

# TAICEP CONFERENCE

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

CHICAGO 2016



TAICEP

DAY AT A GLANCE ON PAGE 42

30



**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

Find the full conference schedule with session descriptions. The abbreviated Day at a Glance schedule is on the last page.

MEET THE TEAM

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**TAICEP LEADERSHIP & COMMITTEES**

Meet the people who make this group run! Thanks for all you do.

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**TRANSPORTATION/PARKING**

Not familiar with Chicago? Worried about driving, parking, public transportation, and walking? We've got you covered.

# WHO WE ARE

For a number of years informal groups of international credential evaluators around the world have been discussing the need for a new professional association. TAICEP was established to meet the unique goals of the profession of International Credential Evaluation Professionals.

**TAICEP STANDARDS**

**DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES**

**Openness** – the opportunity for involvement by all parties known to be affected by the particular standards development activity

**Balance** – balancing interests so that standards development activities are not dominated by any single group of interested parties

**Transparency** – readily available access to essential information regarding proposed and final standards

**Consensus** – substantial agreement reached on all material points after the consideration of all views and objections

**Process** – including the right to express a position, to have it considered, and to appeal an adverse decision

**OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

1. Collaboration
2. Transparency
3. Inclusiveness
4. Volunteerism
5. International orientation

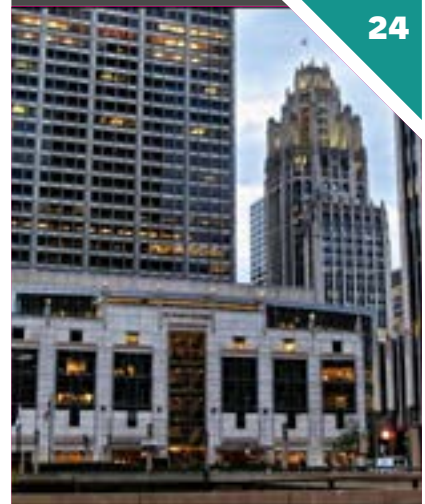
**PRIMARY GOALS**

- Define and promote the profession
- Develop and promote common standards
- Advocate for the profession
- Conduct research and disseminate information that supports the profession
- Identify and develop theories, methodologies and best practices used in international credential evaluation
- Obtain appropriate official recognition for the association
- Promote cooperation with other groups involved in international education
- Identify and promote professional development, training, and other educational opportunities



**CHICAGO ACTIVITIES**

Check out some of our favorite options for exploring the Windy City and making the most of your time in downtown Chicago!



**GLEACHER CENTER MAP**

Get the lay of the land and find all your favorite sessions with ease. A great quick reference.



# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

**On behalf of TAICEP's Executive Committee, I want to wish you a very warm welcome to the beautiful city of Chicago for TAICEP's third annual conference.**

I remember when I joined the world of credential evaluation, a colleague mentioned to me that credential evaluation is a "lonely job" - many evaluators work in institutions or regulatory bodies without many other colleagues who really understand their work. So TAICEP's promise to me has always been about that - a space for members to build their networks, get the training they need, find mentors and colleagues, and make the job a little less lonely - knowing that there are others out there who "get it" and who can give you advice or a secret resource you can't quite put your finger on. Our annual conference is at the centre of building that international network that is so crucial to our work.

**"Most of all, I want to thank YOU for attending this year's conference, and hope you will get the most out of this conference ..."**

I want to take this opportunity to warmly thank Jeremy Mixell and his conference team: Karin Brown, Timothy Kell, Bernard Ramos, Michaela Huth-Aldrich, and Wendy Loat, and Jessica Stannard and the professional development committee: Jaime Nolan, David Millar, Robert Huang, Timothy Kell, and Denise Benz. These individuals have worked tirelessly to build a memorable and educational conference to support credential evaluators attending the conference from nine countries across Europe, North America and the Caribbean. I also want to thank our presenters for their excellent submissions and for the wide range of topics and issues they will cover over the two days of the conference. Finally, I want to thank Robert Prather, TAICEP's executive





director, whose expertise, commitment, and good humour has been invaluable. Most of all, I want to thank YOU for attending this year's conference, and hope you will get the most out of this conference - meeting new and old friends and colleagues, sharing your expertise, learning from others, and taking some time out to take advantage of the many attractions Chicago has to offer. If you enjoy this conference, please help us spread the word about TAICEP to colleagues in different countries, and start making your plans to join us for next year's conference! Wishing you a memorable and productive conference.

## NATASHA SAWH

TAICEP President

Natasha Sawh is the Coordinator of the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) at the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) [<http://www.cicic.ca>].



# CONFERENCE CHAIR'S WELCOME

**This year's conference theme - "The Art and Science of Credential Evaluation" – reflects the fact that our work isn't just steered by policies, rules, and documented instructions, but very often by common sense, best practice, comparison, intuition and creativity.**

From the development of the skyscraper to the deliciousness that is a Chicago deep dish pizza, Chicagoans have demonstrated a similar level of creativity and ingenuity in the face of a rapidly changing international and domestic landscape. It's therefore fitting that our 2nd Annual Conference take place in the "City of Big Shoulders," which I feel speaks to the important nature of the work we accomplish on a day-to-day basis for individuals, communities and nations alike.

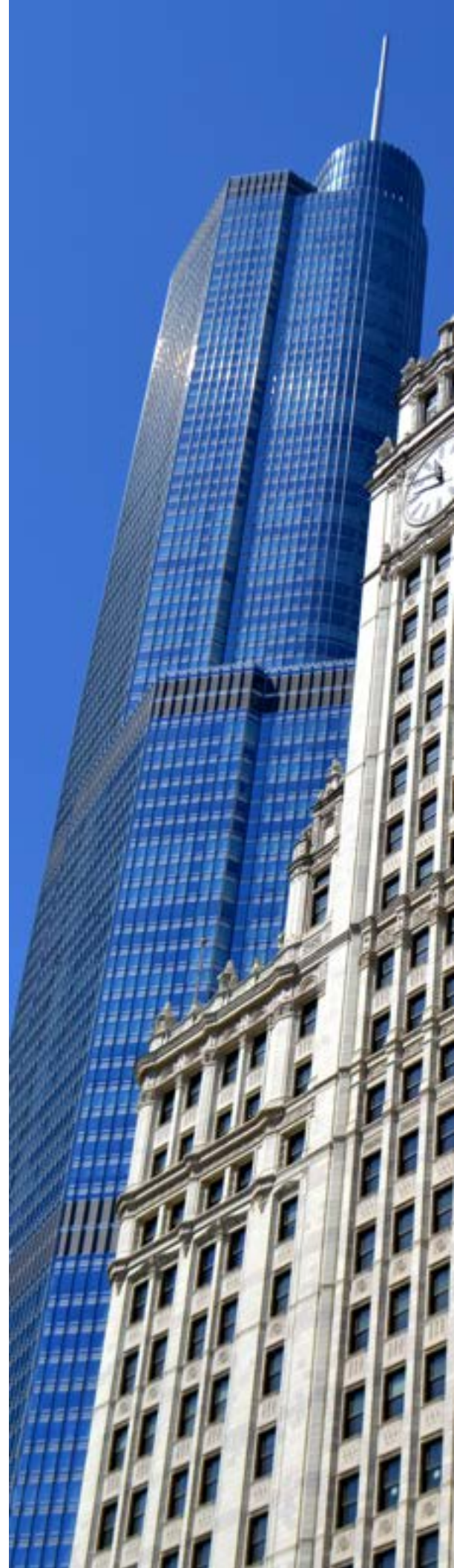
We've put together a robust conference program for our 2016 Annual Conference. In addition to the two pre-conference workshops on evaluating foreign credentials and refugee qualifications, we've compiled over 30 sessions on a variety of credential

evaluation specific topics that will help you and your organizations stay on the cutting edge of best practice. We've also invited a handfull of organizations to participate as exhibitors in Chicago, which we hope will help you connect with additional resources to support and assist you in your work. Finally, we're happy to have Alex Usher, owner and president

of Higher Education Strategy join us as our 2016 plenary speaker. Mr. Usher is an expert on higher education, both in Canada and around the world, has extensive experience in higher education policy and issues, and is

internationally recognized as an expert on post-secondary education policy. The success of any association is due in no small part to the sponsors who support their vision and goals. Therefore,

**"We've put  
together a robust  
program for our  
2016 Annual  
Conference."**





I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2016 conference sponsors for providing us the tools, resources, and funding necessary for putting together an impactful, engaging and memorable experience for our attendees. Finally, please make sure to join us at the DoubleTree on the evening of September 26th for our 2016 TAICEP Annual Conference Reception. Also, please make sure to sign-up at our hospitality table just outside of room 621 in the Gleacher Center for one of our evening of activities on the night of September 27th. The Conference Planning Committee will be providing opportunities for you to explore Chicago with your TAICEP colleagues.

