



Annual State Conference

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2025

University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Table of Contents

<u>FAIE Executive Board</u>	<u>p. 2-3</u>
<u>Schedule at a Glance</u>	<u>p. 5-6</u>
<u>Session Information</u>	<u>pp. 9-15</u>
<u>FAIE News</u>	<u>pp. 16-17</u>
<u>Getting Around</u>	<u>p. 18</u>
<u>Conference Evaluation</u>	<u>p. 19</u>

FAIE Mission Statement

The mission of FAIE is to promote the advancement of international education and serve as a resource to educators, organizations, and students in the state of Florida through advocacy, professional development, and connection-building.

In keeping with standards and principles established by the NAFSA Code of Ethics, FAIE provides professional education and training to the membership throughout Florida. This training is designed to strengthen and develop programs and services in international education throughout the state. FAIE provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing pertinent information. FAIE holds that international educational exchange advances learning and scholarship, enhances respect and cooperation among the peoples of the world, and encourages constructive leadership in a global community.

FAIE Board Members

State Chair & State Representative to NAFSA Region VII

Christine Voigt, *Student Life Coordinator*
English Language Institute, University of Florida
christinevoigt@ufl.edu

Past Chair

Victoria Dolce, *Associate Director, International Student Support & Engagement*
International Center, University of Florida
vdolce@ufic.ufl.edu

Treasurer

Jennifer Frankel, *Vice President, University Relations*
International Student Insurance
jfrankel@internationalstudentinsurance.com

Development Coordinator & Acting FILC Coordinator

Betty Jensen, *International Student Immigration Advisor / DSO/ARO*
Center for Global Engagement, Florida State University
bjensen@fsu.edu

Awards & Grants Coordinator

Randolph Scott, *Assistant Director of International Programs*
International Affairs, University of West Florida
rscott1@uwf.edu

Membership Coordinator

Rola Zahr, *Manager Academic Support*
Florida International University
rzahr@fiu.edu

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Snow White, *Director, Campus Partnerships, Southeast*
WorldStrides
snow.white@worldstrides.com

Website Coordinator

Melina Jimenez, *Institutional Relations Officer*
English Language Institute, University of Florida
mpjimenez@ufl.edu

English Language Programs Coordinator

Tate Quinones, *Cultural Immersion Program Coordinator*

English Language Institute, University of Florida

tquinones@eli.ufl.edu

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) Coordinator

Elise DeWolf-Ott, *Sr. International Student Advisor, SEVIS DSO*

Office of International Services, USF World

edewolfott@usf.edu

International Enrollment Management (IEM) Coordinator

Yu-Wan Wang, *Chief International Officer*

St. Thomas University

wang@stu.edu

Study Abroad Coordinator

Oliver McSurley, *Associate Director*

UCF Abroad, University of Central Florida

oliver.mcsurley@ucf.edu

K-12 Coordinator

Dale Miller, *Coordinator of International Student Programs & Special Projects*

NSU University School

2dalemiller@gmail.com

FILC Registrar

Laura Pitois, *Admissions and Academic Coordinator/PDSO*

Florida State College at Jacksonville

laurapitois@gmail.com

PLC Coordinator

Michael Kung, *Director, Office for Global Research Engagement*

University of Florida International Center

mkung@ufic.ufl.edu

2025 Conference Coordinator

Thora Cecil, *Immigration Services Operations Manager*

Office of International Services, USF World

thoracecil@usf.edu

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor!



STUDENT
HEALTH
INSURANCE
BROKER



EASY
ONLINE
ENROLLMENT



MENTAL
HEALTH &
WELLNESS
RESOURCES



EASY-TO-USE
WAIVER
SYSTEM



We're Growing!

*Insurance For Students is now a proud partner company of FutureHealth Systems. FutureHealth Systems is a strategic partnership of five leading companies in the field of health insurance products and services for academic careers & cultural exchange programs. **Compass Student Insurance, FutureHealth, Insurance for Students, Pinnacle Student Insurance, and Secutive Insurance** are all proud to be a part of the FutureHealth Systems group and looks forward to ensuring that our customers benefit from this merger.*

**Stop by our Booth or
Contact us at contact@insuranceforstudents.com**



NAFSA Core Education Program Workshops

These workshops are a professional development curriculum certified by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Enrollment in these workshops is separate from the FAIE Conference and require an additional registration fee of \$350 each. For more details on the approved curriculum, please visit the [NAFSA website](#).

