



From the President

Jeanne Hind

As I begin this newsletter

with a message for the year 2009, I looked back at our first AAIEP newsletter which came out 20 years ago in 1989. Gary Honda, the President of AAIEP at the time, remarked in that issue that “our dreams for AAIEP depend upon your willingness to actively participate.” Gary went on to call the membership to participation by reminding us that “we [AAIEP] are still in our infancy. Now is the time to help us nurture our organization so that it becomes the foremost authoritative voice for IEP directors.”

None of us had any idea of where AAIEP would take the profession, but it is with true pride that I am still a part of this association and can see that the nurturing efforts of its earlier members has helped steer us to the point at which we are the voice of IEP directors.

Ten years after Gary’s remarks, Bill Harshbarger, who was AAIEP President in 1999, wrote in his newsletter message to the membership about the coming age of accreditation. “I want to emphasize to all AAIEP member programs that learning as much as possible about accreditation is very important, particularly now,” he wrote.

“AAIEP will be most effective if we have active participation from all members.” Learn we did, and now AAIEP has a membership comprised of accredited programs that hold true to standards of best practices.

Now in 2009, I want to again put out the call for active participation and volunteering in this wonderful organization. Service on the AAIEP board and service on its committees, as well as active participation in the annual business meeting, the list serve, and in our professional workshops is vital to the association. As an association of member programs each program identifies a person to serve as representative. Most often this is the director of the program, but it does not have to be. The field of IEPs is not so large that we have a huge pool of people to serve its many organizations. NAFSA’s RAP, TESOL, UCIEP and AAIEP all pull from the same group of people for leadership in their organizations. As I started this message I mentioned

the AAIEP newsletters from 1989 and 1999. I can do so because I still have copies of these and have been a proud member of AAIEP since its charter days. But I am here to remind my colleagues that if there is someone in your organization who has the interest and ability to serve AAIEP, and your time commitments are such that you cannot volunteer, you can name that person as your program representative and add to the new face of AAIEP. We

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Central Office Report

Jon Leyland, Director, AAIEP Central Office

AAIEP

is pleased to welcome to our association these newest members

ELS Language Centers/Las Vegas
(at) College of Southern Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada

ELS Language Centers/Thousand Oaks
(at) California Lutheran University
Thousand Oaks, California

ESL Program
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

With the addition of the three members above, AAIEP now has 266 intensive English programs located throughout the United States. That is eleven fewer members than we had when our last newsletter was published in the fall. The drop is due to the implementation of AAIEP's new accreditation requirement, and it is less than half the number we predicted we would lose as it was put into effect. With that in mind, our numbers have remained strong.

Our rolls also include several companies that have chosen to join us as associates (formerly known as "institutional associates"), including the sponsors of our annual reception, Study in the USA and ICEF Student Recruitment Workshops. For a complete list of AAIEP associates and profiles on each, please visit the web site (www.aaiep.org) and click on 'Marketing Services'. You'll also find profiles of each in our publication, *Member Profiles*.

Annual Dues

Members should be pleased to know that at their meeting in January, the AAIEP Executive Board decided against a dues increase for the 2009-2010 membership year. Rates remain at \$550 per year for full member programs (IEPs) and at \$645 for AAIEP associates. As we go to print with this newsletter, we are sending out invoices for the new membership year. Payment should be received by the start of the new year, June 1. If you have any questions about payments, please contact the AAIEP Central Office.

Election for the 2009-2010 AAIEP Executive Board

At the time of publication, member IEPs are voting on five candidates nominated to fill five of the seats on the twelve-member Executive Board. Once again, the Nominating Committee has put together a strong slate representing the broad range of our membership:

- **President-Elect** – Nominee: Jeff Hutcheson, ELS Language Centers/Nashville at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- **Vice President-Elect, Advocacy** – Nominee: Kate Wolfe-Quintero, English Language Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- **Vice President-Elect, Standards** – Nominee: Joann Geddes, Academic English Studies, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon
- **Vice President-Elect, Outreach** – Nominee: Andrea Domonkos, ELS Language Centers/St. Petersburg at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida
- **Secretary** – Nominee: Eva Bowman, Intensive English Language Institute, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Results will be announced at the Annual AAIEP Business Meeting in Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 27. ♦



