Greetings from everyone at AICE.

I am opening this issue of the newsletter having just returned from Cuba, where I proudly represented AICE at the AACRAO Cuba Project researching Cuban educational practices. My fellow delegates and I are just starting to compile and analyze our data at this time, but I look forward to sharing our findings in the form of presentations at AACRAO and other conferences, publications, and updates to the AACRAO EDGE database.

Cuban society exhibits fundamental differences from what we are used to in the United States. However, I am pleased to report that my meetings with Cuban educators taught me that we share the same quest of improving, or as they would say “perfecting” our profession for the good of the students and their community. Education is a serious and celebrated profession in Cuba, and educators are actively involved in setting educational policies in a complex political system that manages to maintain a 99.9% literacy rate among citizens and one of the most developed higher education infrastructures. At the micro-level, I learned first-hand that such policies are developed by
educators coming together in departments and faculties to establish standards related to grading, teaching methods, performance indicators, etc. As a representative of AICE, I could not help but draw a parallel to how AICE Endorsed Members and Affiliates convene regularly at the monthly Credential Forum and annual AICE Symposium to solve mutual challenges and perfect the Standards, the hallmark of our organization. In summary, this visit taught me that we are more similar than we are different.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando, Florida at the AICE Symposium in a few short weeks. More information is available further in this issue.

Sincerely,
Aleks Morawski
Chairman of Scholarship and Publications, Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE)®
Director of Evaluation Services, Foreign Credits, Inc.

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**Announcements:**

- AICE would like to warmly welcome the new Endorsed Members: Foreign Credential Service of America (FCSA) and UCREDO. Both organizations completed a thorough application process, and demonstrated expertise, ethics, and a commitment to standards in the evaluation profession.

**Notable Events:**
• Sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 AICE Symposium are still available! Please see the forms attached to this newsletter for information on becoming a Symposium Sponsor. Sponsorship includes a feature in the AICE Symposium Program, along with opportunities to address the attendees during the one-day event. Please submit sponsorship forms by March 7 for inclusion in the print program.

• The AICE Symposium will take place on March 28-29, 2018 in Orlando, FL, immediately following AACRAO’s 104th Annual Meeting. This symposium will strive to answer questions, generate discussion, and update the AICE Standards on the topic of institutional accreditation, specifically comparative regional academic accreditation. AICE invites all to attend a reception on the evening of March 28th prior to the day-long Symposium on March 29th. Information about the program and distinguished panelists is available at http://aice-eval.org/events/.

AICE® Forum Highlights
This section includes topics discussed at the monthly AICE® Forum in February, 2018:

**Ghana**

Central University

AICE Affiliates and Endorsed members reviewed credentials for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program based on coursework completed at a nurses’ training college and a university. The documents provided an opportunity to demonstrate how to search for recognized institutions in Ghana.

**Italy**

MIB Trieste School of Management

Research concluded that MIB Trieste School of Management is NOT authorized by the Ministry of Education in Italy. Instead, it has the legal status of an non-profit consortium, whose members are universities, chambers of commerce, government agencies, professional associations and businesses, per the school website. AICE members and guests discussed the appropriate course of action when evaluating credentials from this, and other similar types of institutions, which are growing in popularity in Western Europe.

**Syria**
Damascus University Verification Procedure

In response to the refugee crisis and to curtail fraud, Damascus University is digitizing their records, which will facilitate easier verification of credentials. See: http://www.damascusuniversity.edu.sy/2017-06-01-10-10-05

Diploma Mill Update regarding Axact in Karachi, Pakistan

Despite Pakistani government interventions, Axact, the Karachi-based purveyor of diploma and accreditation mills continues operating while government authorities pursue further action. http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180212140927240

Nigeria Online Verification Service

There is an online verification service entitled Electronic Transcript Exchange and Degree Verification for Nigeria which helps with the verification of post-secondary transcripts and degrees from Nigerian
institutions. See https://www.etx-ng.com/home. AICE does not endorse the specific verification service provider, nor do any AICE Endorsed Members of Affiliates. However, participants did share positive experiences using this service within our professional networks.