7:30-8:00am

Preconference Workshop Check-in

Location: USF Patel Center

8:00am-5:00pm

Preconference Workshop:

F-1 Student Advising for Beginners

Location: USF Patel Center, Room 140

Breakfast and Lunch included for workshop attendees

4:30-5:30pm

Walking Tour of USF Campus

Location: Meet at the lobby of the Patel Center, the tour will end near the Embassy Suites hotel

Annual State Conference Opening Event

Check-in and On-site Registration from 5:30-7:30pm

6:00-8:00pm

FAIE Annual State Conference Welcome Reception

Location: Yuengling Draft Haus, Prohibition Room

*Heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar
sponsored by FutureHealth Systems*



FutureHealth

SYSTEMS

A Partnership of Health & Wellbeing Companies

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, February 21st

Schedule of Events



“Education for Global Peace and Sustainable Development”

Main Conference Activities

Location: Embassy Suites Tampa USF
Check-in and On-site Registration starts at 8:00am

9:00-10:00 Opening & Keynote Speaker

10:10-11:10 Breakout Session #1

11:10-11:30 Morning Coffee Break
Sponsored by Alliant Insurance Services



11:30-12:30 Breakout Session #2

12:30-2:00 Lunch & FAIE Business Meeting
Sponsored by International Student Insurance



2:00-3:00 Breakout Session #3

3:00-3:20 Afternoon Coffee Break
Sponsored by FAIE

3:20-4:20 Breakout Session #4

4:25-5:25 Breakout Session #5

5:30-6:30pm Networking Happy Hour
Join us for a post-conference drink and networking!
Sponsored by Fragomen



Thank you to our Conference Sponsors!

Platinum



FutureHealth

SYSTEMS

A Partnership of Health & Wellbeing Companies

Gold



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
INSURANCE

FRAGOMEN

Silver



Bronze



Session Information

9:00-10:00am: Welcome and Keynote

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kiki Caruson

Advancing Global Engagement during Turbulent Times

Location: Ballroom, 1st Floor



This talk will address how international engagement and global learning contribute to prosperity at home and abroad.

Dr. Kiki Caruson leads the global engagement strategy of the University of South Florida (USF) across the Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee campuses, including study abroad programming, campus-based global learning initiatives international student recruitment, immigration services, the management of international partnerships, the Global Discovery Hub, support services for research and scholarly mobility, international alumni outreach, as well as global development activities. Dr. Caruson is an expert regarding the best practices for promoting strong relationships between university research and international offices and the data and metrics associated with successful global engagement across faculty, students, alumni, and global partners.

10:10-11:10am: Breakout Session 1

Student and Exchange Visitor Program Updates

Presenters: SEVP Field Representative J. Ashley Gassner (Territory 36)

Interest Area: Government Panel

Location: Palm

As the Student and Exchange Visitor Program field representative program expands, schools may have questions about how they can expect to interact with their representative and what issues a field representative can assist with.

Reimagine Pre-arrival, Orientation, OPT and Ongoing Engagement

Presenters: Moroni Flake (Homebase) and Kelly Hall (University of South Florida)

Interest Area: ISSS

Location: Magnolia

The panel will discuss how ISSS offices can use technology to provide better student and scholar experiences while significantly reducing their workload—highlighting how technology has shifted how they engage with stakeholders during pre-arrival, orientation, OPT, training department staff, and ongoing community engagement.

Connecting Students: An Interculturality Project for the TESOL Classroom

Presenters: Kristen Nugent (Peru State College)

Interest Area: English Language Programs

Location: Cyprus

Is it possible for multilingual learners to practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening while building interculturality? Absolutely! In this session, I will share information about my experience teaching English as a second language and how I designed a project to support language acquisition while creating cross-cultural understanding in my students. I will provide an outline and examples of the project designed for intermediate-level English learners. We will discuss the results of the project and share examples of similar assessments that support language learning and student connection in the classroom.