Standards

Brian Hickey, Vice President for Standards

Geraldine de Berly, Vice President-Elect for Standards

Changes in Accreditation Status

Most member programs have recognized how accreditation can have a positive impact on the quality of their programs and have accordingly met the September 30, 2008 deadline to become accredited by ACCET, CEA, or through a regionally accredited college or university, thereby meeting the requirements for membership in AAIEP. Those programs that were in the process of getting accredited or planning to begin efforts toward accreditation were informed that they could apply for AAIEP membership once accreditation is achieved and documented. It is important for these programs to notify AAIEP as soon as they have completed the accreditation process.

It is equally important for programs to notify AAIEP of any changes in accreditation status resulting from a change in governance that may affect AAIEP membership status. Programs falling under the governance of a new institution or organization need to verify if it is regionally accredited. The accrediting body needs to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Once this is determined, then the program will need to complete a new Program Self Appraisal (PSA) Form and provide AAIEP with a letter of accreditation from the IEP's new parent institution as proof of regional accreditation and a statement from the program director's new supervisor stating that the program is under the institution's governance. If the new governing institution or organization

is not accredited or if it is not under a recognized regionally accrediting association, then the program will have to apply for accreditation under ACCET or CEA and reapply for AAIEP membership once accreditation is achieved and documented.

Member programs undergoing re-accreditation by ACCET or CEA need to update AAIEP once they are reaccredited. It is important for programs to notify AAIEP of any changes in accreditation status resulting from delays or problems in the process. Programs which lose their accreditation will need to take steps to restore their accreditation and reapply for AAIEP membership once accreditation is achieved again and documented.

Programs that have questions or concerns about changes in their accreditation status should contact the Vice President for Standards at standards@aaiep.org

Changes to AAIEP Program Self-Appraisal (PSA) Form

The AAIEP Executive Board approved a change to the AAIEP PSA Form to make it clear to programs under the governance of an institution which documents need to be provided. Two separate questions, each requesting a different document, have been included at the top of the first page of the PSA Form and uploaded to the AAIEP website. If a program cannot answer 'yes' to these two questions, the AAIEP Executive Board will not be able to review the PSA.

AAIEP Program Self-Appraisal (PSA) Fast Track Form for UCIEP Members

The AAIEP Executive Board approved an AAIEP PSA Fast Track Form for UCIEP Members in Good Standing. With this new PSA Form, UCIEP Members only need to answer questions and provide information for Sections E, F, and G. The new PSA Fast Track Form has been uploaded to the AAIEP website and is now available for any UCIEP members who wish to join AAIEP. We welcome the participation and support of UCIEP members.

Standards Projects

Standards is continuing work on the review and revision, where appropriate, of the AAIEP Standards and Program Self-Appraisal (PSA). The AAIEP Standards are being reviewed against the standards of other national and international English program standards as well as those of ACCET and CEA. A draft of revised AAIEP Standards will be presented to the AAIEP Board at its Spring 2009 meeting.

Standards is also continuing work on an AAIEP Code of Ethics. Before proposing an AAIEP Code of Ethics to the AAIEP Board, Standards is reviewing codes of ethics of other national and international organizations and will present its findings at the Spring 2009 Executive Board Meeting.



Outreach Upcoming Events

Helen Davaran Vice President Outreach

NAFSA

We hope AAIEP members who will be at NAFSA in Los Angeles in May will plan on attending the AAIEP Annual Business meeting and Reception following which will be held at the University of California, Los Angeles Extension Center at 261 South Figueroa, just down the street from the LA Convention Center on Wednesday, May 27 from 6 - 9 pm. Pick up invitation cards at the AAIEP

booth in the NAFSA Exhibit Hall. This is always a good time to see old friends and meet new ones. This is also when new board members will be introduced.

