



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

2016 AIEA Conference Summary

With a theme of “Building a Better World: The Academy as Leader,” the 2016 AIEA Conference was held Feb. 21-24 in Montreal, Canada, the first time the AIEA annual conference has been held outside the United States in many years. Chaired by Dr. Gil Latz of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, the conference was attended by over 700 participants from 38 countries, including delegations from Jordan and Saudi Arabia. With 230 presenters, 75 sessions, 28 roundtable discussions, and 6 substantive pre-conference workshops, the conference program provided participants with the rich opportunity to explore relevant strategic issues to university leaders within international higher education, including partnerships, regional trends, funding, and national strategies of internationalization.

When asked the reason for attending the AIEA conference, many participants cited networking, professional development, and updates on critical issues and trends in the field as the key reasons why they attended. Specifically, one participant said, "AIEA is the conference for international higher education leadership. Leaders and colleagues share leading practice, learn and engage in the future growth of global higher education," and another said, "It is the best-quality and cost effective activity for professional development for international education officers." A first-time attendee commented, "this was my first AIEA, and I found it to be a very accessible conference with much more variety of expertise than I expected." Deep appreciation is expressed to all who presented and to all who attended the 2016 AIEA Conference.

There were numerous conference highlights cited by participants including networking opportunities (especially the stunning opening reception), the high-quality sessions (and especially the rich roundtable discussions), connecting with Canadian colleagues and institutions, and the closing plenary speaker Richard Heinz. Commenting on the closing plenary speaker, one attendee said "Richard Heinzl was a perfect conference speaker - well spoken, inspiring, reminds us why we are in the field. I especially liked his social justice angle."

Another highlight of the conference was the AIEA Awards Ceremony with the awarding of the Klasek Award to Jacques Proulx of the University of Sherbrooke for his outstanding service to the field of international education. The Rutenber Award was awarded to AIEA Past-President Sabine Klahr of the University of Utah for her exceptional and dedicated service to the association. The Josephson Award for Professional Promise in International Education went to two recipients: Leanna Jenkins of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and Svetlana Fileatreau of George Mason University. This award recognizes outstanding graduate student research contributing to international education. The Innovation Award in Internationalization was given to Westminster College for its "Take a Friend Home" Initiative. A special thank you to Awards Committee Chair, Tom Bogenschild, and his committee members for their work on the awards process this year. (AIEA members are encouraged to start thinking now about possible nominees for these and other AIEA awards to be given at next year's conference; a



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

call for awards nominations will go out to members via the AIEA members-only listserv in September.) In regard to the location, there were mixed reactions with many celebrating the more international locale of Montreal and the warm welcome by our Canadian hosts. However, others commented on the more wintry climate, although quite mild according to Canadian hosts, and especially in the impact on the last day of the conference, with numerous colleagues experiencing a more memorable journey home, albeit often in the companionship of other AIEA colleagues.

Key take aways for participants included the value of learning from each other, the solidarity of "I'm not alone in the changing leadership landscape," and how important "the face to face aspect is for networking and discussion." In addition, one participant observed, "We are all on a spectrum of comprehensive internationalization and have something to learn from each other no matter what type of institution we are from or the hype that might surround our institution or what we are doing." Others concluded "I love being in an environment tailored to SIO's where discussions can focus on high level strategy and not get bogged down in minutiae;" another said "The highlights were locating kindred spirits who shared the same concerns and issues that I am facing." The conference received a rating of good to outstanding by 98% of the 210 respondents on the post-conference evaluation.

AIEA was pleased to collaborate for the fifth year in a row with the American Council on Education on co-sponsoring the pre-conference ACE-AIEA Internationalization Collaborative, in which numerous AIEA members participated. AIEA was also pleased to collaborate with the following organizations in offering pre-conference workshops: EducationUSA, Institute for International Education (IIE), and SUNY Center for Online International Learning (COIL).

Excellent suggestions were made as to session topics and plenary speakers for next year's conference as well as other helpful feedback including "bringing more leading researchers on internationalization from different regions " and having more sessions on multi-faceted partnerships, industry partnerships, internationalization at home, strategic planning, faculty development, pathways programs, and legal/compliance issues for SIOs. One idea for AIEA was to have "A more global engagement of the association..." and that "the 2016 conference was mostly a North American perspective, which is very valuable but not as global as expected." All of this invaluable feedback, including about plenary speakers, will be carefully considered by 2017 Conference Chair, Hilary Kahn, and the Conference Committee who will work to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible into the 2017 conference next year in Washington DC on February 19-22. Please note that the Call for Proposals for the 2017 conference will be sent out by May 2016 with an August 15 deadline. The theme of the 2017 conference is "Internationalization Through Difference: Transcending Boundaries." 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 Gil Latz, the AIEA Conference Committee, all of our extraordinary presenters, volunteers, AIEA



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

staff and interns and the local host institutions of Concordia University, McGill University, and the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM), which provided the wonderful volunteers at the conference. Appreciation also goes to AIEA's Canadian hosts, the conference sponsors and exhibitors for their support of this conference with a special thank you to AIEA's Diamond Sponsor, ELS Educational Services, and AIEA's Platinum sponsors, Australia's Group of 8 and QS, whose generous support helped make this conference possible.

For links to news articles about the conference, as well as the conference materials, go to the [AIEA webpage](#). This page includes links to session materials, conference press coverage, photo albums from the event, as well as other summary information. Appreciation is expressed to those who shared their presentations and/or links with AIEA, as well as those who tweeted while at the conference. (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 Washington DC on February 19-22 for the 2017 AIEA Conference!

- Dr. Darla K. Deardorff, AIEA Executive Director