Crossing Borders, Building Bridges: My Fulbright IEA Journey in Taiwan

Presenters: Michael Kung (University of Florida)

Interest Area: Shared Interest

Location: Citrus

Discover the transformative power of the Fulbright International Education Administrators (IEA) program through one educator's journey to Taiwan. The Fulbright IEA, offered in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, France, Germany, and India, provides U.S. higher education administrators with short-term, intensive seminars abroad. This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the Fulbright IEA experience, from application to post-seminar impact. Gain insights into the cultural exchange, networking opportunities, and professional development aspects of the program. This session aims to inspire and encourage other education professionals to apply for the Fulbright IEA, highlighting its potential to enhance international understanding.

11:30am-12:30pm: Breakout Session 2

Incarcerated Adult English Learner Education: The Florida Prison Education Project

Presenters: Kerry Purmensky and Heather Vazquez (University of Central Florida)

Interest Area: Shared Interest

Location: Cyprus

In this session, we will demonstrate the impact of the Florida Prison Education Project (FPEP) on our communities, share our pedagogical practices, and inspire attendees to develop or participate in prison education. We will initiate the conversation by sharing the history of FPEP and its impact on our communities, including how the program has created greater opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to attend college. We will focus on how we developed a curriculum for English learners that is responsive to the needs, and sensitive to the circumstances, of this special population. We will leave ample time for discussion.

Career Growth and Fiscal Flourish for International Educators

Presenters: Kerrie Montgomery Orozco (KMO Global Consulting LLC) and Christine Sjoblom (Pillar Wealth)

Interest Area: Shared Interest

Location: Citrus

"Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?" This session will outline simple steps for creating a Professional Development Plan that will assist you in understanding and obtaining the skill sets and experiences needed to move you to your next position (and beyond). It will also include important information about including financial planning in your PDP so you are financially prepared to make your next move!

Leveraging AI to Individualize the Student Experience

Presenters: Jeff Yacup (Quacquarelli Symonds)

Interest Area: International Enrollment Management

Location: Magnolia

Explore how leveraging AI can help build an innovative model for student enrollment, meeting students where they are, and maximizing their expectations to enhance the student experience. This session will provide insights, data, and case studies, and a three-point plan to help institutions leverage AI to improve yield and retention.

Hot Topics in Immigration

Presenters: Natalie McEwan (Ogletree Deakins), Kelly Poppen and Evelyn Rodriguez (Florida International University)

Interest Area: Government Panel

Location: Palm

The presenters will lead a discussion on international student recruitment methods and activities our peer Florida institutions are using. The goal of this interactive presentation is to discuss and learn about best practices and strategies for increased and diverse international enrollment.

12:30-2:00pm: Lunch & Business Meeting

Location: Ballroom

FAIE requests that all members and conference attendees join us during lunch for the annual business meeting. We will give updates on the state of the organization, present our awards, and share our accomplishments from the past year.

Lost in Translation? Navigating the Evolving World of English Language Testing

Presenter: *Marcie Mealia (Pearson Test of English)*

Interest Area: *International Enrollment Management*

Location: *Magnolia*

This presentation will provide practical strategies to help admissions staff navigate the complexities of evaluating English language proficiency tests, from understanding diverse scoring systems to setting effective admissions benchmarks. Through an exploration of the evolution of English language testing in the U.S. and the role of innovative technologies like automated scoring, participants will gain valuable insights to make informed decisions that support both institutional goals and student success. This session promises an engaging and thought-provoking discussion tailored to the needs of higher education professionals.

Enhancing Career Readiness and Global Learning with the Power of ePortfolios

Presenters: *Taylor Bryla (University of Florida)*

Interest Area: *Shared Interest*

Location: *Citrus*

This session will explore how ePortfolios can be effectively integrated into global learning programs to help students document, reflect on, and communicate their global competencies and experiences. Attendees will learn practical strategies for guiding students in creating ePortfolios that highlight key skills such as intercultural communication, adaptability, and global awareness. Using examples from the University of Florida's International Scholars Program, the session will also demonstrate the significant impact ePortfolios can have on students' career development, showcasing how these tools can be leveraged to enhance employability and professional growth.

