

## **BA PIER Meeting**

Thursday, 6/21/18, 1pm-3pm

### **EC San Francisco**

100 Montgomery Street, 18th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104

### **Agenda**

- I. Welcome from Ryan Hisamoto, Center Director for EC San Francisco (5 mins.)
- II. Introduction from Ryan, welcoming new members (10 mins.)
- III. Guest Speakers (40 mins.):
  - a. Lambert Glory, SEVP Field Representative, San Francisco, Territory #6,
  - b. Ron McPeak, SEVP Field Representative, San Jose Territory
  - c. Jennifer LaForce, USCIS Community Relations Officer (CRO)
    - i. There are many branches within the Department of State (ICE, CBP, USCIS) with their own roles. Jennifer's branch of USCIS is mostly dealing with I-539s for permanent residency. Her role today is mostly to listen, gather feedback, and learn from the BA-PIER group. She will answer whatever USCIS-related questions she can, and can bring back other answers later if necessary. The USCIS Ombudsman is another resource for further assistance with specific cases. Perhaps the CRO can be a further resource going forward.
  - d. SEVP Presentation
    - i. The new SEVP Student Portal is up and running. Not required for students to use, but reporting is still required. There is a Recordkeeping Requirements SEVP webinar today that you can familiarize yourself with. The date that the EAD starts is when the student will receive the email to create a login to the portal. Some students aren't getting the email, or the DSO can't see the link to unlock their account. Report any issues with the Student Portal to [sevp@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@ice.dhs.gov).
    - ii. USCIS and SEVP do have some interface, but there is still some delay (e.g. when the EAD card is granted). The interface is run every 24 hours to update SEVIS. Correction requests for status updates are being processed in 1 day. Upload Evidence functionality is working, updates are being processed faster, people are liking it. Don't encrypt your documents. Title uploads according to the evidence type based on the drop-down menu. There's a 10 mb limit on size. New evidence guides and guidance has been published with checklists for updates that can be found online at [www.ice.gov/SEVIS/Schools](http://www.ice.gov/SEVIS/Schools).
    - iii. Recertification versus Updates: it used to be that you can't update and do recertification at the same time. Now you can do both at the same time, and upload evidence. If you're close to your recertification and you need to do an update, it's okay. They will extend the deadline if you have an update that is pending. Or you can wait, and do both at the same time. They will email you to cancel an update so that you can submit it with your recertification.
    - iv. New point of contact is [sevp@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@ice.dhs.gov), other emails have been phased out.

- v. CARTOON ILLUSTRATIONS
  - vi. Volunteering on OPT requirements are being mass emailed to students, which is causing some confusion. DSOs would like to know what email blasts are going out to students and when. Students cannot volunteer on STEM OPT, because it must be an e-verify employer and there must be an I-539 training plan.
  - vii. I-515A form is digital. DSOs and students are getting an email about automatic cancellations. Make sure DSO emails are accurate in SEVIS. You can email [SEVIS.I-515@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVIS.I-515@ice.dhs.gov). When a student receives an I-515, DSOs should get 2 emails: one that your student got an I-515, other with password to open document. Students are not getting alerts via email, because they're not checking their email. Login to SEVIS to check alerts.
  - viii. SETA is the new "SEVP External Training Application." This is for new DSOs to learn about their SEVP responsibilities. Name has been changed, process is using modules. DSOs will still get a certificate of completion. SEVP will require a copy of this certificate eventually.
  - ix. SEVP has Field Representative positions opening in El Paso and St. Louis
  - x. Annual vacation is only permitted after a student completes an academic year in F-1 status. This is different from traveling for two weeks during winter break. Students can't take spring semester off as a vacation. Schools should have consistent vacation policies that are in line with the SEVP guidance. If traveling before completing an academic year, bring proof of registration for next term.
  - xi. Accrual of Unlawful Presence guidance has finished receiving community comments on June 11th. Accrual days will start being counted on August 9th based on I-94 expiration date.
  - xii. For students re-entering the U.S., provide an emergency contact number for DSOs in case there is trouble. CBP and USCIS might not interface. E.g. if students have pending OPT and are looking for work, CBP officers might not allow re-entry, considering travel an abandonment of the OPT application. At SFO Port of Entry, they are allowing students to re-enter U.S. in these situations.
  - xiii. If a student didn't complete one year in F-1 status, then they aren't eligible for OPT, but we're seeing that change. We're seeing a trend of USCIS approving OPT for folks who spent 1 year as a full-time student in another visa status (e.g. H-4) and then complete a change of status to F-1.
  - xiv. Check out the Recordkeeping Requirements Webinar today from SEVP: I-20, passport ID page, U.S. address, transcripts, financial ability, application, acceptance letters, language proficiency, EAD I-797, graduation or diploma, termination date and reason. Scan your paper files.
- e. Questions for SEVP/USCIS
- i. Question: how many hours per week can you work for OPT? Pre-completion OPT you can do part-time or full-time.
  - ii. USCIS processing times vary according to Service Center: CA is taking 1-4.5 months for COS, VT is taking 10.5 months. USCIS is addressing this issue by shifting workloads. Some I-539s are being moved to other locations. USCIS now has a processing times on their [website](#) for all forms.

- iii. Nonimmigrants in the U.S. on a visa waiver program cannot submit a change of status application.
  - iv. CPT changes will be coming soon
  - v. Studying on OPT is allowed, as long as it is incidental. Rule of thumb: don't enroll in a program where you'd need to be registered in SEVIS because that would cancel your OPT. Enrolling in a non-credit certificate program wouldn't look good on future USCIS applications.
- IV. Social Mixer; NAFSA Updates (60 minutes)
- V. Wrap-up, other announcements, next meeting details, events coming up/reminders, job opportunities, etc. *Those who want to stay longer and continue networking can indicate by a show of hands and we'll ask the host if the space is still available. (5 mins.)*
- a. Temporary International Student Services position available at University of San Francisco ([mjdeproto@usfca.edu](mailto:mjdeproto@usfca.edu))
  - b. International Student Services position available at Hult International Business School ([sarah.m.persau@hult.edu](mailto:sarah.m.persau@hult.edu))
  - c. International Student Services position available at Santa Rosa Junior College ([ttope@santarosa.edu](mailto:ttope@santarosa.edu))
  - d. Temporary Study Abroad position available at Sonoma State University ([hope.ortiz@sonoma.edu](mailto:hope.ortiz@sonoma.edu))
  - e. Positions available at EC locations around the world! ([RyanHisamoto@ecenglish.com](mailto:RyanHisamoto@ecenglish.com))