



AICE Newsletter

January 2016

Message from the Editor:

Greetings and Happy New Year from everyone at AICE.

With most winter holidays coming to a close, international education professionals begin looking forward to an exciting new year. This can mean welcoming new students on campus from across the globe. It can mean reviewing our policies to making changes to increase productivity in 2016. Also, many of us are still working on closing 2015 matters, such as filing taxes (all too familiar to my colleagues from private organizations). On a positive note, what excites me most about starting the new year is the planning of professional development events – conferences, workshops, presentations, and most importantly, networking events. Here in the Midwest, my colleagues and I are already receiving invitations, and working on proposals, for our state conferences, such as IEI, WAIE, MAIE, etc. We're also planning our attendance at national and international conferences later in the year, such as the AACRAO Annual Meeting, NAFSA, EAIE, etc.

Drawing from the theme of new beginnings and professional development, I am excited to announce that my colleagues and I will be attending the first AICE Symposium in Phoenix in March. International education organizations and their events provide a lot for the credential evaluation industry. However, the AICE Symposium will be the first event dedicated entirely to bringing together individuals in the credential evaluation field to discuss the need for standards in our industry. I hope to meet many of you at the Symposium in March. More information can be found at the end of this newsletter. Credential evaluation has been a significant role in my career for over ten years. Having experienced the profession from many different angles, I must say that discussing standards in our industry can not come soon enough, and I look forward to participating. I hope you can join me.

Sincerely,

Aleks Morawski

Director of Evaluation Services

Foreign Credits Inc. (Endorsed Member of AICE)



Special Invitation to Connect with AICE:

Credential Forum

As the, Chair of the Membership Committee of the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE), I would like to extend a special invitation to you to attend our Credentials Discussion Forum as our guest for a three-month trial period. The Discussion Forum teleconference is one of the primary benefits of Affiliate Membership in AICE and is held on the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 am PST / 11:00 am MST / 12:00 pm CST / 1:00 pm EDT. The duration is one hour.

The agenda for our discussion includes but is not limited to international academic credentials at the secondary, tertiary, graduate and post-graduate levels; professional credentials offered in various areas, such as accounting, medicine, dentistry, and nursing; suspicious credential documents; and methods to verify the authenticity of documents from specific sources.

AICE members submit documents for discussion prior to each forum. These documents are then forwarded to all forum participants prior to the meeting, along with the monthly agenda, enabling each person to review and discuss the documents for that month. Once you confirm your interest in participating, AICE will email you the conference call information and the monthly agenda. You will also be invited to submit any documents that you would like to discuss.

I can tell you that the University of West Georgia and the University of Idaho both decided to become Affiliate Members of AICE after participating in only one of our Credential Discussion Forums. That speaks to how helpful they are! We invite you to visit our website <http://aice-eval.org> to learn more about becoming an Affiliate Member and contributing your voice to the creation of standards within the international education community.

Please let me know if you have questions regarding AICE membership or if you would like to participate in an upcoming Credentials Discussion Forum as our guest. You may reach me by email at beth.aice01@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Beth Cotter
President
Foreign Credential Evaluation, Inc. (Endorsed Member of AICE)

AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes highlights from the monthly AICE® Forum on December 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.

The Fraud Dilemma

Credential evaluators, from time to time, are asked by applicants or students to evaluate forged, altered, or inauthentic credentials. In addition, we also receive credentials from unaccredited institutions or diploma mills. These can be submitted alone, or in combination with authentic academic credentials. Most professional evaluators simply refuse to evaluate the former. However, it helps to remind ourselves of the responsibility of an evaluator to the reader of our evaluation reports. As such, we evaluate what we see, and report our findings, even if it means informing the reader that what was submitted was a fraudulent document. AICE members have a system in place where we share our experiences with fraud with one another, to ensure it does not affect any of our member institutions.



~ *Barbara Glave*



India: Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi

We received an Indian Secondary School Exam (1996) & Senior Secondary School Examination (1998) from the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi. The status of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi is questionable. Research has shown that the issuing institution is

on multiple published lists of 'fake' boards.

~ *Martha Alvarez*

Malta: Secondary Education

The Secondary Education Certificate Examination, issued by the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examination Board, University of Malta – MSIDA, represents the completion of 11th grade, which is compulsory education in Malta. Students who wish to enroll in university must complete another two years of higher secondary education.



~ *Mario Caruso*



Mexico

As a practical exercise, an AICE member shared a “Diploma” from Mexico without academic value. AICE members explored this document but found it not confirming completion of any studies. It only established enrollment in a certain class. This is a workforce-type credential, but does not lead to further education, nor does it signify completion of a program. This reinforces the necessity of reading

the fine print in the original language, despite seeing the large header stating “DIPLOMA”, since a poor English translation of this can be misleading.

~ Barbara Glave

Professional Development and Events

AICE Phoenix Symposium, March 23-24, 2016

AICE cordially invites you to collaborate with other evaluators as we discuss the need for standards in our industry. The AICE Phoenix Symposium will benefit you by increasing your knowledge of sound evaluation practices, connecting you with others in the industry with whom you can discuss evaluation questions and problems, offering you access to an ongoing forum in which to compare and analyze educational credentials, and increasing your confidence in the reliability of credential evaluation reports which you produce and which you receive from others.

REGISTER NOW

RESERVE ROOM

For more information, please contact Beth Cotter at beth_cotter@fceatlanata.com.

Click here for: [AICE Symposium Overview](#)

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International Evaluation Services

For additional information on AICE membership options or members, please contact us at: info@aice-eval.org or visit our website at: www.aice-eval.org

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