## JEREMY MIXELL

### 2016 Conference Planning Chair

Jeremy Mixell is the Associate Director of International Admissions Operations at Indiana University in Bloomington. serving as the 2016 Conference Planning Chair, Jeremy has been involved with TAICEP for the last two years, and has worked in the wider field of international education since 2007.



A promotional graphic for a conference in Chicago. The background features a clear blue sky, the Willis Tower, a prominent red skyscraper, and the Michigan State Capitol building. In the foreground, there is a stone fountain with multiple tiers and a decorative metal fence. The main text is overlaid on a white diagonal banner.

# MEET THE EXECUTIVE TEAM!

WE'RE SO EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THIS AMAZING GROUP AND  
CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE OUR PLANS FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE. THANKS FOR JOINING US IN CHICAGO!



**WE WANT TO SHARE A LITTLE  
BIT ABOUT OURSELVES AND GET  
TO KNOW YOU, TOO.**

WE HOPE THIS CONFERENCE WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE A GREAT WAY TO CONNECT WITH  
COLLEAGUES, SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND  
BUILD A STRONGER NETWORK IN THE FIELD FOR  
CREDENTIAL ANALYSTS.



# NATASHA SAWH

CURRENT PRESIDENT



Natasha is the Coordinator of the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) at the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) [cicic.ca]. CICIC is Canada's National Information Centre (ENIC) to facilitate the mobility of students and skilled professionals. Natasha has worked in philanthropic, not-for-profit, and public sector organizations on postsecondary education, international relations, and public policy development. She was part of TAICEP's inaugural steering committee and currently serves as president (2016-2018).

*"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."  
-HELEN KELLER*



# MARGIT SCHATZMAN

PAST PRESIDENT

Margit Schatzman is President of Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE), a U.S. non-profit organization that provides credential evaluation, research and training in international education. She is excited about work that ECE is doing to provide free evaluations for refugees. Her professional passion is supporting the growth of TAICEP and she is a frequent speaker at U.S. and international conferences. Her degrees include a Master of Science and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.



# JENNEKE LOKHOFF

VP OF STANDARDS



Jenneke joined TAICEP in 2013 as member of the transition committee and next as VP. In her daily work-life, she is senior policy officer at EP-Nuffic, the Netherlands organisation for internationalisation in education, which also houses the Dutch ENIC-NARIC. At EP-Nuffic, Jenneke manages projects dealing with recognition of qualifications together with counterparts in the ENIC-NARIC networks. Examples of deliverables are the EAR recognition manual for ENIC-NARICs and higher education institutions, providing guidance on how to formulate learning outcomes that are useful for recognition and Standard & Guidelines for the ENIC-NARIC networks. Jenneke also serves as member of the NARIC Advisory Board.

# JEANIE BELL

VP OF MEMBERSHIP



Jeanie is Senior Assistant Director of International Admissions in the Office of Admissions, University of Colorado Boulder, located in Boulder, Colorado, USA. She has led international admissions teams at several US universities, including in her current position. She has set standards for international academic admissions, has recruited students, and trained staff in credential evaluation and immigration processing. Professionally active in international education since 1986, her accomplishments include presenting and chairing sessions in Asia, Europe and North America for various professional organizations including TAICEP, NAFSA, EAIE, AACRAO and OACAC. She is currently Vice-President of the Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP). She received her Masters of Public Administration from the UC Denver.

# DAVID HAYNES

TREASURER

David has over 25 years of experience in foreign credential evaluation and business experience. He has served as the President and Head Evaluator of International Education Evaluations, Inc. (IEE, Inc.) since 2007. Before entering the credential evaluation industry he worked for nine years in the accounting field.





# ROBERT PRATHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Robert has worked in higher education in a variety of positions in international admissions, marketing, immigration, and study abroad. He has worked at several large state universities and for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Robert has held a variety of volunteer roles in NAFSA and AACRAO. In addition to his current role as TAICEP Executive Director, he acts as primary caregiver for his mother, who has Alzheimer's. Robert has his master's degree from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce in economics and diplomatic history. He is devoted to the international education profession and very much values his association with TAICEP.

# KATE FREEMAN

SECRETARY

Kate has more than 30 years of experience in international education that started with studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain as an undergrad, and continued as an ESL teacher with U.S. Peace Corps in Morocco and at Feng Chia University in Taichung, Taiwan followed by positions as an international student advisor, international admission officer, and foreign credentials evaluator. She has authored 150+ entries in AACRAO's EDGE, and volumes on the educational system of Morocco, an introduction to foreign credentials evaluation, and co-authored a book on the educational system of France. She's currently the senior credentials analyst consultant at SpanTran: The Evaluation Company.



# COMMITTEES

THE GREAT WORK TAICEP IS DOING WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT EVERYONE INVOLVED. IN ADDITION TO THE EXECUTIVE TEAM, WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE HARD WORK COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE DOING.

## COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

The Committee for Governance and Finance is responsible for overseeing the governance structures for TAICEP, the long-term financial sustainability of the Association and to ensure that the Association complies with relevant legislation concerning the financial reporting of its activities.

Margit Schatzman - (Chair)

Jenneke Lokhoff

Margaret Donaldson

David Haynes (ex officio)

Robert Prather (staff)

## Committee for Standards

The Committee for Standards is responsible for developing and maintaining a set of ethical principles, guidelines, standards, and best practices for the international credential evaluation profession that all members will be asked to adhere to, and to build on existing resources.

Rolf Lofstad (Chair)

Emily Tse

Todd Colvard

Meg Wenger

Sarah Ledwidge

## COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

The Committee for Membership Outreach is responsible for building TAICEP's membership base and organizing appropriate outreach activities to ensure the Association is well-known.

Marshall Houserman (Chair)

Kelly Sharp

Shelby Cearley

Laurie Cook

Patrick Leahy

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Professional Development and Training Committee will develop a strategy for structured professional development for credential evaluators.

Jessica Stannard (Chair)

David Millar

Robert Huang

Timothy Kell

Denise Benz

## RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS COMMITTEE

The Resources for Members Committee will develop key benefits/resources for members.

Lou Nunes (Chair)

Erik Johansson

Peggy Bell-Hendrickson

LesLee Eicher

Annetta Stroud

Anu Soin

## 2016 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 2016 Conference Committee organizes the 2016 conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Jeremy Mixell (Chair)

Karin Christoph-Brown

Timothy Kell

Bernard Ramos

Michaela Huth-Aldrich

Wendy Loat

*"UNITY IS STRENGTH. . . WHEN THERE IS TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION, WONDERFUL THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED." -MATTIE STEPANEK*



# PLENARY SPEAKER

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME IN INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION

Alex Usher is the owner and president of Higher Education Strategy Associates, which provides in-depth analysis of educational policy issues and is dedicated to providing institutions, governments, and related agencies with strategic advice and research pertaining to a range of higher education issues, including improving quality, strategy, efficiency, and program planning. Mr. Usher is an expert on higher education, both in Canada and around the world. He has extensive experience in higher education policy and issues, and is internationally recognized as an expert on post-secondary education policy. Mr. Usher is routinely sought out by the World Bank, UNESCO, and the European Union for his expertise, and is frequently invited to be a keynote speaker at various events hosted by higher education institutions and organizations, both in Canada and internationally – including as a recent guest speaker invitations for meetings of the Bologna researchers, the European University Association (EUA), and the European Commission (EC). In his internationally-read blog, One Thought to Start Your Day, Mr. Usher provides daily reflections on issues, trends, and data on higher education.



### ALEX USHER

Alex will discuss six mega-trends, from changing demographics and new global economic realities to differentiation of higher education institutions and their program offerings --and the implications for the future of credential evaluation.

# SPONSOR RECOGNITION

WE OFFER SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS - THIS CONFERENCE SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY.





**GLOBAL CREDENTIAL EVALUATORS****\$1,500 | Breaks**

Global Credential Evaluators, Inc. (GCE) was founded in 1990 as an independent, non-governmental professional organization providing timely, accurate and professional evaluation reports for persons who have completed part or all of their education outside the United States. GCE has evaluators in Texas, Mississippi, and Virginia.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES (NACES)****\$1,500 – Plenary Speaker**

NACES is an association of private and independent foreign educational credentials evaluation services committed to formulating and maintaining ethical standards in the field of foreign educational evaluation. NACES member organizations demonstrate a high level of expertise in the evaluation of foreign educational credentials and maintain significant professional involvement in organizations such as NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Member organizations also have extensive and current libraries containing pertinent resources regarding foreign educational systems, institutions and credentials.

**WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES (WES)****\$1,500 – Conference Program**

World Education Services enables the global mobility of students and professionals through our extensive knowledge, trusted research, and expert advice. For over 40 years, WES has set the standard of excellence in the field of international mobility with our world-class credential evaluations, research, consulting services, and on-going support for international students and skilled immigrants in the U.S. and Canada.