Key Elements of Higher Education Immigration Sponsorship Policies

Presenter: *Andrea Huerta-Rodriguez and Anielka Nortelus (Fragomen)*

Interest Area: *International Student and Scholar Services*

Location: *Palm*

In today's competitive labor market, academic institutions often find themselves competing with other academic and non-academic employers. In this session, presenters will highlight the importance of attracting, recruiting, & retaining top global talent within the higher education context and the creative ways to effectively do so.

Study Florida: Collaboration Across the Sunshine State

Presenter: Kelli Campbell (Study Florida) and Hannah Young (Hillsborough Community College)

Interest Area: Shared Interest

Location: Cyprus

This presentation examines trends in international student enrollment across the state of Florida and invites attendees to learn about the initiatives of Study Florida, a network of educational institutions dedicated to promoting Florida as a premier destination for international students.

3:20-4:20 pm: Breakout Session 4

Around the Campfire, Across the Globe: Igniting Connections in International Education

Presenters: Melina Jimenez (University of Florida) and Snow White (WorldStrides)

Interest Area: Shared Interest - FAIE

Location: Cyprus

Join FAIE board members for a special session to network with other attendees, learn more about the FILC Conference, and discuss ways to deal with shared concerns in the field.

Beyond the Script - Theatre's Impact on Motivation in Language Learning

Presenters: Amaya Gattis (University of Central Florida)

Interest Area: English Language Programs

Location: Magnolia

The presenter begins by introducing sociocultural theory (SCT) in second language acquisition (SLA), and its relation to the affective domain and motivation. The presenter follows with a discussion of the use of theatre in SLA, and an exploration of past research on theatre in SLA. The presenter then addresses knowledge gaps by introducing their study on how participation in a short play impacts adult English learners' motivation. Then, the presenter details material creation and the implementation of the study's treatment. The presenter will share observations of the ongoing study.

Best Practices for International Student Health Insurance Compliance in the State of Florida

Presenter: Anaberly "Ana" Chaviano and Ariel Ortiz (Florida International University)

Interest Area: Shared Interest

Location: Cirtus

This presentation will guide educational institutions, program administrators, and international students in understanding and maintaining compliance with Florida's health insurance requirements for international students.

What's So “Special” about H-1B Specialty Occupation Visas?

Presenter: *Andrea Huerta-Rodriguez (Fragomen)*

Interest Area: *International Student and Scholar Services*

Location: *Palm*

This presentation explores the H-1B visa’s critical role in higher education. It highlights the benefits of employing international faculty, including enhanced research capabilities, cultural diversity, and addressing skill shortages in STEM fields. Attendees will gain insights into the H-1B application process, legal considerations, and the unique contributions of H-1B holders to academic institutions. By the end, participants will understand how the H-1B program strengthens the educational landscape and fosters a vibrant academic community.

4:25-5:25 pm: Breakout Session 5

Supporting International Student Acclimation: Practical Insights for Campus Success

Presenters: *Leayah Williams (International Student Insurance) and Nicole Stelter (University of Central Florida)*

Interest Area: *International Student and Scholar Services*

Location: *Magnolia*

This session offers an in-depth look at the unique challenges faced by international students as they navigate the transition to U.S. college life. We’ll explore some factors that can hinder their acclimation and provide actionable insights on how to better support them. By the end of the session, participants will gain practical knowledge on utilizing campus and community resources to more effectively assist international students in their academic and personal journeys.

Joy or Sorrow in International Education

Presenters: *Yu-wan Wang (St. Thomas University)*

Interest Area: *Shared Interest*

Location: *Citrus*

International education can be a journey filled with both immense joy and formidable challenges. This session invites participants to engage in an open discussion about the multifaceted aspects of international education, including leadership, study abroad programs, recruitment, student services, language and cultural as well as institutional partnerships.

Attracting, Recruiting, & Retaining Top Global Talent

Presenters: Andrea Huerta-Rodriguez (Fragomen) and Izabela Iem (Florida Atlantic University)

Interest Area: International Enrollment Management

Location: Room 114

In today's competitive labor market, academic institutions often find themselves competing with other academic and non-academic employers. In this session, presenters will highlight the importance of attracting, recruiting, & retaining top global talent within the higher education context and the creative ways to effectively do so.

