



CAL STATE LA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

October 28, 2020

Dear Cal State LA Partner:

I hope you are healthy and safe during this challenging time in our international education community. Thank you for your continued support and your program updates. Like many of you, we are doing our best to support our students and implement new programming activities in response to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to take a moment to share a few updates with you:

- As you may know by now, Dr. Timothy White, Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system, announced in September that all 23 CSU campuses would continue to deliver course instruction primarily in a virtual, remote learning format for Spring 2021. The evolving data surrounding the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 projected over the next several months and its potential impact on all students' health and safety guided this decision.
- In keeping with the Chancellor's decision and the concerns expressed by other colleagues and health experts, Cal State LA decided to suspend all inbound and outbound programs for Spring 2021. This applied to student exchanges, study abroad (including CSU IP), faculty-led programs, and Semester in LA (SILA). While we regretted this decision, please know all students' health and safety remained our top priority, especially those who were planning to come to Los Angeles where the virus is still prevalent.
- Despite these program suspensions, we are very busy supporting our international student community and making plans for Fall 2021 with hopeful eyes. We are implementing new strategies to strengthen our partner connections, starting with International Education Week (IEW) from November 16-20, 2020. We will highlight partners during IEW and throughout the rest of this academic year. Please let know how we can promote your institution. We are also updating our current partnership agreements and exploring new relationships that will further promote greater global understanding and benefits to students and faculty.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the concerns expressed by several partners regarding next week's U.S. Presidential election and what the outcome may mean for future international education work and cooperation. The policy actions taken by the current U.S. administration towards the many talented international students, scholars, faculty, and immigrants who wish to learn and prosper in our country has been confusing and discouraging. However, no matter what the election outcome may be for our country, please know that Cal State LA will continue to welcome, advocate, and support our international students, faculty, and partners like you. We remain committed to you, your students, and the overarching vision that international education is essential and transformational. We must continue to seek ways to flourish together and not grow apart - especially during a global crisis.

The International Programs and Global Engagement staff and I are grateful to partner with you and look forward to strengthening our relationship. We also thank you for your patience and understanding regarding any inquiries you have submitted. We will respond as quickly as we can. Until then, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay safe.

With gratitude,

Dr. Harkmore Lee
Associate Vice President, International Programs and Global Education

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