**FOREIGN CREDENTIALING COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL THERAPY (FCCPT)****\$1,000 – Operating Expenses and Supplies**

The Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT) is a non-profit organization that evaluates the credentials of foreign-educated physical therapists and physical therapist assistants (FEPTs), and issues Health Care Worker Certificates to those who wish to immigrate and/or work in the United States.

**Evaluation Services, Inc.****\$500.00 – Operating Expenses and Supplies**

Evaluation Service, Inc., provides foreign academic credential evaluations since 1990. We welcome everyone to the 2016 TAICEP Conference!

*NACES member since 2008***ACADEMIC EVALUATION SERVICES, INC.****\$550 – Operating Expenses and Supplies**

Academic Evaluation Services, Inc., a NACES member firm since May 2008, analyzes foreign academic and professional credentials to establish the equivalent degree, credits or years of study that would be awarded in the U.S. educational system, at different levels of education. We are here to help you take that next step in life as you pursue your new academic, career, military, and/or professional licensing goals! With years of expertise, knowledge and reliability, we can help you meet your foreign credential evaluation and translation needs!

**A2Z EVALUATIONS, LLC****\$500 – Operating Expenses and Supplies**

A2Z Evaluations, LLC wishes everyone involved in this year's TAICEP conference the very best.

# EXHIBITOR RECOGNITION

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED BY THE AMAZING EXHIBITORS WHO KEEP US UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN OUR FIELD.







## **EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIAL EVALUATORS INC.**

[ece.org](http://ece.org)

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE) is a leader in expert research in applied comparative education. Join the free online forum: The Connection. Premium services are available through The Connection Advantage. ECE provides fast, low-cost, and accurate evaluation reports and a free Institutional Online Account, where you get the report AND documentation. Get training from the ECE knowledgeable staff through the e-learning series and publications. Trusted. Responsive. Thorough.



## **EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, NFP.**

[edperspectives.org](http://edperspectives.org)

Educational Perspectives (EP) is a not-for-profit foreign credential evaluation agency dedicated to assisting those who enroll international students. For 15 years EP has provided accurate evaluation reports, excellent customer service, and expert training. Reports are prepared by knowledgeable and skilled evaluators. Training workshops are designed specifically to meet institutional needs. EP, a member of NACES since 2003, recognizes the significance of

international education and sets the standard for accessibility and service



## **SPANTRAN: THE EVALUATION COMPANY**

[spantran.com](http://spantran.com)

With more than 30 years' experience, SpanTran: The Evaluation Company is one of the most trusted names in the world for foreign academic credential evaluations and translations. Since 1996, SpanTran has been a proud member of NACES, the trade association whose education and credential evaluations are the most requested by academic institutions and professional licensing boards. Our academic evaluation services and translations are designed for foreign students who study in the US, graduates seeking professional licensing, enlistees to the military, job-seekers and more. Our offices are located in Houston, Texas, the heart of Manhattan in New York City, and Miami, FL.



## **CHINA CREDENTIAL SERVICES**

[chinacredentialservices.com](http://chinacredentialservices.com)

Could targeted bilingual services result in higher enrollments, better student retention and better learning outcomes? We know they can! We're an educational

consulting organization with a mission to simplify and facilitate academic exchange between China and the US by providing a fully bilingual website for credential evaluation, admissions consulting and training, prospective partner and program vetting, student integration training, staff and faculty intercultural training, recruitment assistance, website translation and localization and more.

We expedite and disambiguate the US high school and university application process by offering 5-day standard processing and personalized English-Chinese customer service. We help US institutions understand and assist students from China to streamline processes, prevent document fraud, increase enrollments, and improve outcomes through social and academic integration.



## **CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

[cie.org.uk/](http://cie.org.uk/)

As a part of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programs and qualifications in over 160 countries for learners ages 5-19, including the IGCSE, O-Level, AS and A-Level. Cambridge provides an academically rigorous curriculum emphasizing critical thinking and inquiry-based learning that helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college and beyond.

# TRANSPORTATION & PARKING



# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## **Amtrak Union Station**

The train is approximately a 10-minute drive or a 20-minute walk to the Doubletree Magnificent Mile, and is located at 225 South Canal Street. For more information on Amtrak services, call (800) 872-7245 or visit [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com).

## **The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)**

The CTA offers rail and bus service throughout Chicago and 40 surrounding suburbs, and offers a convenient and cheap way to reach your downtown destination. A ride on both the Blue and Orange Lines from O'Hare and Midway take approximately an hour and costs approximately \$6.00.

For more information about the CTA, including schedules, routes, and payments, please visit [transitchicago.com](http://transitchicago.com).

## **Taxis**

Taxis are fairly plentiful and available on a first come, first serve basis. Taxi's all run on meters and do not necessarily have set fares (i.e. costs can vary greatly depending

on traffic.)- average cost is approximately \$35-\$40.00 for a ride to downtown Chicago from both O'Hare International and Midway International Airports.

## **Uber & Lyft**

Both apps are available throughout the city, including both airports.

## **Airports**

Chicago is served by two major airports: O'Hare International and Midway International. O'Hare International Airport, located northwest of downtown offers service to and from over 60 international destinations and is directly connected to the CTA Blue line, which runs 24/7 to downtown Chicago. Midway Airport is directly connected to the CTA Orange line, has slightly more limited hours, and it is still a convenient and cheap way to get to downtown Chicago. For more information, contact O'Hare International Airport at (773) 686-2200 or Midway International Airport at (773) 838-0600.

## IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GLEACHER CENTER**

450 North Cityfront Plaza  
Chicago, IL 60611

### **DOUBLETREE MAGNIFICENT MILE**

300 East Ohio Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

### **O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

10000 West O'Hare Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60666

### **MIDWAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

5700 South Cicero Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638

### **CHICAGO UNION STATION**

225 South Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606



# PARKING OPTIONS

## **DOUBLETREE**

Covered parking is available to registered Doubletree guests and directly adjoins the hotel. We have secured a discounted rate of \$40.00 per night for conference participants. For those driving into Chicago for the pre-conference only, we have secured a daytime parking rate of \$16.00 in the hotel garage on the 26th. ParkWhiz and SpotHero, though not officially endorsed by TAICEP, are both good smartphone applications for finding the best parking rates in downtown Chicago.

## **OTHER PARKING**

Other specific parking options near both the University of Chicago Gleacher Center and Doubletree Magnificent Mile include:

### **355 EAST OHIO STREET CHICAGO, IL 60611**

Enter on 355 E. Ohio St. The garage entrance is located just before you reach intersection of McClurg and Ohio. This garage does not allow in and out privileges.

### **233 EAST ERIE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60611**

Enter on 233 E. Erie. This is a valet garage located on E. Erie one half block east of N. St. Clair. This garage does not allow in and out privileges.

