



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

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AIEA Recognizes University of Calgary International with 2020 Innovation Award in Internationalization

Washington, DC (February 18, 2020)— At its 2020 Annual Conference, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) presented the University of Calgary International (UCI) with the Innovation Award in Internationalization in recognition of the innovative project “International Partnerships Assessment Rating Index (IPARI).”

The AIEA Innovation Award in Internationalization highlights exceptional programs, projects, or initiatives aimed at advancing internationalization. As colleges and universities around the US increasingly recognize the importance of pursuing internationalization as a distinct and intentional project, the need grows for successful and specific models of programming at all levels. Many international education leaders work tirelessly and creatively to realize a vision for internationalization that best meets their institutional needs. Some of this work is not only effective but enlightening, worthy of emulation by others who are either new to the field or value creative approaches to their work.

This mission of the IPARI project was to strategically evaluate and prioritize partnerships in order to assess their effectiveness in expanding cooperative networks and increasing international impacts on campuses. Under the leadership of the Vice Provost International (VPI), UCI created a novel ranking system which assesses and evaluates existing partnerships and ensures agreements align with a university’s international goals and visions in order to advance its institutional international strategy.

Underlying this project was a belief that creating a more strategic approach to managing and evaluating agreements was required to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the investment of people, time, and funding to support the vision of the internationalization of the institute. The goal was to be able to identify all activities, projects and programs within a partnership and create a criterion to evaluate the partnerships. To ensure all components were explored, the project established three categories:



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- 1) Academic Programs and Collaboration: Activities related to the delivery of academic programs such as dual degrees, training programs, articulation agreements and international development programs.
- 2) Mobility Programs: Activities related to mobility of students, staff and faculty such as exchange programs, field schools, internships, volunteer activities, length of partnerships etc.
- 3) Research Collaborations and Impact: Activities related to research collaborations between the host university (HU) and partner university (PU) as well as academic publications and joint research funded or co-authored by personnel from the HU and PU.

The analysis of these activities provided UCI with compelling data that identified inactive and strategic partnerships, as well as opportunities to build up partnerships. It allowed UCI to parse the data by region and country, and to make a data-driven assessment of the opportunities afforded by each partnership, whether active or inactive. The analysis also provided the opportunity to assess areas of potential development, giving UCI targets for future explorations. This led to an alignment of resources to achieve research and educational objectives, to mitigate risk and to monitor partnerships with quantitative rigor.

The IPARI methodology has been shared by UCI with numerous institutions and at professional gatherings, such as at APAIE and APLU, and has been met with positive reactions and support. A number of institutions have begun to adapt the IPARI model for their local needs. The UCI team is now working on IPARI 2.0, which will add qualitative components such as social, economic, and political factors to further assist in the assessment of partnership efficacy.

AIEA recognizes the University of Calgary International for this project, especially for its effectiveness, for its impact on strategic decision-making, and for offering a low-cost methodology with significant positive benefits for internationalization.

About AIEA:

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) is a member organization that equips leaders to shape the future of higher education in a global context.

AIEA advances strategic transformational approaches to internationalization of higher education; empowers those who lead such efforts; convenes global conversation on key issues; and partners with other organizations around the world to develop sustainable, forward-looking perspectives.

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