



The **STANDARD**

AICE

a monthly newsletter by AICE

AICE Newsletter

June 2017

Message from the Editor:

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

Summer is once again upon us, and many AICE members have already settled in after attending the annual NAFSA conference that took place in Los Angeles, CA. The theme of this year's conference was "Expanding Community, Strengthening Connections" which I find to be an appropriate title for the theme of any professional conference I attend. Below, I'd like to share how expanding my network and strengthening my connections allowed me to solve a unique problem.

I was recently contacted by a Brazilian high school student who claimed that his high school did not use the traditional grading system, and in fact many public schools in his state were transitioning to what amounts to be a pass/fail assessment system. This student was very upset when he was unable to use Foreign Credits Inc.'s free online GPA calculator, claiming prejudice in his inability to apply for admission or competitive scholarships which require a numerical GPA. Having reviewed his documents, I was personally intrigued because this grading scale was something I haven't seen before. I was not able to get any immediate clarification from my close network or my office either. Finally, even an email I sent to the EducationUSA office in Porto Alegre returned as undeliverable address. At this point, as an expert evaluator, I became determined to solve this issue.

Having just returned from NAFSA, I was able to connect with many old and new colleagues, and also gave a presentation about JAMS, an online mentorship program I co-founded some years back. Without delay, I posted a quick question to the JAMS network asking for contacts in Brazil. To my surprise, I received a personal message the next day with contact information. More importantly, it was from a new member whom I just met in Los Angeles. Needless to say, one more email, and I had my answer directly from Brazil, and shared this in the monthly AICE Credential Forum, described later in this issue.

I'm sharing the above experience in this issue as I reflect on the "Expanding Community, Strengthening Connections" theme and realize how essential it is to my work as an international educator. Even in the age of the internet and instantly accessible information, the personal connections we make are still essential for being effective in this work. I hope this message inspires

the readers to pay attention to future opportunities for growing their connections, and remaining active in their existing networks.

Sincerely,
Aleks Morawski
Editor, Chair Research Publication
Association of International Credential Evaluators

Notable Events:

- AACRAO publishes an overview of the 2017 AICE Symposium. View it at [click here](#).
- AICE became a signatory to the Groningen Declaration at the organization's 2017 Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, April 26-28, 2017. For more information about the declaration, please [click here](#).
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 [click here](#).

AICE® Forum Highlights

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



Brazil

Pass/Fail Secondary School Grading Scheme

A new secondary-level grading system has been discovered, consisting of CSA (Satisfactory Learning Construction), CPA (Partial Learning Construction), and CRA (Restricted Learning Construction). Upon consultation with the EducationUSA REAC

for the region, it is confirmed that this is a new grading system, which originated in the southern states of Brazil but may be used elsewhere. Admissions departments are advised to treat this system as Pass/Fail, and a GPA can not be fairly calculated. More emphasis must be made on standardized testing and holistic review to make admissions decisions. AICE Endorsed Members agree to evaluate this grading system as Pass/Fail.

United Kingdom

2-year BA (Honors) in Practical Filmmaking from the University of Gloucestershire, UK

The University's website describes the degree as a two-year intensive designed to prepare the individual for the work force. However, the degree requires completion of 360 CATS credits, same as a regular three-year bachelor in UK. AICE Endorsed Members agree that, through bench-marking, this degree is the same as a three-year Bachelor's in UK, done in an accelerated manner.

Heading



Latest data and statistics on Indian higher education and new regulatory reform from DrEducation [Click Here.](#)

- An explosive expansion in the private school system in India.
 - Potential merger of AICTE/UGC may have impact on some program offerings, including the constant discussion regarding the offering of four-year BA/BS/BCOM degrees in lieu of the current 3-yr offerings
-

University of London – Degrees awarded without meeting established requirements

Review of a transcript and degree certificate from University of London explicitly stating that "In exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the UCL authorities, the examiners may consider the award of a degree to a candidate who has satisfied the examiners in one unit less than the unit requirement specified above."



China & UK - Admission to graduate school post-Zhuanke

- Several evaluators expressed that they would not indicate a bachelor's degree conferral based on completion of a master's degree, but others stated that they would or do for specific purposes (such as prof licensing or employment or immigration)
- Some institutions in the UK or in the USA may review a combination of factors, such

as education and professional experiences in the field, and make a graduate admission decision on that basis

- There was not a consensus reached on this topic, and further discussions among AICE members may be needed to establish a clear AICE criteria for how to approach such scenarios

China Huikao Examinations versus High School Graduation



- Completion of the full course of secondary schooling may be required by most institutions, but per one AICE Affiliate, it may not be required for admission to ESL programs.
- Some institutions in the US may use the Huikao exam for purposes of extending provisional admission to the student, but would still require the final full transcript of all high school education from China and would require completion of the entire course of study

For more information on these topics, and to reach an AICE member who submitted the discussion item, please contact info@aice-eval.org.

Please join us for the next AICE Credential Forum on July 20, 2017 12:00 pm CDT.

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 orderd 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 Intarnational Enrollment Management are available for free download from the ACE Network Library [Click Here](#).

Blogs

ACEI hosts "*Academic Exchange*," a blog on education-related topics:

[Visit Blog!](#)

For more information

Visit the AICE Website at www.aice-evaal.org or contact 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.

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