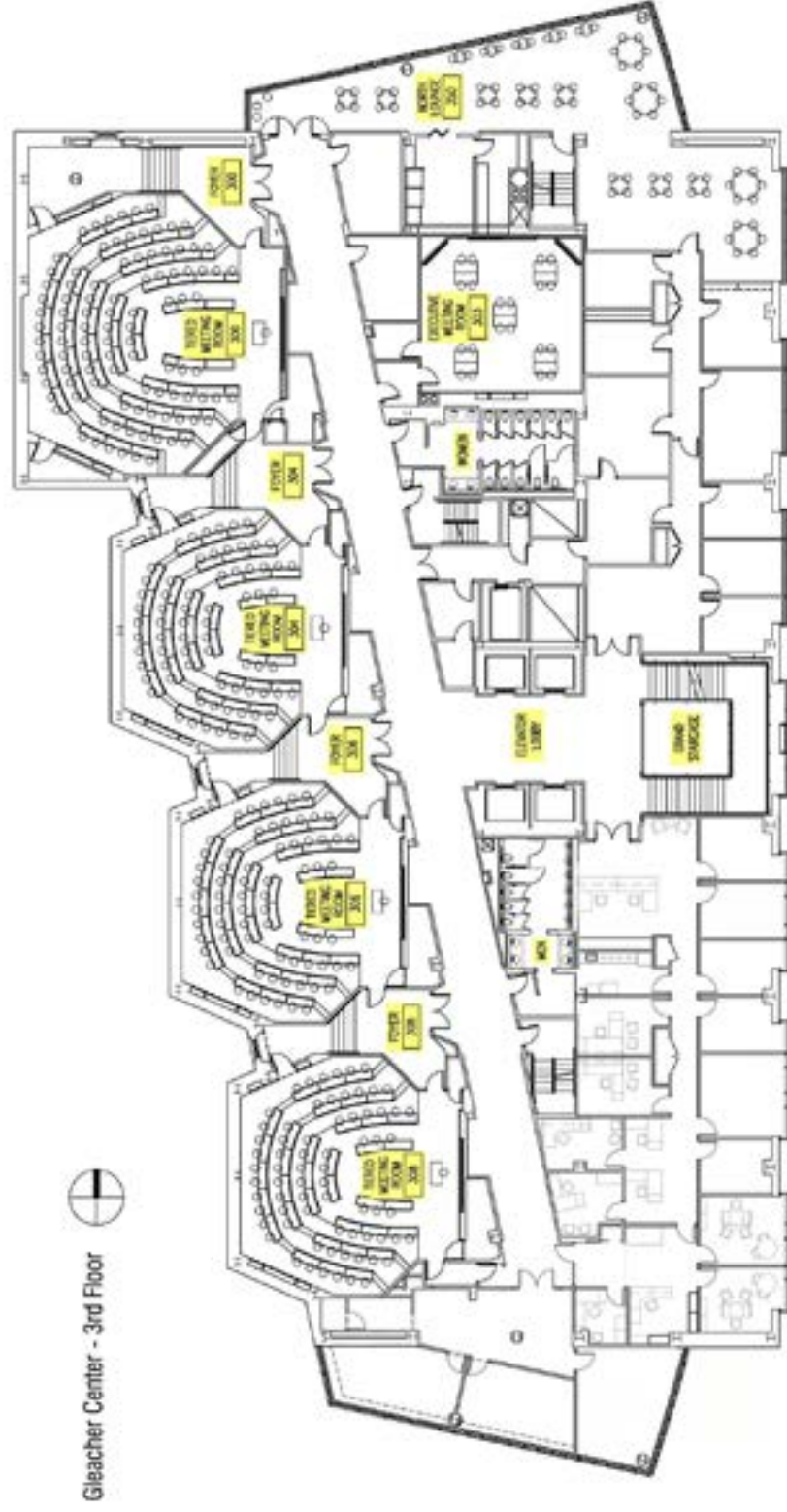
### **535 NORTH ST. CLAIR STREET CHICAGO, IL**

Enter on 535 N. St. Clair St. Garage is located on east side of St. Clair St. between E. Grant Ave. and E. Ohio St. This garage does not allow in and out privileges.





# CONFERENCE MAP

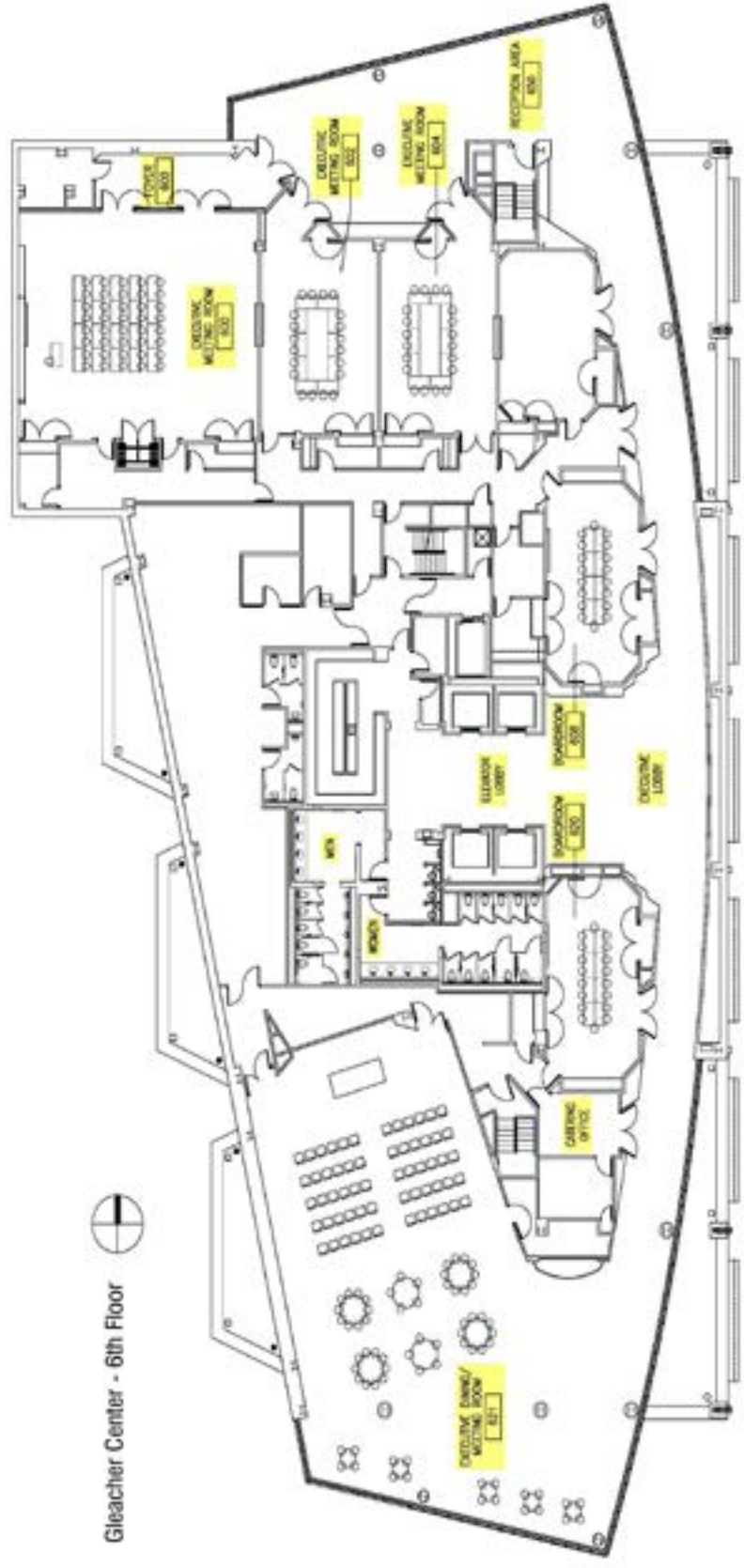


Gleacher Center - 3rd Floor





Gluecher Center - 6th Floor



  
**CHICAGO BOOTH**  
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business



# GCE

Global Credential Evaluators, Inc.

- **Reduces evaluation workload in your office**
- **Turnaround time of one week for admission offices**
- **Competitive pricing passed on to the applicant**
- **Over 75 years of combined senior evaluator experience**
- **Offices in Texas, Virginia, Mississippi**
- **Member of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, (NACES®)**

[www.gceus.com](http://www.gceus.com) • [gce@gceus.com](mailto:gce@gceus.com)

1-800-707-0979



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION  
SERVICES

## Why?

- ✓ NACES is the oldest association of international credential evaluation services in the U.S.
- ✓ Members' senior evaluators possess expertise and mastery in the field of academic credentials evaluation
- ✓ NACES is the pioneer for high standards in our industry

To learn more, visit [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org)

## NACES is a Proud Sponsor of the TAICEP 2nd Annual Conference



**There's no substitute  
for quality and integrity**

NACES is an association of independent international credential evaluation services.

For three decades, U.S. universities and colleges, licensing and certification boards, immigration attorneys, employers and government agencies have relied on our integrity and expertise.



# THE WINDY CITY

**WELCOME TO CHICAGO! THESE ARE JUST A FEW SUGGESTIONS OF WAYS TO SPEND YOUR TIME IN THIS AWESOME CITY...**

Welcome to America’s most American city—a city by the lake, the capital of the Midwest, a culinary hotspot and the crossroads of America.

Known as the Windy City, not because of some meteorological phenomenon, but a term coined in Ohio and popularized by a New York newspaper that noticed our ubiquitous civic boosterism during the 1893 Columbian Exposition. As one of the youngest Global Cities and in its noticeable ‘short’ history, Chicago has revealed and contributed so much to the world—from the mundane items such as the zipper, the remote control and cellular phone to an exposition that showcased the first Ferris wheel to making this town the inventor of the skyscraper. There is certainty that Chicagoans are proud to show our visitors our favorites, our go-to places in the City of Neighborhoods.



Special thanks to Pearson for providing bags and lanyards for the conference! The PTE Academic test is the most secure Language proficient test in the market allowing today’s students to utilize today’s technology ‘by being able to book up to 48 hours before testing and most often receiving results back within 24-48 hours.