ICEF

ICEF, (International Consultants for Education and Fairs) will be holding a workshop for USA and Canadian schools at the Ritz-Carleton Key Biscayne Hotel in Miami from Dec 6-

8, 2009. Agents attending ICEF Fairs are prescreened and must demonstrate a clear focus on sending students to North America. ICEF is supported by AAIEP and is an Associate. We encourage AAIEP members to take advantage of this opportunity. ♦



Advocacy Day/Professional Development Workshop 2009

SAVE THE DATE!

AAIEP will sponsor another Advocacy Day on Thursday, October 8, 2009, in Washington D.C. This is a wonderful opportunity for educators to go to the Hill and meet with their representatives and senators or with staff members. Those of us who attended last year found all staff very available and interested in hearing about our issues, the biggest one being requiring IEPs to be accredited. That bill passed the Senate on a unanimous vote, but was stalled on a House subcommittee technicality, meaning that it would have to be reintroduced in the 2009 Congress.

Based on the success of last year's First Annual Professional Development Day, AAIEP will again be sponsoring our Professional Development Day on Friday, October 9, in Washington D.C. We would like members to be thinking of topics that they would like discussed at that time.

At last year's meeting participants had a speaker from SEVIS, heard discussions on Best Practices in Standards, and on Working with Agents. Participants also brought materials to share and swap. Perhaps, most successful was the Hot Topics tables at the luncheon where participants could select a specific topic table and exchange information and get input and advice from peers. Some of the topics included, Working with Embassies and Agencies that support sponsored students, Issues specific to IEP's, Advocacy Review, AAIEP Committee Service, Connections with UCIEP and AAIEP, Keeping Current with SEVIS regulations, etc. There was enough time to hop to several tables, which many participants did!

We ask you to start thinking of topics and issues you would like to hear discussed and we also call for presenters. Outreach will be following up with a survey eliciting suggestions for the Professional Development Day. Further information about AAIEP's 2nd Annual Professional Development Day will be forthcoming.

DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PROGRAM'S WEB PROFILE

Do you represent an AAIEP member program? Has it been a while since you've logged onto the AAIEP web site and updated your program's profile? If so, please take a look and see if you need update or add anything. If you have any questions about this, please contact the AAIEP Central Office (info@aaiep.org) or the AAIEP Webmaster, Cheryl Delk (webmaster@aaiep.org).

AAIEP Advocacy Team Report

Jeff Hutcheson, Immediate-Past Vice President, Advocacy

Beata Schmid, Vice President, Advocacy

Scott Stevens, Vice President-Elect, Advocacy

The

Accreditation Bill

After the exciting fall, during which we almost had our accreditation bill passed by Congress (it passed in the Senate, but not in the House, due to technical issues), we are back on track reaching out to members of the 111th Congress, with the support of Washington Partners. In the Senate, Senator Carper's (D-DE) office continues to be very supportive and his legislative aid is working on the format of the bill again.

Spring Advocacy Day with The Alliance

In February, AAIEP participated in The Alliance for International Education's Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. This was a very well organized event, with hands-on training (including role plays) and briefings on the day before. Each participant was also equipped with written issue briefs to leave behind in the congressional offices and statistics on international education. Participants were then divided into state delegations which visited members of Congress. Each state group was given time before the meetings to develop the sequence of presentations. The number of participants is smaller than during NAFSA Advocacy Day, so each member of the delegation had time to present his or her points and there was time for questions and answers. The overall feedback was very positive for this day, and it again made clear how important it is to keep educating members of

Congress about our sector of international education. I made sure to include numbers in each visit: the new Open Doors survey shows about 54,000 students in IEPs in 2007 and the corresponding SEVIS numbers are about 80,000 students studying language. So, we can safely say that we host between 55,000 and 80,000 students each year, which is a significant part of the half million foreign students in the USA.

AAIEP continues to dialogue and liaise with SEVP on important issues to our member programs. Most recently AAIEP board members participated in a call with SEVP staff, including Lou Farrell, SEVP Director, and the Branch Chiefs for Policy, IT, School Certification, and Outreach. The notes from that call are attached. Please feel free to contact the board with any questions concerning the content the conference call. The attached notes, while reviewed by SEVP, do not constitute SEVP policy and should not be considered or cited as such.