United Kingdom

PhD by Prior Output

Foreign Credits, Inc. received a “PhD by Prior Output” credential. After an initial review of the program, it was thought that this degree is most similar to an honorary doctorate, since it is clearly differentiated from a regular PhD offered by London Metropolitan University. However, based on a survey of the AACRAO IESC team, a consensus was reached that since the award of this degree requires an oral defense of the research, and is deemed equivalent to other UK PhDs, it is not an honorary doctorate, rather it is equivalent to a regular PhD.

India

Diploma in Radiodiagnostic Technology

This discussion demonstrated the requirement to follow an education ladder in order to build a US degree equivalence from multiple credentials. In this case, a high school diploma (standard XII), a three-year Bachelor of Science degree, and a two-year diploma in radiodiagnostic technology were submitted. The latter was issued by a private but authorized medical college in India and requires standard XII for admission. Although five years of post-secondary study were completed, the combination is not equivalent to a bachelor’s degree.
because the years of study were not required to build on each other (in other words, still completed at the lower division, undergraduate level), and the applicant is still missing the equivalent of the fourth year of post-secondary coursework. A discussion followed on researching institutional recognition for private medical colleges and proper methodology for combining credentials for a degree equivalence.

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To join us for the next AICE Credential Forum on March 15th, 2018, please contact info@aice-eval.org.

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Publications

- NAFSA released a new publication: *Managing a Successful International Admissions Office*, edited by Dr. David L. DiMaria, on March 1, 2017. AICE Endorsed Member Aleks Morawski (Foreign Credits Inc.) contributed by authoring the chapter on Foreign Credential Evaluation. This publication can be ordered from NAFSA.

- NAFSA also released *the U.S. High Schools and Incorporating Education Abroad into Your Career Plan* – see the ACE network - Click here.

- AACRAO’s newer (2016) publication: *The AACRAO International Guide: A Resource for International Education Professionals.* Endorsed Members Beth Cotter and Jasmin Saidi contributed to this publication (section on Diploma Mills and Outsourcing International Credential Evaluations with a Historic Perspective). You may order this publication on line or by post. Here’s the [link](#).

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Resources and Blogs

ACEI hosts "ACEI -GLOBAL," a blog on education-related topics: [Visit Blog!](#)
Upcoming Conferences and Presentations

International Educators of Illinois Annual Conference
– March 8 - 9, Schaumburg, IL
Foreign Credits Inc. (AICE Endorsed Member) Representative: Aleks Morawski, Director of Evaluation Services attending

NAFSA Region XII Northern District Conference
– March 18 - 19, Monterrey, CA
ACEI (AICE Endorsed Member) Representative: Alan A. Saidi, Senior Vice-President & COO attending

AACRAO Annual Meeting – March 25-28, 2018, Orlando, FL
SESSION TITLE: Research Findings in International Education: Top Ten Changes in EDGE 2017
SESSION ID: 7012
DAY: Mar 26, 2018
TIME: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

SESSION TITLE: Diversity and Inclusion in International Recruitment
SESSION ID: 7143
DAY: Mar 27, 2018
TIME: 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
PRESENTERS: William Paver, FCSA, Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, ACEI, Laura Sippel, Laura Sippel Consulting, LLC

SESSION TITLE: Mutual Recognition: The 24th Joint Meeting of the ENIC-NARIC Networks
SESSION ID: 7297
DAY: Mar 27, 2018  
TIME: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Presenters: Melanie Gottlieb, AACRAO, Johan Rognlie, NOKUT, Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, ACEI*  

SESSION TITLE: Zero to Expert in Credential Evaluation: Three Perspectives in Career Development  
SESSION ID: 7075  
DAY: Mar 26, 2018  
TIME: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
PRESENTERS: Aleks Morawski, Foreign Credits*, Sully Saucedo, Texas Women’s University, Mark Moore, Texas State University  

*AICE Endorsed Members  

Groningen Declaration Network Meeting – April 18 – 20, 2018, Paris, France  

AICE and Endorsed Member ACEI are proud signatories of the GDN. Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, President & CEO of ACEI and President of AICE will be attending the annual GDN meeting in Paris, France.  