## DOWNTOWN LOOP RESTAURANTS

### Acanto

18 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603  
[acantochicago.com](http://acantochicago.com)

### Cindy's at the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel

12 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603  
[cindysrooftop.com](http://cindysrooftop.com)

### Cochon Volant Brasserie

100 W. Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603  
[cochonvolantchicago.com](http://cochonvolantchicago.com)

### The Gage

24 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603  
[thegagechicago.com](http://thegagechicago.com)

### Latinicity Food Hall & Lounge

108 N. State St, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60602  
[latinicity.com](http://latinicity.com)

### LH Rooftop at the LondonHouse Chicago

85 E. Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60601  
[londonhousechicago.com/rooftop](http://londonhousechicago.com/rooftop)

### Nando's Peri-Peri

22 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60603  
[nandosperiperi.com/restaurants/wabash](http://nandosperiperi.com/restaurants/wabash)

### Terzo Piano, Art Institute of Chicago

Level 3 of the Modern Wing, free entrance from Monroe St.  
159 E. Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603  
[Terzopianochicago.com](http://Terzopianochicago.com)

## CHICAGO PIZZA

### Gino's East

500 N. LaSalle St, Chicago, IL 60654  
River North Neighborhood  
[ginoseast.com](http://ginoseast.com)

### Giordano's

730 N. Rush St, Chicago, IL 60611  
Gold Coast Neighborhood  
[giordanos.com](http://giordanos.com)

### Lou Malnati's-Gold Coast

1120 N. State St, Chicago, IL 60610  
Gold Coast Neighborhood  
[loumalnatis.com/chicagoland](http://loumalnatis.com/chicagoland)

## ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

### 360 Chicago at the John Hancock Building

The Tilt, Observation Deck Attractions  
[360chicago.com](http://360chicago.com)

### Art Institute of Chicago

Home of the Largest Collection of Impressionist Paintings Outside of Paris  
[artic.edu](http://artic.edu)

### Millennium Park

Architecture, Attractions, Events and Exhibits  
[millenniumpark.org](http://millenniumpark.org)

### Museum of Science and Industry

One of the Largest Science Museum  
[msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org)

### Navy Pier

Attractions, Exhibits, Sightseeing, Shops  
[navypier.com](http://navypier.com)

### The Skydeck at the Willis (Sears) Tower

The Ledge, Skydeck, Observation Deck  
[theskydeck.com](http://theskydeck.com)

### 18th Annual World Music Festival Chicago

September 9 - 25, 2016  
Various Locations  
[cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/world\\_music\\_festival.html](http://cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/world_music_festival.html)

### Chicago Symphony Orchestra Riccardo Muti Conducts Strauss & Bruckner

September 22, 23, and 27, 2016  
[cso.org](http://cso.org)

### Adler Planetarium

South Loop Neighborhood  
[adlerplanetarium.org](http://adlerplanetarium.org)

### Chicago Architecture Foundation

[architecture.org](http://architecture.org)

### The Field Museum

Home of Sue-the T. Rex and the Tsavo Lions; China's First Emperor and His Terracotta Warriors Exhibit  
[fieldmuseum.org](http://fieldmuseum.org)

### Green Mill Jazz Club

Chicago Classic Jazz Club  
[greenmilljazz.com](http://greenmilljazz.com)

### Millennium Park

Architecture, Attractions, Events and Exhibits  
[millenniumpark.org](http://millenniumpark.org)

### Museum of Science and Industry

One of the Largest Science Museums  
[msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org)

### Navy Pier

Attractions, Exhibits, Sightseeing, Shops  
[navypier.com](http://navypier.com)

### The Second City

Birthplace of Improv Comedy  
[secondcity.com](http://secondcity.com)

### Shedd Aquarium

Largest Indoor Aquarium in the World  
[sheddaquarium.org](http://sheddaquarium.org)





# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE!

ALL THE DETAILS YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL  
CONFERENCE. CHOOSE FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF SESSIONS TO  
CUSTOMIZE THIS EXPERIENCE AND GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR  
TIME HERE IN CHICAGO.





## SPECIAL THANKS!

WE OFFER SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR AMAZING PRESENTERS! YOU MAKE OUR CONFERENCE WHAT IT IS EACH YEAR WITH YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND WILLINGNESS TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES WITH THE GROUP. LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AMAZING SELECTION OF SESSIONS THIS YEAR.

# MONDAY 9/26

9 AM–10 AM

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WITH CONFERENCE CHAIRS**

10 AM–12 PM

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

12 PM –1 PM

**PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
University of Chicago Gleacher Center**

You will be greeted by a member of the TAICEP Conference Planning Committee when you enter the Gleacher Center, and will receive additional program information at your pre-conference workshop.

1 PM–5 PM

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

**Evaluating International Credentials in 10 Steps  
Gleacher Center Room 203**

Kenneth Warren, President, Educational Perspectives, nfp  
Jessica Stannard, Policy Advisor, EP-Nuffic

Are you relatively new to the field of evaluation of foreign credentials? While practicing a step-by-step evaluation methodology, this workshop offers an introduction to the most important aspects of this dynamic field, such as which documents you should require, where you can find accurate, up-to-date information, the importance of accreditation and recognition, and the basic skills of credit and grade conversion. The purpose of each of the ten basic steps will be briefly explained and illustrated with the help of sample documents and other relevant information. As a participant, you will benefit from

a hands-on approach using cases from daily practice, the chance to share information and experiences with your peers, and the extensive knowledge and expertise of the two presenters.

**Evaluating Refugee Qualifications  
Gleacher Center Room 303**

Natasha Sawh, Coordinator, Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

Denise Jillions, Associate Director, Global Talent Bridge, World Education Services  
Rolf Lofstad, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

Iona Mitchell, Manager of Membership Records, Ontario College of Teachers  
Inge Wieringa, Senior Admissions Officer, Leiden University

As wars and conflicts around the globe continue apace, this international workshop will provide an overview of the types of documentation challenges typically faced by refugees and those in refugee-like settings, and provide in-depth examples of the policies and practices undertaken in three countries and three different types of organizations – universities, professional regulatory bodies, and general purpose credential evaluation services. As a participant, you will benefit from a hands-on approach to developing policies and practices appropriate to your institution or organization using concrete examples, the chance to share information and experiences with your peers, and the broad range of perspectives offered by the presenters.

5:30 PM–7:30 PM

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
Doubletree State Foyer**

6:30 PM–8:30 PM

**CONFERENCE RECEPTION  
Doubletree LaSalle II**

# TUESDAY 9/27

7:30 AM–8:45 AM

## **BREAKFAST**

Gleacher Center 621 Dining Room

8:45 AM–9:00 AM

## **OPENING INTRODUCTION**

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

## **PLENARY SPEAKER – ALEX USHER**

10:00 AM–10:30 AM

## **MORNING NETWORKING BREAK**

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Methodology for Credential Evaluation: The Big Picture, Grade Scales and Determining Legitimacy** Gleacher Center Room 621

Drew Feder, President, Credential Consultants, Inc.

We'll explore the availability of data and existing methods for evaluating international credentials and encourage discourse about best practices related to grade scales and institutional/program legitimacy. After proposing specific approaches for general evaluation, grade scale conversion and determination of recognition / legitimacy, there will be open discussion at the end.

### **TEN!!!! Changes In Indian University Grading** Gleacher Center Room 306

Timothy Kell, Senior Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

TEN!!!! Either you're watching a televised dancing competition, or trying to make sense of the ever more common Indian 10-point grading system. Check in to see what's happening with some of the newest changes in Indian education. Bring your own opinions for discussion on how to evaluate and make sense of the "Choice

### Based Credit System" and "Cumulative Grade Point Average" reforms. **International Student-Athlete Documents for Eligibility** Gleacher Center Room 304

Garrett Seelinger, Manager of Eligibility Services International, NAIA Eligibility Center

In this session you will learn about academic issues that are specific to international student-athletes, including credentials that are more common among international student-athletes and how these records apply to athletic eligibility. Topics to be covered include:

- What prospective student-athletes and coaches need to know about evaluations during recruitment
- Differences between NCAA / NAIA / NJCAA rules that affect international students
- Problem areas for international student-athletes

### **Evaluating American Credentials: Issues & Challenges** Gleacher Center Room 308

Jessica Stannard, Policy Officer, EP-Nuffic

For credential evaluators working in countries outside of the US, determining whether a US school or institution is accredited can be a challenge. By analyzing the results of a recent stakeholder survey, participants will gain insight into different policies and opinions that exist among US educators regarding what they consider to be acceptable accreditation. The session will provide an overview of US accreditation as understood by American admissions officers in higher ed. Evaluators working in the US will gain a better understanding of the issues and challenges confronting credential evaluators in other countries. For evaluators outside the US who review American credentials, the session will provide some best practices and guidance for developing fair and consistent policies.



12:00 PM–1:00 PM

**LUNCH IN GLEACHER CENTER**  
621 DINING ROOM

1:00 PM–1:15 PM

**BREAK**

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**The Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education (BIHE) - To Recognize or Not to Recognize?**

**Gleacher Center Room 621**

Nancy Katz, Director, Evaluation Service, Inc.

