



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

2014 AIEA Conference Summary

With a theme of “*Universalizing Global Learning in the 21st Century Academy*,” the 2014 AIEA Conference was held Feb. 16-19, in Washington DC. Similar in size to the past two AIEA conferences, there were over 800 participants from 40 different countries, which makes this the most diverse AIEA Conference to date. Participants hailed from countries as far away as Cameroon, Ghana, Pakistan, and Paraguay with the largest delegations, other than the US, being from Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, and Japan. Within the U.S., the largest representation at the conference was from New York, followed by Washington D.C., California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Indiana, all of whom had sizable delegations at the conference. Two-thirds of the attendees were senior international officers, with half of those being newer SIOs. Only one-third were non-AIEA members. Most frequently stated reasons for attending the conference included focused networking with colleagues from around the world, quality and rich content of past AIEA conferences, and professional development (especially for those who had recently moved into more senior leadership positions). One long-time participant noted, “I have attended for the past four years and I always find it an excellent opportunity for networking and getting a sense for what issues are getting prominence in our field.” Another said that this was “one of the best conferences I have been to with strong speakers, interesting sessions and one of its strengths is that it is not too large.”

With over 270 presenters, 109 sessions, and nine well-received pre-conference workshops, the conference program provided participants with the rich opportunity to explore relevant issues within international higher education such as partnerships, faculty development, links between diversity and global education, and internationalization of the curriculum. Over 95% of the respondents rated the conference as “good” to “outstanding” with a key highlight of the 2014 AIEA Conference being the keynote talks by Anthony Appiah, Derald Wing Sue, Philip Altbach and Azar Nafisi (with comments noting that the keynotes this year were the “best ever,” “thought provoking” and “stunning”). According to the evaluations, there were many other highlights of the conference, including invaluable networking, the pre-conference workshops, and the roundtable discussion sessions, which one participant observed were a “great way to network and talk in depth about an important topic” to SIOs. AIEA was also pleased to collaborate with American Council on Education in co-sponsoring the ACE-AIEA Collaborative which immediately preceded the AIEA Conference.

Throughout the sessions and roundtable discussions, there was many “take aways” for participants including some of the following: the importance of having a transparent strategy involving all layers of the organization, the need to map learning outcomes to uncover existing gaps, the need to examine the language component in our materials more closely, the increasingly complex connectivity among higher education institutions internationally, the value of dialogue as a mode of international learning, creating coherence by clarifying outcomes/learning from global experiences, and a burning question: Why is internationalization so difficult to sustain at our institutions?

Another highlight of the conference was the awarding of the Klasek Award to Francisco Marmolejo of the World Bank for outstanding service to the field of international education and the presentation of the Rutenber Award to AIEA past president Bill Lacy of the University of California-Davis for his exceptional and dedicated service to the association. The Josephson Award for outstanding graduate work went to Christine A. Farrugia, whose work as a doctoral student at the State University of New York at Albany has focused on cross-border higher education



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policy in the United Arab Emirates. The 2013-14 AIEA Presidential Fellows were also recognized during the Awards Luncheon. A special thank you to Awards Committee Chair Terence Miller and his committee members for their work on the awards process this year. Members are encouraged to start thinking now about possible nominees for these and other AIEA awards to be given at next year's conference; a call for awards nominations will go out to members via the AIEA members-only listserv this fall.

Excellent suggestions were made as to session topics (such as faculty development strategies, international research collaboration, partnership topics, international student recruitment, smaller institutions' perspectives and insights, gender and leadership, innovation in internationalization, funding initiatives, integration of global learning, addressing SIO challenges) and plenary speakers for next year's conference, as well as suggestions for more networking opportunities. Some concern was expressed about conference hotel logistics; please note that next year's conference will be held at a different – and larger – hotel to help address some of those concerns. The feedback from the post-conference evaluations is greatly appreciated, and the 2014 Conference Chair, Jen Cushman, and the Conference Advisory Board will work to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible into the 2015 conference next year in Washington DC on Feb. 15-18. Please note that the Call for Proposals for the 2015 conference will be sent out later this spring, with an Aug. 15 deadline. The theme of the 2015 conference is "Leading Global Learning: Envisioning New Paradigms." We look forward to your participation at next year's AIEA conference!

Deep appreciation is expressed to all those who made the conference possible including AIEA Conference Chair Harvey Charles, the AIEA Conference Committee, all of our extraordinary presenters, volunteers, AIEA staff and interns and the local host university: American University. Appreciation also goes to the conference sponsors and exhibitors for their support of this conference with a special thank you to AIEA's Diamond Sponsor, ELS Educational Services, whose generous support helped make this conference possible.

Note: For those of you who may want to access some of the session materials, they are available at the AIEA website (<http://www.aieaworld.org/2014-annual-conference--session-materials>). Appreciation is expressed to those presenters who shared their presentations and/or links with AIEA. (Note that not all presenters submitted presentation materials for the website but you may want to check back periodically for new additions.)

See you in DC on February 15-18 for the 2015 AIEA Conference!

- Dr. Darla Deardorff, AIEA