Dialogue with SEVP Officials

During our winter board meeting in January 2009, we were fortunate to be able to have a conference call with several SEVP officials, including the director, Louis Farrell. AAIEP continues to dialogue and liaise with SEVP on important issues to our member programs. During our winter board meeting, AAIEP board members participated in a call with SEVP staff, including Lou Farrell, SEVP Director, and the Branch Chiefs for Policy, IT, School Certification,

and Outreach. The notes from the conference call can be viewed at our website, at www.aaiep.org/file_downloads/18/1-23-09_AAIEP_conference_call_with_SEVP.pdf. The attached notes, while reviewed by SEVP, do not constitute SEVP policy and should not be considered or cited as such.

TESOL 2009

AAIEP was represented at TESOL 2009 in Denver with a presentation entitled "Enrollment, Legislative, and Advocacy Updates for IEPs." In this presentation, we provided preliminary data from our flash enrollment survey

Our Current Issues

The accreditation bill: With the start of 111th Congress, we have reinitiated contact with our previous supporters (mainly Senator Carper's and Representative Frank's (D-MA) offices), and we are looking for support on the Republican side in both chambers, since our previous co-sponsors lost their reelection bids. As soon as we have found Republican sponsors, we will try to get the bills passed again. Much work has already been done in terms of formulation, so we can concentrate on educating Congress. The climate is certainly favorable: we now have recent quotes by the President, as well as several of his staff members including the Secretary of State that support international education.

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Advocacy...

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Other Advocacy Issues

We are hopeful that we will be able to advance the accreditation bill this year and perhaps even get it passed. Then we can turn to other issues that we have identified. Among these are short-term study in tourist status, clearer guidelines for vacations for IEP students and we are still looking into the possibility of having lower SEVIS fees for short-term students. Stay tuned for updates on these issues on the AAIEP listserv as well as the website.

Looking Ahead to NAFSA 2009 in Los Angeles

AAIEP will once again host a session at the annual NAFSA conference in May. Our session "Intensive English Programs: A

Dialogue with Government Officials is scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Representatives from SEVP, the Department of State and the Commerce Department, as well as

immigration procedures and other advocacy issues.

In the fall, there will be another opportunity to engage in advocacy for your program and to educate members of Congress regarding our profession and our students at the AAIEP Advocacy Day, which will be held in Washington, DC, on October 8, 2009.

...the new Open Doors survey shows about 54,000 students in IEPs in 2007 and the corresponding SEVIS numbers are about 80,000 students studying language. So, we can safely say that we host between 55,000 and 80,000 students each year, which is a significant part of the half million foreign students in the USA.

IIE (the Institute of International Education) are invited to this important event, during which we have an opportunity to receive updates and ask questions directly pertaining to IEPs.

How Members can Help

We encourage members to use the listserv to ask questions and to provide comments on regulations,

Finally, we need your assistance with our occasional enrollment surveys, which are invaluable when we present our case to members of Congress. We always include a portion in which you can specify which advocacy issues you think are most important for AAIEP to pursue. Thank you for your continued support of our advocacy efforts.

We look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles. ❖

President

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need to look to the future, as Gary did back in 1989 and find new members to help lead the way.

Other ways to serve involve our efforts in advocacy. We continue to work toward the introduction and passing of a bill requiring accreditation of intensive English programs. Keeping your state's senators and house representatives aware of our efforts is often key and something each individual member program must do. Please pay attention and act when the call for advocacy efforts goes out.

In addition, being identified world-wide as the association of quality English language programs requires that we compete with other English-speaking nations that attract international students to study English in their countries. EnglishUSA became the theme of the AAIEP Member Profiles 2008-2010 edition and www.EnglishUSA.org is now in use and directs people to the AAIEP website. We hope this helps assist more international students find our association and its member programs. Finally, our work in standards, the

foundation of this association, continues as we identify the key aspects of the standards which can serve as a Code of Ethics for the organization.

AAIEP continues to be a great association. The by-laws were approved in 1988 and we have certainly come of age in our 21st year.

Jeanne E Hind
AAIEP President

AAIEP Executive Board 2008-2009

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