



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

**Message from AIEA's president, Susan Buck Sutton**

These are exciting times for our field. Amidst the general forces of globalization, we are now experiencing an international reorganization of higher education itself, with global rankings, swirling students, and new global academic structures and formats emerging on an almost daily basis. Long-standing goals of internationalization have been supplemented by those of institutional positioning, and SIOs are no longer the only campus administrators interested in international outreach. There is a sea change under way, but its ultimate outcome is as yet unclear.

It is thus critically important to bring together those who lead, vision, synthesize, and coordinate internationalization at their institutions. The opportunity to shape a global system of higher education that benefits all is there. The possibility of moving in a very different direction is there as well. The work of internationalization has taken on new importance. It is still about student learning and collaborative research. It is also, however, about shaping institutions to be the kind of global citizens we ask of our students. It is about understanding the impact of institutional actions and building a system that works for the common good.

We will only do this if we come together, share perspectives, and work collaboratively – across institutions, organizations, and nations. Over the last few years, AIEA has embraced its role in creating forums that do precisely this.

The 2011 Annual Conference explicitly took up the theme of “Competition and Collaboration in the Global Transformation of Higher Education.” The result was the largest AIEA conference in history, with nearly 700 participants from over 35 different countries. Next year’s conference will dive into an equally timely topic, “Building a Secure World through International Education.” Under the expert guidance of President-elect Donna Scarboro, the conference will explore the important role that institutions of higher education can play in addressing the global forces that now threaten to destabilize and diminish our communities, from energy sustainability to human rights and conflict resolution.

AIEA understands that the work of building international dialogue on institutional internationalization cannot be a solitary undertaking. In this light, AIEA has been deepening its partnerships. This year’s Annual Conference was coordinated with the ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs) and featured a joint luncheon with speakers

from the Clinton Global Initiative University. The Australian Group of Eight and ELS Language Centers were Platinum Sponsors.

In like fashion, next year's Annual Conference will be paired with a joint AIEA-EAIE retreat, as well as the annual meeting of the Internationalization Collaborative of the American Council on Education. And this fall, AIEA is hosting another Dialogue of the Americas with AMPEI at its conference in San Luis Potosi.

AIEA has also intensified its interaction with the International Association of Universities, and its multinational Expert Group that is focused on rethinking the goals and impact of internationalization. Conversations are occurring with Education USA, and AIEA is well represented on the International Strategy Working Group for the U.S. Department of Education.

These collaborations do not exhaust the list, and there are still others of great importance. Such partnerships reflect the rapidly evolving nature of internationalization. New stakeholders are joining the mix; the downside of internationalization is as much an object of discussion as the upside; and the academic systems in which we operate are morphing in front of our eyes. It is difficult to know where this is heading. If there ever was a time for multiple perspectives to come together, to find wisdom through dialogue, it is now. The impassioned, expert, focused discussions that are the signature of AIEA are finding renewed purpose in this situation, and AIEA is actively reaching out to bring a rich variety of voices to the table. There is important work to be done, and it is best done collaboratively.