

2019-2020 AIEA Presidential Fellows



Dafina Blacksher Diabate is Director of International Programs at Lincoln University. Serving as the senior international officer at one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Diabate provides leadership for the university's international programs, partnerships, and strategy. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Consortium on International Education, and currently serves on the 2020 conference committee for Diversity Abroad. She earned her master's in Africana studies from Cornell University and her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.



Jonathan Lee is the Director of the Global Engagement Office at Chicago State University. He oversees all global initiatives for the institution, including International Student and Scholar Services, Education Abroad, Global Affairs, the creation of an Intensive English Program, and more. Lee is an active member in international education organizations, such as AIEA AND NAFSA. He previously held positions at Governors State University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Valparaiso University, and Purdue University Northwest.



Tonija Navas is the Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University. She oversees global programming, study abroad and works to strengthen comprehensive internationalization overall. Ms. Navas is active in AIEA and NAFSA and presents frequently on diversity & inclusion issues, among other topics. She is a graduate of Macalester College (BA), George Washington University (MA) and is currently working towards her PhD at Howard University in Higher Education Leadership.



Gretchen Neisler is Vice Provost of International Affairs at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. She is also the director of the Center for International Education. Neisler is active in AIEA, the Commission on International Initiatives within APLU and the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development. She was previously the director of the Center for Global Engagement at Michigan State University. Neisler's most recent publication is a book titled Success After Tenure: Supporting Mid-Career Faculty.



Kalpen Trivedi is Associate Provost and Director of the International Programs Office at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he leads campus strategy and initiatives for comprehensive international engagement. His prior international administrative experience includes program design and evaluation travel health and safety. Kalpen was a Radhakrishnan Scholar (Oxford) and a Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholar, and he holds a doctorate in Medieval Literature from Manchester University. He presents regularly on current issues in international education.

2019-20 AIEA Presidential Mentors



Hilary Link began her tenure as President of Allegheny College in July 2019. She previously served as Dean of Temple University's Rome Campus since 2013, and before that as Vice Provost and Dean for International Programs (SIO) at Barnard College of Columbia University. Link was an AIEA Presidential Fellow in 2010-2011. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Italian Language and Literature from Yale University and a B.A. in Art History and Italian from Stanford.



Cheryl Matherly is Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs at Lehigh University and Professor of Practice in Comparative and International Education. She previously served as SIO for the University of Tulsa. Matherly is the current president of AIEA. She is co-author of the AIEA Standards of Professional Practice, a two-time mentor for the AIEA Presidential Fellows Program, and frequent conference presenter. She writes on international education and employability. Her doctorate is from the University of Houston.



Joanna Regulska is Vice Provost and Associate Chancellor, Global Affairs, and professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, University of California, Davis. With over thirty years of international experience, she has led diverse educational, research and partnerships projects. In 2010-11 she was selected as AIEA Presidential Fellow; in 2013 awarded the Fulbright US-Korea International Education Administrator Award and in 2019 was recognized by the IIE as "SIO of the Year".



Jennifer Robertson is currently the Executive Dean at Valencia College's Poinciana campus. Prior to this role, she was director of Valencia's Study Abroad and Global Experiences office and executive director of the Florida Consortium for International Education (FCIE). Robertson is currently active in FCIE and AIEA and just published a book chapter titled "The Outreach Triad for Successful Study Abroad Programs: Students, Faculty, and the Local Community." She holds an EdD and MBA from the University of Central Florida.



Sally Crimmins Villela is Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs and SIO for the State University of New York, overseeing international academic programs, education abroad, international students, curricular internationalization, and Learning Through Development – a paradigm whereby universities support community-led development. Sally oversees operations in Mexico, Turkey and Haiti, as well as the SUNY COIL Center, the premier university-based virtual exchange center, internationalizing the education of students at more than 70 institutions in 18 countries.