



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Natalie Cruz Receives AIEA's Harold Josephson Award for Professional Promise in International Education**

Washington, DC (February 18, 2020)—At its 2020 Annual Conference, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) recognized Natalie Cruz as the recipient of the Harold Josephson Award for Professional Promise in International Education.

The Josephson Award honors the memory of Dr. Harold Josephson, a long-time leader in AIEA who passed away in 1998. Josephson also served as Associate Vice Chancellor of International Programs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The award recognizes deserving graduate students for outstanding contributions to the field of international education. No award was given this year for Student, Professional Category.

The 2020 Josephson Award, Student Category is presented to Natalie Cruz from Old Dominion University.

Natalie I. Cruz is an advanced doctoral student in Old Dominion University's Education-Higher Education Ph.D. program. At an early stage in her career, she has shown an exceptional record of academic and professional accomplishment.

Cruz's research engagement is extensive and sees her serving as PI or co-PI on a number of major projects. A common thread of her research is exploring new populations of internationally mobile students, emerging and under-researched regional higher education destinations, and issues of equity and stratification within international higher education. She regularly presents her research at both academic and professional conferences and has published articles in top-tier journals. Cruz leads cutting-edge research on high school mobility as part of the Project Research on International Student Mobility (PRISM); she uses social network analysis (SNA) to examine the proliferation of emerging regional media hubs as alternative destinations for international high school leavers; and she serves as a research assistant on research teams such as the Research on International Student Employment (RISE).



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Cruz has served in major leadership roles in national and international organizations focused on international education. She served as the President of the NASPA International Education Knowledge Community Co-Chair and International Symposium Planning Committee. She currently works as the research and publication chair for the Study Abroad and International Students (SAIS) SIG for the Comparative & International Education Society, which manages the forthcoming Routledge Studies in Global Student Mobility book series and the Open Journals in Education (OJED) network.

In achieving all of these successes, Natalie Cruz has also maintained a rigorous and demanding schedule of study, and is a parent of two small children. Her advisor states that she “stands out as truly exceptional among the students” he has met during his career.

Cruz expects to complete her degree in May 2021.

AIEA congratulates Natalie Cruz as this year’s Josephson Student Awardee.

*About AIEA:*

**The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)** is a member organization that equips leaders to shape the future of higher education in a global context.

AIEA advances strategic transformational approaches to internationalization of higher education; empowers those who lead such efforts; convenes global conversation on key issues; and partners with other organizations around the world to develop sustainable, forward-looking perspectives.

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