Michigan State, 2010), and "Flow systems, Catastrophes, and Public Policy" in *Constructal Human Dynamics: Security and Sustainability* (IOS Press, 2009). He is collaborating with Riall Nolan on a volume of reflections on the SIO role by current and former SIOs, to be published by the Harvard Education Press in 2015. Beyond his encyclopedic knowledge, personal understandings, of the key issues in our field, and his genuine desire to advance the work of international higher education, Gil is truly a person of integrity and honor. He has spent his life advancing the work of international higher education and is one of the giants in the field.