



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

Spring 2022 Presidential Message *Jewell Green Winn, AIEA President*



Greetings AIEA Members!

It is hard to believe that a few short months ago many of us gathered in New Orleans for a milestone celebration—AIEA’s 40th Anniversary and Annual Conference. I must again congratulate the conference chair Adel El Zaim, the conference committee, the board of directors, the best Secretariat ever and most importantly—you—our members. For those of you who could not attend in person we hope that you had an opportunity to attend our inaugural Virtual Global Summit. Through both initiatives, I have received very positive comments about new relationships that were developed, how we as an association can address new challenges that were presented and lastly, a renewed excitement about the opportunities that surfaced.

I recently presented a keynote address to Western Michigan University—the title was “Know Your Why: A Universal Call to Action”. Much of the presentation was inspired from the distinguished Presidential Panel on the final day of the Global Summit facilitated by former President Carolyn Stefano. As I reflected on some of the statements made during the session, I began to think about my ‘why’—my true purpose for serving in the role of Senior International Officer during such uncertain and challenging times. And, no country in this world is immune to these challenges as we have seen with the pandemic. Yet there are many more challenges that are not part of our everyday conversations in our roles as international higher education leaders. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we all face. They are in fact the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. It takes a visionary, servant leader to lead the charge and use this blueprint to make a difference. This becomes our call to action.

We were reminded throughout the conference and summit that higher education must provide viable bridges between societies and nations as there will be a constant flow of people across those bridges. We are an interconnected human family as one writer claimed. And while this push and pull world can isolate us at times, that should not insulate us from the needs of others. In fact, the grace that we give, the help that turns to hope, and encouragement that empowers, assures us that



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we are never alone as Gary Burnison of Korn Ferry stated. This—is my ‘why’. As your President, I am committed to leading us into deeper conversations around reshaping and reimagining a sustainable future for international higher education.

AIEA is being innovative in bringing tough global issues to surface. We continue to provide a wide range of opportunities to explore global challenges and local challenges simultaneously through global partnerships. We are committed to reimagining how to deal with deep inequities through the launch of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. Research activities are being repurposed by increasing the involvement of doctoral students interested in addressing global issues through their research. We are launching an inaugural Presidential Ambassadors program to forge meaningful connections with this top institutional leadership.

I wholeheartedly believe in the potential of AIEA to rise above the challenges international higher education has faced over the last two years and thus remain the preeminent voice for senior international education leaders around the world. I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to engaging you all over the next several months. Please find a way to get involved in one or more of the committees-- Professional Development and Engagement Committee, Member Outreach and Awards Committee, Public Policy Committee, and the Publications and Resources Committee. WE are stronger together! As Nelson Mandela stated, It always seems impossible until its done.

Always in service,

Jewell