William in, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

This session will discuss the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE), an 'underground' university located in Iran for Baha'i students who are 'banned' from attending post-secondary study in Iran. We will discuss the history, the system of learning, the programs offered and how students attempt to continue their education outside of Iran. The discussion will also cover how to obtain and review the 'transcripts' from BIHE and how schools around the world work with BIHE studies.

**The Transfer Credit/PLAR Boundary**

**Gleacher Center 306**

Marjorie Budnikas, Assistant Registrar, Articulation, Audit and Graduation, Thompsons Rivers University

Many institutions and evaluation services grapple with how to recognize various forms of prior learning, including where to draw the line between transfer credit and prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR). That line varies considerably from organization to organization and even within an organization. During this session we will examine several of the questions that come up regarding the recognition of prior learning. These questions will be discussed in a lively, interactive session that presents one institution's experience and invites participants to share their knowledge and views.

**A Comprehensive Guide to A Level and GCSE Changes in the UK and Globally**

**Gleacher Center Room 304**

Laurent Lemaitre, Head of Progression and Recognition, Pearson  
Emily Tse, Director of Evaluations, International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

Vera Bangnyuk, Recognitions Manager, North America, Cambridge International Examinations

Since 2013 there have been significant changes in the UK curriculum – for both A Levels (Advanced Level examinations) and GCSEs. With the implementation taking place in phases by subject area, universities will begin seeing a vast array of old and new qualifications that may make up a student's application. This session will help participants make informed decisions regarding the suitability for and placement of A Level and GCSE holders in undergraduate degree programs. The first part of the session, led by Pearson (one of the main UK exam boards) will help participants understand the key changes to GCE A Levels and GCSEs. The second part will explore how Pearson and Cambridge International Examinations, global leaders in international education, are managing these changes in the context of their own international versions of GCSE and A Level qualifications. The final part, led by the International Education Research Foundation (IERF), will give a first-hand perspective of how a US credential evaluation service assesses these qualifications.

**Chinese Degree Certificates: A Review of Then & Now**  
**Gleacher Center Room 308**

Jordan Bone, Credentials Analyst - Coordinator, Foundation for International Services (FIS)

This presentation will cover required information and expected formats of Chinese Degree Certificates and Graduation Certificates from the end of the Cultural Revolution to the changes taking place in 2016. Emphasis will be placed on identifying the document formats in detail, noting the mandated changes in the last few decades and the recent mandates allowing for independent formatting by institutions. Issues of

confusion and document literacy will be touched on in a review of the functional parts of the documents, and details that help in determining fraudulent documentation will be addressed.

Some additional review of exceptional formatting practices will also be covered. This presentation will be for professionals who have some familiarity with Chinese credentials and an interest in a broad overview of documents from the last few decades. This will be of particular interest to anyone who does not use degree verification with CHESSIC or CDGDC for all Chinese credentials and still relies on evaluation staff to determine the need for verification of credentials.

2:15 PM–2:45 PM

### **AFTERNOON NETWORKING BREAK**

2:45 PM–3:45 PM

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **People On the Move Need Recognition On the Move Gleacher Center Room 621**

Rolf Lofstad, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

Amy Ullrich, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Europe is experiencing an unprecedented influx of migrants.

This session will provide facts and figures on migration: countries of origin, receiving countries, numbers of migrants and their educational level. We will also discuss the perceived authenticity of educational documents from Syria. Recognition is widely accepted as an important tool for integration, which is vitally important to avoid disruptive social differences. However, few countries have taken Article VII (Recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation) of the Lisbon Recognition Convention sufficiently seriously to have the tools in place to respond quickly to profound changes. We will look into the various European responses when handling recognition/assessment in this special situation. We will discuss the various initiatives and their

perceived effectiveness with a special focus on the European Qualification Passport for Refugees and the very special case of “Kiron Open Higher Education.”

#### **Education System in Iraq Gleacher Center Room 306**

Andreas Arsalan, Senior Credential Evaluator/Expert, Swedish Council for Higher Education

The difficulty in obtaining documents (specifically from the areas not controlled by the government) and the high rate of document fraud surrounding Iraqi documents make it necessary for admissions officers and foreign transcript evaluators to be knowledgeable and vigilant when reviewing academic documents from Iraq. Based on study visits to Iraq in 2000 and 2006, and contact with higher education institutions there, Andreas Arsalan will present information on the basics of the educational system, new developments in higher education, documentation practices, and approaches to obtaining verification of documents from official sources.

#### **Exploring Education in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 304**

Catherine Eccher, Senior Evaluator, Educational Perspectives, nfp

This will be an intermediate-level presentation on the education systems of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. In this session we will explore the region’s education systems, concentrating on general academic study as well as technical and vocational education. We will review common features of documentation from various levels of education and discuss verification resources and best practices.

#### **From Argentina to Zimbabwe: A New Evaluator’s Guide to Credential Evaluation**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 308**

Amy Kawa, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Alison Zaharias, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Jason LeGear, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Three new evaluators, three very different backgrounds, all going through training together as new employees of ECE. How did

we get here? How have we been trained? How have we tackled the sometimes steep learning curve of being a new evaluator, and how can you improve or expand the training experience for your new evaluators? This session is particularly tailored for newcomers to the field and for people interested in information about training new evaluators, from new evaluators.

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

**BREAK**

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Getting Comfortable with the F Word: Eliminating the Stigma and Embracing the Meaning**  
Gleacher Center Room 621

Bernard Ramos, Director of Evaluations, Educational Perspectives, nfp  
Jonathan Broutin, President and Founder, Seagull Institute

This presentation is designed for newcomers and intermediate-level evaluation professionals to understand the nuances of a failing grade in selected countries. As there is a variety of interpretations of various grading scales around the world, the grade of 'Failure' can have multiple meanings that can have an impact on evaluation outcomes. The presentation will provide an in-depth discussion of the different types of failed grades and multiple case studies and will bring in several points of view that can help guide the direction of an evaluation.

**Issues in Ukrainian Credential Evaluation: Overview, Recognition, and Fraud**  
Gleacher Center Room 306

Tetyana McKenna, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.  
Mary Dumke, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

The current political and economic situation in Ukraine has spurred the mass exodus of its citizens, leading to a dramatic increase in Ukrainian-educated students seeking admission at higher educational institutions throughout the world.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Ukrainian educational system, including institutional recognition, sample credentials and recent reforms. We will focus on combating the

serious and growing problem of fraudulent Ukrainian academic documents, including document forensic analysis, use of verification databases, and the determination of institutional best practices.

**CHINATOWN! A Toolkit**  
Gleacher Center Room 304

Annetta Stroud, Senior Evaluator, AACRAO International Education Services  
Julia Funaki, Associate Director, AACRAO International Education Services

This session will provide a toolkit of go-to resources for the evaluation of Chinese credentials. A brief overview of the education model, followed by a glossary of common educational terms in the Chinese language to reference when looking at various credential examples will be presented. Example benchmark credentials will be analyzed and key features identified to help you read in the original language. Samples will include Graduation and Degree Certificates from regular HEIs, adult programs, and self-study, as well as Degree Certificate formats.

**Credentials Evaluation Jeopardy**  
Gleacher Center Room 308

Kate Freeman, Senior Credentials Analyst Consultant, SpanTran: The Evaluation Company  
Ildiko Bors, Senior Credentials Analyst, SpanTran: The Evaluation Company

Based on the television game show Jeopardy, this session asks participants to match the question to the answer on topics related to credentials evaluation such as grading scales, translation, and credential types. Credential evaluators at all skill and experience levels will enjoy learning new information in a fun and interactive format.

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**TAICEP Committee Meetings**  
Gleacher Center 621 Dining Room

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Check in at the hospitality table outside room 621 for a list of activities, restaurants, and opportunities to explore Chicago.

7:00PM – 9:00PM

**VIP RECEPTION**  
Doubletree King Suite Parlor



# WEDNESDAY 9/28

7:30 AM–8:30 AM

## **BREAKFAST AND TAICEP BUSINESS MEETING**

Gleacher Center 621 Dining Room

8:30 AM–8:45 AM

## **BREAK**

8:45 AM–10:15 AM

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Evaluating Credentials with a Global Mindset: The Discussion Continues**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 621**

Emily Tse, Director of Evaluations, International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

Jessica Stannard, Policy Officer, EP-Nuffic

Rolf Lofstad, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

Kate Freeman, Senior Credentials Analyst Consultant, SpanTran: The Evaluation Company

Wendy Loat, Senior Assessment Officer, International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS)

Last year's plenary session on comparative evaluation methodologies spurred much thought and discussion. This is a continuation of that session with an opportunity to explore similarities and differences in approaches to credentials evaluation. While similar criteria may form the basis of our work (e.g., accreditation, minimum entrance requirements, program length), our emphasis and interpretations can differ, even among signatories of the Bologna Process. The panel's evaluators represent Europe and North America, which rank among the top regions for international student and professional mobility. Presenters will highlight what factors drive the methodologies in their respective countries. A variety of sample credentials at all educational levels will be presented. Panel members will discuss

their placement recommendations and the rationale behind them.

