



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Case Western Reserve University Senior International Officer  
becomes AIEA President**

Washington, DC (February 17, 2021) -- During its recent virtual annual conference, David Fleshler, the Vice Provost for International Affairs at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, assumed the presidency of the [Association of International Education Administrators](http://www.aieaworld.org) (AIEA). AIEA is the only association dedicated exclusively to senior leaders in the field of international education. AIEA members are [senior international officers](#) who serve as leaders of higher education institutions and of organizations that support international higher education. AIEA was established in 1982 by a small group of Senior International Officers and has grown to be leader in the international higher education field, with membership of over 600 individuals and institutions and over 950 attendees at its last in-person conference.

Fleshler took over the presidency from Adel El Zaïm, Associate Vice President, International at the University of Ottawa in Canada, during the association's traditional "pass the gavel" ceremony. This year required some high-tech maneuvering as El Zaïm passed his gavel off screen and Fleshler picked up a second gavel off his screen and then showed it to the attendees. The ceremony occurred at AIEA's Annual Meeting of Members during the conference.

"David takes over the leadership of our association at a particularly challenging time for both international higher education and senior international officers," said AIEA Executive Director Darla K. Deardorff. Many AIEA members are examining the role that comprehensive internationalization plays on their campuses, particularly in light of the pandemic. Many sessions at the Annual Conference focused on both the importance and the challenges faced by international higher education leaders in an increasingly interconnected but also increasingly polarized world."

"We have a number of major issues to address over the upcoming year, including the changing landscape for both international higher education and the association, how we most effectively promote leaders in the field, and how best to celebrate and memorialize AIEA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," said Fleshler. "I am both honored and humbled to become the president of our field's premier association."

The AIEA presidency is a one-year position; Fleshler will pass the gavel to Jewell Winn, Senior International Officer, Executive Director for International Programs and Deputy Chief Diversity Officer at Tennessee State University. He will be the chair of the AIEA 2023 Annual Conference.



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*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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