



## AICE Newsletter

**April 2016**

*Message from the Editor:*

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

I'd like to dedicate this issue of the AICE Standard to all of the members of AICE responsible for making the first annual AICE Symposium a resounding success. The event was the realization of months of steadfast planning and preparation, with members of endorsed credential evaluation agencies, and affiliate members from academic institutions, and professional organizations gathering together out of a mutual interest in setting the standards for the credential evaluation profession. The non-competitive, and non-marketing-oriented nature of this event allowed us to focus on the prominent issues in the profession.

This year, the symposium included content presentations on the topics of "Benchmarks in Undergraduate Admissions", "Grade and Grade Scale Conversions", "Diploma and Accreditation Mills," and "Professional Qualifications focusing on Accountancy", while also offering attendees many invaluable networking opportunities. While many professional conferences offer content of similar quality, the unique outcome of this meeting, for me, was a sense of collegiality and professionalism, as well as the feeling of leaving energized about the work – that of credential evaluators and university administrators, in collaboration as members of AICE.

With this energy, I am pleased to present this April edition of the AICE Standard. As always, you'll find a synopsis of AICE's monthly credential forum, as well as a new section featuring the professional development and outreach activities of AICE members. This information is presented to recognize the contributions of those AICE members who are providing presentations and training at events across the globe, as well as an opportunity for readers attending the same events to connect with those members.

Sincerely,  
Aleks Morawski

*Director of Evaluation Services  
Foreign Credits Inc.*

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## Reflections from the AICE Symposium

"AICE has been steadfast with its mission to develop Standards and Best Practices for its Endorsed Members. The drafting of the Standards has been an ongoing organic process, but in the past three years, we have made it into a tangible dynamic document. AICE's 2016 Symposium in Phoenix, AZ, was its first and successful attempt in

introducing the Standards to AICE Affiliate (Institutional and Organizational) members as well as special guests from AACRAO, CGACC and NASBA. Speaking as an Endorsed Member, I am extremely pleased with the direction AICE has taken and look forward to continuing this dialogue on standards with our colleagues at U.S. institutions and other professional associations who see the need for a common understanding of international credential evaluations and U.S. educational comparability as a mutually attainable goal."

Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert

*President & CEO Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI) and Acting  
President of AICE*

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## AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes highlights from the monthly AICE® Forum on March 17th, 2015. Although this is meant to serve as a synopsis of the discussion, additional details can be obtained by contacting the Members listed by each topic.





## Haiti – American University of the Caribbean

Graduate-level transcripts were received from the American University of the Caribbean (AUC) in Les Caues, Haiti. Undergraduate studies were completed at Azusa Pacific University. AUC transcripts confirm graduate-level transfer credit from

multiple recognized US universities. In an email to ACEI, the Provost at the AUC says the following: “All institutions of higher education in Haiti function under the umbrella of Universite d’Etat d’Haiti. However, the Haitian Ministry of National Education (MEN) has authorized the AUC to function in the country and to grant degrees since 1988. Besides, the MEN continues to validate the diplomas issued by the AUC which uses an American-style credit system. There is no formal system of “accreditation” of universities in Haiti as there is in the USA. Also many of the AUC graduates have pursued advanced degrees elsewhere in the world, including the USA.” AUC is not listed on Haiti’s Ministry of Education list, but there is reference to it being recognized since 1987 in reputable US publications.

~ *Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert*

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## India – Integrated Bachelor and Master degrees

This topic is sourced from a question posted on the NAFSA ACE Network regarding the approach to integrated dual degree programs (Bachelor of Technology and Master of Technology) offered by Jawaharlal Nehru

Technological University. Of interest, the approach to evaluation of such degrees may differ between that of academic institutions and private evaluation agencies. Many evaluators expressed they would recognize said degrees for a Master’s degree equivalence, while present academic institutions expressed that their admission decisions would depend on content and consultation with academic departments and faculty.

~ *Hany Arafat, Suguru Fujiwara*

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## Pakistan – Three-year Bachelor of Business Administration with 120 credits.

International Islamic University issued a transcript showing dates of attendance from September 2003 to December 2006, awarding a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honors)

degree with 120 Credits. The same student also received a Master of Business Administration in one year, September 2007 to June 2008 with 30 credits. Upon close inspection, it was determined that this is indeed a four year program, albeit completed in three years, and most evaluators consider it equivalent to a Bachelor's degree.

~ *Mario Caruso*

## Spain – IE Business School

A Global Executive MBA diploma was received by an endorsed evaluation service. There is no mention of título propio or título oficial on the documentation. Here is a summary of the information ACEI has compiled on this institution: "The IE Business



School (also known as IE University) is a non-profit, private entity that awards degrees and diplomas which exist outside the official titles sanctioned by the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) in Spain. Because the School operates outside the purview of the MOES, these degree titles are not officially sanctioned by the government of Spain, and are not officially recognized, though they are valued by private employers. While IE Business School is a member of many private accreditation organizations (e.g. EQUIS, European Quality Management Systems, AMBA, the Association of MBAs, and AACSB-International, The Association of Advance Collegiate Schools of Business-International [AACSB]), it is not recognized by the Spanish government." ACEI finally confirmed, after corresponding with the issuing institution, that this is a título propio program, which most evaluators agree are designed for employment purposes, not higher education.

\_~ Jasmin Said-Kuehnert \_



## Drexel University Law School Admissions

Would a three-year first degree in Law from France suffice for Juris Doctor program admissions in the United States? The consensus among most evaluators is that it would, since most US JD programs do not necessarily require a bachelor's degree for admission. Furthermore, a first professional degree is sufficient in certain states like California to initiate procedures for licensure as an attorney.

~ Drew Feder

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## Professional Development and Events

NAFSA Annual Conference, May 29 – June 3, 2016, Denver, CO  
<http://www.eventscribe.com/2016/nafsa/index.asp>

### Sessions:

- "Diploma and Accreditation Mills" Wednesday, June 1, 10:00 AM (Jasmin Saidi Kuehnert, ACEI and Drew Feder, Credential Consultants Inc.)
- "Breaking in and Establishing Yourself in International Education Before a Master's Degree" Wednesday, June 1, 10:00 AM (Sonya Brauchle, Foreign Credits Inc.)
- "Fighting Back Against Misconduct in the Academic Stage" Wednesday June 1, 11:45 AM (Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert – ACEI and Education Testing Services [ETS])

### Workshops:

- "International Credential Evaluation: Understanding the Essentials" Monday, May 30, 8:00 AM (Aleks Morawski, Foreign Credits Inc.)
- "International Credential Evaluation: Post-Secondary-Level Credentials" Monday, May 30, 1 PM (Aleks Morawski, Foreign Credits Inc.)
- "International Credential Evaluation: Secondary-Level Credentials" Tuesday May 31, 8:00 AM (Aleks Morawski, Foreign Credits Inc.)

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## AICE Phoenix Symposium Resources

Slides from the content presentations at the 2016 AICE Phoenix Symposium are available for viewing on the AICE website: [www.aice-eval.org](http://www.aice-eval.org). Please click on the button "Resources" and select "Standards," where you will find the presentation slides.

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For additional information on AICE membership options or members, please contact us at:  
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