

Advocacy: How Can You Get Involved?

Mary Alice Allen, Georgia Institute of Technology
Chair, GAIE Advocacy Subcommittee



Introductions

- ▶ GAIE Advocacy Subcommittee
 - ▶ Mary Alice Allen, Georgia Institute of Technology
 - ▶ Erin Brick, Life University
 - ▶ David Dixon, Oglethorpe University

- ▶ Name, institution, and role

Advocacy in International Education

- ▶ What is an advocate?
 - ▶ A person who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person or cause.
- ▶ What makes a “good” advocate?
 - ▶ A person who is willing to show support for themselves and/or others.
 - ▶ A person who shares their story.
 - ▶ As an international education professional you are qualified to speak as a private citizen about the experiences and needs of your students.
 - ▶ Be wary of speaking on behalf of your institution, organization, etc.

Advocacy in International Education

- ▶ How To Be Successful
 - ▶ Share a story
 - ▶ Share facts, data, and supporting information as a follow-up
 - ▶ Supporting facts are crucial and can often be persuasive, however, without a memorable story or example they can often be forgotten.
 - ▶ Be clear and concise
 - ▶ You may only have 15 minutes to meet with an elected official and speak about large, complex issues.
 - ▶ Ask for something concrete
 - ▶ Examples: Funding, passage of legislation, verbal support

Advocacy in International Education

- ▶ NAFSA Advocacy Platform
 - ▶ Immigration: Create a fair immigration process with a roadmap to earned citizenship and more green cards for graduates to enhance U.S. innovation and competitiveness.
 - ▶ DREAM Act: Allow undocumented students who were brought to the United States as children the opportunity to go to college, get a job, and contribute to our society without fear of deportation.
 - ▶ International Student & Scholar Mobility: Welcome international students and scholars who bring academic, cultural, and economic contributions to schools and communities.
 - ▶ Study Abroad: Expand and diversify opportunities for Americans to gain the foreign language and cross-cultural skills necessary to be competent in a global economy.
 - ▶ Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program: Incentivize colleges and universities to make study abroad an integral part of higher education.
- ▶ Activity: What's your story?

How can you become an advocate?



Contact Your Elected Representatives

- ▶ Local, state, and federal
 - ▶ Georgia Senators Johnny Isakson and David Perdue
 - ▶ Find your [Representative](#)
 - ▶ Find your [State Legislator](#)
- ▶ Letters, phone, email, or in-person meeting
- ▶ Encourage students to share their experiences and find their voice.

NAFSA Advocacy Day

Washington, DC - March 18-19, 2015

- ▶ *“Strength in numbers”*
- ▶ Organized by NAFSA
- ▶ Meetings with your Congressman/Congresswoman and Senators, or their staff, are scheduled in advance on your behalf
- ▶ Full day of training
- ▶ Networking and professional development opportunity
- ▶ Opportunity for students to participate and meet directly with Legislators

Become an Advocacy Leader

- ▶ GAIE Advocacy Subcommittee
 - ▶ Governors Proclamation on International Education Week.
 - ▶ Provide legislative updates to GAIE members.
 - ▶ Advocate for state legislation that encourages international education.
- ▶ NAFSA Grassroots Leadership Program
 - ▶ Supports targeted and strategic grassroots efforts to engage policymakers and the public on urgent policy issues that impact international education.

Advocacy in International Education

Questions?

Contact Details

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