NAFSA: Association of Internatioanl Educators  
Annual Conference – May 27 – June 1, 2018, Philadelphia, PA  

SESSION TITLE: “Credentialing Vs. Outsourcing” Open Meeting  
DAY: May 30, 2018  
TIME: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
Presenters: Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, Facilitator, ACEI*  

SESSION TITLE: “Online Verification of Latin American Degrees, Programs and Institutions” Session  
DAY: May 31, 2018  
TIME: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM  
Presenters: Sonya Brauchle, Foreign Credits Inc.*  

SESSION TITLE: “An Evaluator’s Guide to Institutional Recognition and Accreditation” Session
THANK YOU SPONSORS

AICE would like to thank the following sponsors for the 2018 Symposium:

China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC)

China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC) is an authoritative institution directly under Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE). Founded in 1991, CHESICC is specializing in information service and career guidance for students of higher education institutions. Its primary business includes higher education enrollment, students’ record and qualification management and graduates’ employment. CHESICC is the only MOE-authorized institution for the verification of higher education qualification certificates.

www.chsi.com.cn/en

SHORELIGHT EDUCATION

2018 Luncheon Sponsor
Shorelight Education is reinventing the international education experience for students worldwide. Based in Boston, the company partners with top-ranked, nonprofit U.S. universities to build innovative degree programs and services that are both high-touch and technology-driven to help talented students succeed on campus and become globally minded alumni.

www.shorelight.com

iTEP

2018 Sponsor

iTEP International is the California-based creator of the International Test of English Proficiency exams, a series of widely recognized English proficiency evaluations created to address the needs of various academic and corporate markets. By providing highly accurate language proficiency tools, iTEP has gained partnerships with top-ranked universities both domestically and abroad, plus several government sponsorships in country-wide projects for Saudi Arabia, Colombia, and India.

www.itepexam.com
Setting the Standard: Evaluating International Recognition & Accreditation

Orlando, FL March 28-29 2018

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Opening Reception (March 28, 2018)
• Two registration passes
• Exhibit
• Mention on AICE website
• Mention in Symposium Program
Price: $1,000

Luncheon Reception (March 29, 2018)
• Two registration passes
• Exhibit
• Mention on AICE website
• Mention in Symposium Program
Price: $1,000

2018 Symposium Sponsor
• One registration pass
• Mention on AICE website
• Mention in Symposium Program
Price: $500
(Exhibit: $500.00 additional)

Friend of AICE
• Mention on AICE Website
• Mention in Symposium Program
Price: $100

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Symposium Program
• Full-page (Color) Ad $250
• Half-page (Color) Ad $100

Have something else in mind? Reach out to us at info@aice-eval.org to discuss additional opportunities!
### 2018 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### Sponsorship Agreement & Terms

Please check the event(s) your organization/corporation is interested in sponsoring:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Reception (March 28, 2018)</td>
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<td>Luncheon (March 29, 2018)</td>
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<td>2018 Symposium Sponsor</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<td>with Exhibit (additional fee)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friend of AICE</td>
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#### ADVERTISING (Symposium Program)

- Full-page (color) Ad: $250.00
- Half-page (color) Ad: $100.00

You may fax this form with credit card payment to 1-310-275-3318. Please do not mail contracts with Credit Card payment that have been sent via fax.

#### PAYMENT:

Full payment along with this completed form must be received by March 12, 2018.

Deadline for recognition in the Symposium Program, banner and website is March 12, 2018.

**AICE Right of Refusal of Sponsors:** AICE reserves the right to reject a potential sponsor for any reason including, but not limited to a mission that is not consistent with AICE’s mission or business practices. AICE reserves the right to accept only sponsors of its choosing.

**Disclaimers of Endorsements:** AICE’s acceptance of a contract with a sponsor (other than its Endorsed Members) is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement by AICE of the sponsor or of its programs, products, or services.

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### For more information

Visit the AICE Website at [www.aice-evaal.org](http://www.aice-evaal.org) or contact [info@aice-evaal.org](mailto:info@aice-evaal.org).

Submission of events, notifications, research items, and original content to the AICE Standard can be sent directly to [amorawski@foreigncredits.com](mailto:amorawski@foreigncredits.com).