



The **STANDARD**

**AICE**

a monthly newsletter by AICE

## AICE Newsletter

July 2017

*Message from the Editor:*

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

I would like to dedicate this edition of the AICE Standard to Drew Feder, who lost his battle with cancer on July 1st, 2017. Drew was a champion for AICE, and his contributions to the organization make it what it is today. Drew is remembered fondly by many AICE Endorsed Members and Affiliates who knew him personally, including AICE Preident Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, who shares her memorial further in this issue.

I did not have the chance to know Drew peronally. However, I had the opportunity to co-present with him at AICE's inaugural Symposium in 2016 on Grades and Grade Scale Conversions and can personally attest to his knowledge of the credential evaluation field and his commitment to AICE's mission, mainly working together to establish peer-reviewed standards and best practices in our profession and ensure uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process.

AICE is the pioneer organization recognizing the need for uniformity in the evaluation process. As an evaluator, an entrepreneur, and an innovator, Drew recognized this need from the onset. I am proud to continue working toward this goal, and as an organization, we are stronger and further along in the process thanks to individual contributions from people like Drew.

As an organization, AICE has achieved much to accomplish our goals. However, there is much work to be done. As we struggle to cope with Drew's loss, I challenge the membership to remain vigilant in our mission. Our work is imperative to help millions of internationally educated individuals realize their full academic and professional potential through accurate and consistent credential evaluation.

Sincerely,

Aleks Morawski

*Editor, Chair Research Publication*

*Association of International Credential Evaluators*

Dear friends,

On July 1, 2017, we lost a rising star in our field. Our friend and colleague, Drew Feder, lost a seven-month battle with leukemia. Many of you had met Drew and those of you who knew him would agree that he was an extraordinary young man with a big kind heart and infectious enthusiasm.

When I first met Drew, about 10 years ago, he was fresh out of college and working as a credential evaluator in TX. He was so passionate about our field, and most especially the Association of International Credential Evaluators and the work it was doing, that he volunteered a great deal of his time to help me with AICE. He really championed for our profession and was always ready to help. He was a consummate researcher and student and was always learning and expanding his mind. Overnight, he had transitioned from a junior evaluator to senior. He was a natural and also an out-of-the box thinker. I had fondly called him my 'adopted son', a moniker that, happily stuck. I saw so much potential in him and what he had to offer and encouraged him to pursue his dreams which he did with gusto and with successful results.

In the words of another friend and colleague, Hany Arafat, who worked with Drew, "he was a committed individual to this field, and an advocate of all that is good and 'right' in this world. He deeply believed in the right of others to pursue better education and better opportunities in life, and firmly committed to supporting those who believed in the exchange of ideas and people as a 'road map' to a better and more interconnected world. More importantly, he was one of those rare people who 'lived' by what he espoused. He was very kind to others, and he truly felt the pain and anguish of his fellow human beings. He 'chose' to see what was good in everyone, and the world around him, and in almost every situation. This is how he also battled this terrible illness that stole him away from our midst so shamefully early: with strength and kindness, and a positive attitude and outlook throughout." I couldn't have said it better.

Drew leaves behind his wife, Noblet, who fought fiercely by his side with his battle against leukemia. If you would like to make a contribution to the GoFundMe account that has been set up to help his wife with medical expenses and funeral costs, please visit this [link](#).



#### [Drew's Obituary](#)

May his spirit live eternal.

Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert  
President, Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE)®  
President & CEO, Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc.

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### **Notable Events:**

- At the invitation of the US Department of Education, Melanie Gottlieb, Deputy Director of AACRAO, and Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, Chair of AACRAO's IESC, President of AICE, and President & CEO of ACEI, presented a session at the ENIC-NARIC meeting on June 26th in Copenhagen, Denmark. Please visit this [link](#) for Jasmin's reflections on the US and European perspective on three-year Bologna Bachelor's degrees.

- AICE became a signatory to the Groningen Declaration at the organization's 2017 Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, April 26-28, 2017, and is now proudly listed as a signatory on the Groningen Declaration [website](#) AICE and ACEI President Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert attended the event and signed the declaration on behalf of AICE and ACEI "to move our profession forward." For her reflection and explanation of the declaration, please [visit](#).

- The AICE Symposium Planning Committee started work on the 2018 AICE Symposium, to 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. Stay tuned for upcoming information on the 2018 Symposium. For questions, comments, and to help in the planning process, please contact Alexander Agafanov [alexander@globelanguage.com](mailto:alexander@globelanguage.com) or Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert [jasmin@AICE-Eval.org](mailto:jasmin@AICE-Eval.org).

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## AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes topics discussed at the monthly AICE® Forum in July, 2017.



### Egypt

#### Engineering union introduces examinations for graduates of private colleges

Attendees discussed the introduction of standardized testing as a pre-requisite for licensure and the ability to practice in Engineering fields for graduates of private colleges. This is a response to perceived

variation of quality of academic programs as the education sector expands to include greater numbers of private higher education institutions with degree granting authority. For more info, see [link](#).

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### Panama

#### To "D" or not to "D"

This discussion was sparked by post-secondary credentials from an institution in Panama which included a "D" grade with the description of Mínimo de promoción (Minimum passing). Although the description seems self-explanatory, the applicant re-took every course

with a D-grade, prompting evaluators to consider whether this grade was enough to graduate, or if the re-takes were in fact required. If the latter, it's possible this grade should be converted to a failing grade, instead of the US "D" grade, where the student does not meet passing requirements, but has performed successfully enough to move on in the subject without re-taking the course.



## 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: [click here](#).
- AACRAO has a new publication: **The AACRAO International Guide: A Resource for International Education Professionals**. 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 online or by post.

## Resources

NAFSA 2017 Annual Conference Presentations related to International Enrollment Management are available for free download from the ACE Network Library [Click Here](#).

## Blogs

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

## For more information

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

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