### **Chinese Primary and Lower Secondary Credential Evaluation: Challenges, Best Practices, Resources** **Gleacher Center Room 306**

Katerina Roskina, Owner and Senior Evaluator, China Credential Services  
Sally Drea, Director of Admissions, Edgewood Campus School

Credential evaluation at the primary and lower secondary levels is not nearly as common as high school and university credential evaluation. However, as more and more primary and middle schools across the US are opening their doors to international students, it is becoming a necessity when admitting young students from China (and other countries) into those institutions. This session will include a review of Chinese primary and lower secondary education, documentation types and content, resources listing information about academic programs at those levels, and recommendations pertaining to credit/unit and grade conversion. The session will be of interest to both K-12 admissions professionals and credential evaluators working with primary and lower secondary documents from China.

### **Understanding Chinese Credentials**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 304**

Karen Krug, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Educational documents in Chinese can seem daunting, and even school-issued translations vary in quality. With no alphabet to rely on, it's hard to even know where to start. But you do not have to be fluent in Mandarin to identify key words and distinguish between similar documents. This session covers different types of Chinese educational documents, both secondary and post-secondary. It includes hints on recognizing important Chinese terminology, tools to aid translation, and some tips for detecting fraud.

## **In-House vs Outsourcing Evaluations Gleacher Center Room 308**

Kelly Sharp, Senior Graduate and International Programs Associate, Columbia College

Timothy Kell, Senior Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

Patrick Leahy, International Credential Analyst, Michigan State University

Nadia Irsheidat, International Admissions and Credential Evaluator, University of Missouri

This open mic session is open to everyone, from the experienced professionals to the newcomer on the scene. It is hoped that participants will take away a better understanding of why some institutions have chosen to do their own evaluations in-house, while others have chosen to work with an agency. It is also hoped that participants will leave with the tools to make an informed decision as to what is best for their own institution, whether they choose to evaluate in-house or outsource.

**10:15 AM–10:30 AM**

### **BREAK**

**10:30 AM–11:30 AM**

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Certification of Credential Evaluators**

##### **What are the Options?**

##### **Gleacher Center Room 621**

David Millar, Manager of Evaluation Services, Ontario College of Teachers

Marianne Tompkins-Carter, Senior Evaluator, Ontario College of Teachers

This session will provide an overview of the certification requirements of various professions in order to elicit from participants how they think a proposed certification of credential evaluators should be implemented. The discussion will include what pre-requisites, knowledge, skills and competencies a certified credential evaluator should possess, and how those elements should be assessed. In addition to learning the “ins and outs” of certification, participants will also be assured that TAICEP is seeking membership input and is willing to act upon it.

#### **International Credential Evaluation**

##### **Let's Start From the Beginning**

##### **Gleacher Center Room 306**

Chris Adams, Assistant Director International Admissions Operations,

Indiana University

Andrew Goss, Senior Credential Evaluator, Indiana University

The increasingly dispersed transnational flow of students, coupled with the rapid evolution of education systems worldwide makes the work of our international credential evaluators both exciting and challenging. For many institutions whose strategic enrollment management goals include sustained or increased enrollment of international students, the role of international credential evaluators has never been more important. Our team of International Credential Evaluators at Indiana University – Bloomington reviews academic credentials for students at all education levels across the campus and throughout the state of Indiana. This session aims to provide those professionals new to the field with a brief overview of the core concepts of international credential evaluation, and with the tools and resources necessary to maintain consistency in terms of student equity and fairness across an increasingly diverse student population.

#### **Increasing Pre-Arrival Support for Internationally Educated Professionals in a Culture of Openness & Transparency Gleacher Center Room 304**

Diana Sinnige, Policy Advisor, The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators  
Shereen Mir-Jabbar, Senior Credentialing Officer, The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

Robert Lachance, Manager of Client Services, Manager of Client Services  
Linda Somersall, Client Services Officer, Ontario College of Teachers

Making informed decisions is an essential part of planning for a smooth transition to practicing one’s profession in another country. These decisions are easier to make when internationally educated professionals can determine the likelihood of meeting the requirements for licensing before they leave their source country and apply for certification. Both the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators and the Ontario College of Teachers implemented pre-arrival tools and other resources to help their internationally educated applicants make informed decisions. This session will highlight the efforts of these two organizations to increase openness, transparency and timely communication

by increasing pre-arrival support for its applicants. The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators will discuss the issues, risks and lessons learned from the following initiatives:

- Open communication of wait times
- Self-Assessment Readiness Tool for Physiotherapists (SART)
- Source Country Profiles- including practice comparisons and exam pass rates
- Cost-Estimator

The Ontario College of Teachers will offer an overview of some of the tools in place to assist applicants and by way of a case study, examine the collaborative approach and comprehensive methodologies used to design and implement a new applicant assessment function on its website.

### **Demystifying Technical and Vocational Education: A Thorough Look at BTEC and University Progression** **Gleacher Center Room 308**

Laurent Lemaitre, Head of Progression and Recognition, Pearson  
Emily Tse, Director of Evaluations, International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

The educational system of England, Wales and Northern Ireland is robust and yet confusing, in large part due to the complex vocational and technical curriculum that is taken by thousands of learners globally. In this region, there are various routes to tertiary education: the well-known academic curriculum (A levels and GCSEs), along with the often misunderstood suite of BTEC qualifications. This session will help demystify vocational and technical education, focusing on BTEC as an alternative route to university.

11:30 AM–12:30 PM

#### **LUNCH**

Gleacher Center 621 Dining Room

12:30 PM–12:45 PM

#### **BREAK**

12:45 PM–1:45 PM

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **The Twilight Zone of Evaluation: What are the boundaries of recognition?**

**Gleacher Center Room 621**

Erik Johansson, Credential Evaluator, Swedish Council for Higher Education  
Amy Ullrich, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc.

The session will focus on the nebulous area between pure

degree mills and fully recognized/legitimate/accepted institutions. On the safari into this “wondrous land” we will look at different types of terrain, such as international institutions, institutions in non-recognized states/occupied territory, and recognized yet probably substandard institutions. The session will offer a comparative approach with different perspectives on recognition from two different evaluation agencies on either side of the Atlantic. The presenters will offer the audience tools to navigate in the “Twilight Zone.” Participants’ understanding of concepts such as “substantial differences” and “transnational education” will be enhanced.

### **Medical Education In the Caribbean: Accreditation and Quality Issues**

**Gleacher Center Room 306**

Lorna Parkins, Executive, Director, Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)

In this session, participants will learn about the geographical and historical setting of the Caribbean Region, and the background to the development of medical education and medical education accreditation in the Caribbean. Information will also be provided on the establishment of The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), its membership, objectives and accreditation system, and the response of institutions whose programs have been accredited.

### **How Confident Are We to Assess Credentials From Syria?** **Gleacher Center Room 304**

Andreas Arsalan, Senior Credential Evaluator/Expert, Swedish Council for Higher Education

This session will cover the education system in Syria, including a short history, institutional types, and quality assurance measures. We will also look at various verification and authentication techniques. This session will be of interest to both beginning and experienced credential evaluators.



## Evaluating Three-Year European University Degrees: Pre- and Post-Bologna

### Gleacher Center Room 308

Kevin Rolwing, Quality Assurance Director, World Education Services (WES)  
Linda Tobash, Senior Director of Policy, Knowledge, and Data, World Education Services (WES)

The "Bologna Process"/European Higher Education Area is an on-going and wide-ranging university reform process affecting the European landscape and beyond. We'll discuss current evaluation approaches to three-year Bologna-compliant degrees and contrast these approaches to common practices pre-Bologna. Rationales for different equivalencies will be explored along with research findings on graduate school admission practices and policies and the use of diploma supplements for extracting key student learning outcomes.

1:45 PM–2:00 PM

#### **BREAK**

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### International Credential Evaluation in Educational Institutions Gleacher Center Room 621

Patrick Leahy, International Credential Analyst, Michigan State University  
Kelly Sharp, Senior Graduate & International Programs Associate, Columbia College

Maxine Reimer, International Admissions Officer, University of Saskatchewan  
Kaja Schiotz, Senior Advisor, Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo

How does international credential evaluation work in higher education settings? We'll explore varying country and institutional contexts, including staffing arrangements, as well as policies and practices towards international credentials for admissions purposes, undergraduate and graduate admissions processes/methodologies. Lastly, we will highlight opportunities and challenges our institutions face in this area.

### Introduction to the Russian Secondary Education System Gleacher Center Room 306

Tatiana Arias, Assistant Director, University of South Florida / INTO USF  
Tetyana McKenna, Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Inc

An overview/introduction to the Russian secondary education system by way of examining sample credentials, pitfalls,

proposed reforms, authenticity, and free credential evaluation resources. This is an ideal session for those who are new to the field of international credential evaluation.