5:30-6:30pm: Networking Happy Hour

Join us for a drink after the conference!

Location: Ballroom Area

Stick around for happy hour after the conference from 5:30-6:30pm at the Ballroom! Share your professional learning with other attendees, meet international education professionals from across the state, and wrap up the experience this year.

News & Announcements



APPLY: FEB 1 - MARCH 31, 2025

**APPLY FOR
THE DR. ALEJANDRA PARRA
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS**

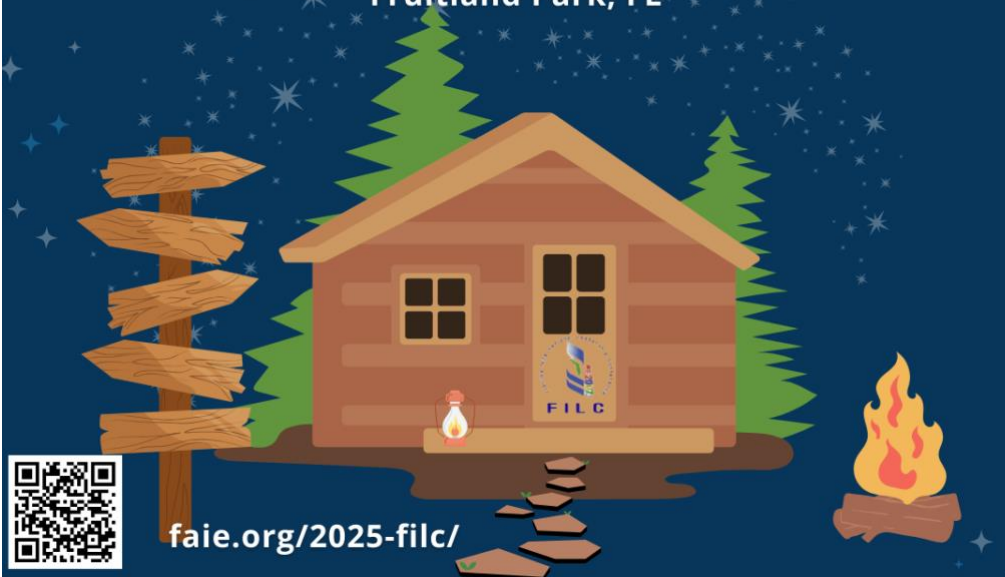
Learn more and
apply →



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPARKING GLOBAL CHANGE
UNDER THE STARS

April 4 - 6, 2025
Camp Geneva
Fruitland Park, FL



faie.org/2025-filc/

Join the FAIE Board!

We need you to support
international education in
Florida!



Visit <https://faie.org/board/apply-board/> or talk to a current board member for more info!

Open Positions:

- FILC Registrar
- ISSS
- K12
- Awards and Grants

Getting Around the Conference

Event Locations

Access our interactive 2025 Conference Map on Google Maps by [clicking here](#).

Thursday

- **Pre-Conference Workshops (registration required):** Patel Center room 140
- **USF Walking Tour:** Meet at the Patel Center lobby
- **Welcome Reception:** Yuengling Draft Haus

Friday

- **Main Conference:** Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa USF
- **Post-Conference Networking Happy Hour:** Embassy Suites ballroom area

Parking Details

- **Preconference Workshops:** The F-1 Beginner Pre-conference workshop will be held in room 140 of the Patel Center on USF campus. Parking is available near the Patel Center in Lot 23T for \$5 per day plus tax. There is the option to stop by the Campus Information Center (CIC) at the main entrance on Leroy Collins Blvd, use the ParkMobile app, or use a kiosk in the main lot by the building.
- **Welcome Reception:** Parking is free at the Yuengling Draft Haus near USF.
- **Friday Conference:** Parking is available for \$6 per day. Register your car by scanning the QR code posted in the parking lot. Enter the code ESHTTE if you are paying with a tax-exempt card.



FAIE gives a special Thank You to University of South Florida, USF World, the Office of International Services, and all conference volunteers!

Thank you for attending the FAIE Conference!

Want to tell us how it went? Please complete our conference evaluation by scanning the QR code:

