

November 21, 2011

Dear International Educator,

Greetings! On behalf of the NAFSA Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank you for being an important part of the NAFSA family, and for your help in supporting our outstanding association. I feel extremely fortunate to be part of a truly global NAFSA community that embraces international education and exchange in so many ways.



When I reflect on the richness of the NAFSA community, I'm reminded of a quote from our 2011 Annual Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Naif al-Mutawa. You may recall that Dr. Naif is the Kuwaiti-born, U.S.-educated creator of *THE 99*, an Islam-inspired comic book and now an animated television series that celebrates peace, tolerance, and acceptance in the world. Among many thoughtful and provocative comments he shared at the conference, Dr. Naif said:

"...I've always thought that Frost was wrong when he said 'good fences make good neighbors.' They make suspicious neighbors. As the globe shrinks, we need to break down fences, plant the seeds of understanding, get to know our neighbors a bit more, and define ourselves by those things that unite us rather than divide us. I've tried to break down barriers to understanding through my comic books and animated television series. That's where, I think, NAFSA and THE 99 are kindred spirits."

And, he's right. NAFSA reaches thousands of international educators, friends of international education, students, and leaders worldwide annually with its message of respect, acceptance, and appreciation for the diversity of our world. Please help us continue our important work in 2012 by [making a gift](#) today.

International education is a rich and diverse field with a long history of responding to challenges. Students across the globe continue to demand more and more opportunities to engage with people in countries outside of their own. Political and business leaders increasingly recognize that without international experiences, students will not be fully prepared to participate in the global economy.

In the face of adversity, NAFSA leaders, members, and friends of international education stand ready to ensure that our profession thrives in these unpredictable times.

During 2011, I was proud of the ways our professional community rapidly responded to issues arising from the Arab Spring movement, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the Libyan revolution, providing information and resources to assist professionals and students as they dealt with the impact of unexpected situations.

As we reflect on the many momentous events of 2011, I am reminded that no matter how noble our intent, we cannot be effective international educators by working alone. We need each other, and NAFSA, for support, education, and the critical services that strengthen our professional outreach locally and globally.

In order to keep NAFSA as an important part of this global web of support, I encourage you to consider a [donation](#) to NAFSA's annual fund and help to expand our role and impact well into 2012.

Your support for NAFSA helps to build on our advocacy efforts with the U.S. government on key initiatives—supporting the reintroduction of the [DREAM Act](#), ensuring the opening of [academic travel to Cuba](#), and building a new generation of international education advocates through our [Facebook](#) campaign. Your support also enhances our professional development efforts related to equipping students with skills to contribute to a more peaceful world, and helps NAFSA to promote comprehensive internationalization. We will continue to hone our strategies, explore new opportunities, and press ahead with our vital work. And, with your donation to NAFSA, we will continue to do it well.

This is why I ask for your support.

I look forward to continuing our work together as we move international education forward.

Warm regards,

Meredith McQuaid
President and Chair, NAFSA's Board of Directors

P.S. Do you know you can also invest in NAFSA's future through a pledge to the New Century Circle? Many NAFSAns have remembered NAFSA in their wills, for example. Inspire the next generation of international educators. Please contact Gail Hochhauser 202.495.2523 or gailh@nafsa.org for information about making a deferred gift.

To make your gift online, visit www.nafsa.org/donate