



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

Spring 2023 Presidential Message

Dr. Jeet Joshee, AIEA President



Dear AIEA Colleagues,

As it is often the case, time flies. I cannot believe it has already been over two months since many of us met in Washington DC for the 2023 Annual Conference. By all accounts and from what I have heard it was an outstanding conference with over 800 in attendance from 50 countries. We got a good sense at the conference that international education is making a strong comeback after the pandemic.

One of the action items AIEA got involved in right after the conference was about the far-reaching definition of Third-Party Servicers (TPS) providers guidance issued by the Department of Education (EdD). As the guidance would likely have negatively affected many international education programs, AIEA submitted a strong letter to EdD during the public comment period. AIEA also collaborated with many other organizations in a collective effort to oppose certain components of the guidance related to international education. While the guidance is still going through its process, the Department of Education has already

clarified that the guidance will not include contracts involving study abroad programs and international student recruitment to be a TPS relationship. Furthermore, the guidance will remove provisions barring a foreign-owned TPS from contracting with a U.S. college university and instead address this issue through negotiated rulemaking. This effort of AIEA and other major international education associations is a great example of the power of advocacy. Thanks to Sherif Barsoum of New York University, who chairs AIEA's Public Policy Committee for his work and timely intervention on this issue.

Looking forward, one of the major tasks AIEA will be involved in the coming months is to start a new Strategic Planning process for the years ahead. I will be asking for your involvement and seeking your input as AIEA is only strong because of its engaged members.

As I spoke at the conference, at the heart of our association is our commitment to promoting international education and exchange. I strongly believe that education is a fundamental human right and that only through collaboration and exchange, we can create a more peaceful and prosperous world. As we move forward, I believe that our focus should be on building bridges and fostering partnerships between higher education institutions around the world. We must work together to develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing our global community and to promote cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. We

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must continue to advocate for policies that support international education and ensure that it is accessible to all students. We must also work to address the financial challenges that many students face in pursuing higher education, particularly those from marginalized communities.

In addition, AIEA will continue to develop and work within the framework of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). The new strategic plan will introduce firm commitments to the JEDI efforts from which the leadership and members will benefit.

While our roles and jobs of SIO are changing, one thing we should never forget is to prioritize the well-being of our students, colleagues and ourselves. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health and wellness, and we must ensure that our institutions are equipped to support the well-being of our students, staff, faculty and communities. To that end, let us know how the association can support you and your well-being - we want to hear from you!

As I write this message, we are coming towards the end of an academic year, at least in the United States. For me, it is one of the best times of the year as I get to enjoy the thousands of smiling graduates on my campus. I am sure many of you do the same and I wish you all happy graduation ceremonies for those celebrating the end of the academic year.

In conclusion, I am proud to serve as your President and look forward to working with you all to advance our mission of promoting international education and exchange in building more peaceful societies. Together, we can make a difference and create a more just and equitable world.

Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Jeet Joshee

AIEA President, 2023-24