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Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) Publishes Standards of Professional Practice for International Education Leaders and Senior International Officers


This document includes 22 standards that describe professional qualifications that are critical for those leading internationalization at higher education institutions. These standards address categories of Internationalization Expertise, Leadership and Management, Advocacy, and Personal Effectiveness.

Margot Gil, Administrative Dean for International Affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, says of the Standards “The AIEA leadership team has done a great service to higher education in creating the new standards of professional practice for leaders in international education. These new guidelines come at a critical time for higher education as all institutions are reassessing their commitment to internationalization in a rapidly changing world.”

This document will advance the professionalization of the Senior International Officer role in higher education institutions; will help current SIOs identify gaps in practice they would like to fill; serve as a guide for aspiring SIOs as they gain the knowledge, skills and experience needed to become SIOs; and help institutions and organizations appointing SIOs to craft position descriptions, and conduct searches for hiring those leading campus internationalization.

Cheryl Matherly, a member of the taskforce that created the Standards of Professional Practice, says of the document “We hope this will guide institutions with the evaluation, creation and design of positions when they’re preparing to hire…and to help with those who are aspiring for this kind of role to be able to understand what is expected in terms of their own kind of professional development.”

As the only organization dedicated to international education leadership and SIOs, AIEA recognizes that internationalization is contextually dependent on institution type and location. SIOs and the institutions and organizations they lead will benefit from having a common set of standards of professional practice for SIOs and internationalization leaders.
A link to the standards is available on the AIEA website, found here: http://www.aieaworld.org/standards-of-professional-practice.

About AIEA

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) is the only association specifically for leaders in international higher education. Founded in 1982, AIEA is hosted at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and is comprised of over 450 institutions around the world 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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