### Hands-On Documentation Features Gleacher Center Room 304

Peggy Hendrickson, Director, Transcript Research

The goal of this session is to examine the fascinating and fun security features available on numerous educational records as a method of fraud detection. This session is oriented towards those who are newer to the field, though all are welcome and all can learn and have fun. Attendees will physically examine numerous samples from a variety of countries and education levels. A brief summary of security features currently used around the world and the tools evaluators should have in their toolkit. Learn how to use the tools of the trade, including both physical and electronic tools, to examine security features.

### Cambridge International Examinations in the USA Gleacher Center Room 308

Vera Bagnyuk, Recognitions Manager, North America, Cambridge International Examinations

Cambridge qualifications are growing in popularity in the US. The AICE Diploma, consisting of AS and A-Levels, has been offered in high schools across the US for more than 20 years. As more students are taking Cambridge courses and exams each year, it is increasingly important to establish admission and credit by examination policies for these students. Join us for a session on the novel uses of Cambridge courses and qualifications at schools in North America. Individual qualifications to be addressed will include Cambridge IGCSE, AS, A-Level, and the Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) course at the core of the AICE diploma.

3:00 PM–3:15 PM

#### **BREAK**

3:15 PM–4:15 PM

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Credential Evaluation: Differences In Perspectives of Evaluation Agencies and Educational Institutions Gleacher Center Room 621**

Katerina Roskina, Owner and Senior Evaluator, China Credential Services  
Mark Anderson, Director of International Programs and Services,  
Milwaukee School of Engineering

It's no secret that evaluation agencies and US higher education institutions frequently handle foreign credentials differently: be it what credentials are requested, what document formats are acceptable, or how credit and grade conversions are performed. A credential evaluator's job is to know most everything about a foreign system of education, while an institution's goal is to make sure the student in question is not only admissible, but also has a real chance to succeed if admitted. In addition, the institutions often face a lot of pressure to reach their enrollment goals, and need to find a balance between that and the due diligence to admit qualified students. This session will talk about the differences in our respective approaches and the ways to foster effective collaborations between institutions and evaluation agencies.

### **Looking West: Building a Higher Education Area in Central Asia**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 306**

Marshall Houserman, Senior Evaluator, Educational Perspectives, nfp

Within the past few years Central Asian countries have worked with European Union partners to create a framework for a Central Asian Higher Education Area (CAHEA) modeled on the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), colloquially referred to as the 'Bologna Process'. This session provides a brief overview of how Central Asian higher education institutions are shifting from educational systems modeled on the old Soviet format (and in recent years the US format) to the EU model of mobility and credential recognition. We will discuss how this initiative and its reforms will impact credential evaluation and recognition in the region.

### **A Unique Virtual Admissions Organization – How Swedish Universities Decided to Cooperate**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 304**

Karin Sikström, Executive Officer – Admissions, Mälardalen University  
Elisabeth Sundelin, Process Manager Department for Admissions and Student Information, Swedish Council for Higher Education

The Swedish Council for Higher Education, in cooperation with Sweden's universities and colleges, has developed a unique virtual admissions organization for processing foreign

academic qualifications. Admissions staff can access an applicant's scanned documents and application electronically, from anywhere in Sweden. We will focus on processing applications and the review process and discuss the design and management of our virtual organization, its administration and the effective use of resources, as well as how expertise among higher education institutions is shared. We'll also touch on how institutions dare to allow an admissions counselor from a competing institution to process their own applications, quality assurance, the division of labor among the universities and university colleges, and special circumstances that arise.

### **TAICEP: Where do we go from here?**

#### **Gleacher Center Room 308**

Margit Schatzman, President, Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.  
Kate Freeman, Senior Credentials Analyst Consultant, SpanTran: The Evaluation Company

As we come to the end of the second TAICEP conference, this is your opportunity to voice your opinion on the future of our association. What about the conference did you like? What do you want changed? What do TAICEP leaders need to know in order to serve the membership and profession more effectively. Join us for a lively, interactive session to help shape the future of our profession.

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

**BREAK**

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**2016 CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**Gleacher Center 621 Dining Room**

MONDAY 9/26		
9-10	Executive Committee Meeting with Chairs	Doubletree Parlor Suite
10-12	Executive Committee Meeting	Doubletree Parlor Suite
12-1	Pre-conference Registration	GC 203 & 303
1-5	Pre-conference Workshops	
	Evaluating International Credentials in 10 Steps	GC 203
	Evaluating Refugee Qualifications	GC 303
5:30-7:30	Conference Registration	Doubletree State Foyer
6:30-8:30	Conference Reception	Doubletree LaSalle II
TUESDAY 9/27		
7:30-8:45	Breakfast	GC 621
8:45-9	Opening Introduction	GC 621
9-10	Plenary Speaker - Alex Usher	GC 621
10-10:30	Morning Networking Break	GC 621
10:30-12	Breakout Sessions	
	Methodology for Credential Evaluation: The Big Picture, Grade Scales and Determining Legitimacy	GC 621
	TEN!!!! Changes In Indian University Grading	GC 306
	International Student-Athlete Documents for Eligibility	GC 304
	Evaluating American Credentials: Issues and Challenges	GC 308
12-1	Lunch	GC 621
1-1:15	Break	GC 621
1:15-2:15	Breakout Sessions	
	The Baha'i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE) - To Recognize or Not to Recognize?	GC 621
	The Transfer Credit/PLAR Boundary	GC 306
	A Comprehensive Guide to A Level and GCSE Changes in the UK and Globally	GC 304
	Chinese Degree Certificates: A Review of Then and Now	GC 308
2:15-2:45	Afternoon Networking Break	GC 621
2:45-3:45	Breakout Sessions	
	People On the Move Need Recognition On the Move	GC 621
	Education System in Iraq	GC 306
	Exploring Education in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay	GC 304
	From Argentina to Zimbabwe: A New Evaluator's Guide to Credential Evaluation	GC 308
3:45-4	Break	GC 621
4-5	Breakout Sessions	
	Getting Comfortable with the F Word: Eliminating the Stigma and Embracing the Meaning	GC 621
	Issues in Ukrainian Credential Evaluation: Overview, Recognition, and Fraud	GC 306
	CHINATOWN! A Toolkit	GC 304
	Credentials Evaluation Jeopardy	GC 308
5-6	TAICEP Committee Meetings	GC 621
7-9	VIP Reception	Doubletree King Parlor Suite



WEDNESDAY 9/28		
7:30-8:30	Breakfast / TAICEP Business Meeting	GC 621
8:30-8:45	Break	GC 621
8:45-10:15	Breakout Sessions	
	Evaluating Credentials with a Global Mindset: The Discussion Continues	GC 621
	Chinese Primary and Lower Secondary Credential Evaluation: Challenges, Best Practices, Resources	GC 306
	Understanding Chinese Credentials	GC 304
	In-House vs Outsourcing Evaluations	GC 308
10:15-10:30	Break	GC 621
10:30-11:30	Breakout Sessions	
	Certification of Credential Evaluators-What are the Options?	GC 621
	International Credential Evaluation - Let's Start From the Beginning	GC 306
	Increasing Pre-Arrival Support for Internationally Educated Professionals in a Culture of Openness and Transparency	GC 304
	Demystifying Technical and Vocational Education: A Thorough Look at BTEC and University Progression	GC 308
11:30-12:30	Lunch	GC 621
12:30-12:45	Break	GC 621
12:45-1:45	Breakout Sessions	
	The Twilight Zone of Evaluation: What are the boundaries of recognition?	GC 621
	Medical Education In the Caribbean: Accreditation and Quality Issues	GC 306
	How Confident Are We to Assess Credentials From Syria?	GC 304
	Evaluating Three-Year European University Degrees: Pre- and Post-Bologna	GC 308
1:45-2	Break	GC 621
2-3	Breakout Sessions	
	International Credential Evaluation in Educational Institutions	GC 621
	Introduction to the Russian Secondary Education System	GC 306
	Hands-On Documentation Features	GC 304
	Cambridge International Examinations in the USA	GC 308
3-3:15	Break	GC 621
3:15-4:15	Breakout Sessions	
	Credential Evaluation: Differences In Perspectives of Evaluation Agencies and Educational Institutions	GC 621
	Looking West: Building a Higher Education Area in Central Asia	GC 306
	A Unique Virtual Admissions Organization – How Swedish Universities Decided to Cooperate	GC 304
	TAICEP: Where do we go from here?	GC 308
4:15-4:30	Break	GC 621
4:30-5	2016 Conference Closing	GC 621

**DAY AT A GLANCE**



WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES

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**TAICEP**

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Credential Evaluation Professionals



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