

DECEMBER 2021

# 2021 Summary Newsletter for Region X



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - JENNIFER DOUGLAS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

As we enter the holiday season and end one year and start another, it is a natural time to reflect on the past and imagine the future. It has been a hard and challenging year—for Region X NAFSA, for international education, for our friends and families and for our country. I won't itemize the reasons here, we all know the list that could be written, and each of us has our own private list as well. But it has been a difficult, and sometimes heartbreaking, time.

But while acknowledging this truth, we should not overlook that this year has also brought many joys and blessings. And it is super important to savor and honor these blessings as well. . . good health, food security, a roof over our heads, purposeful and meaningful work, a network of emotional and social supports, the love of friends and family. And that's what this note is about, gratitude.

I know that I have so much to be grateful for, and at this season I wanted to let you know that I am also feeling grateful for all of you. I am grateful for the warm, open and authentic reception I received from you as your chair. I am grateful to have worked with the Region X team to create networking opportunities, virtual conferences and learning opportunities across the region. I am grateful for the honest and difficult conversations that have been necessary to give name to our current challenges. I am grateful for the hard work, and the can-do spirit that I have seen across the regional membership. And I am grateful to have worked with a leadership team that, after all is said and done, has navigated the year with their mission and integrity intact.



### IN THIS ISSUE

**MESSAGES FROM THE  
CHAIR-STREAM**

**CONFERENCE NEWS AND  
PLANS FOR 2022**

**REGBUD, KNOWLEDGE  
COMMUNITY REPS, K-12,  
STATE, BUSINESS AND  
ADVOCACY UPDATES**

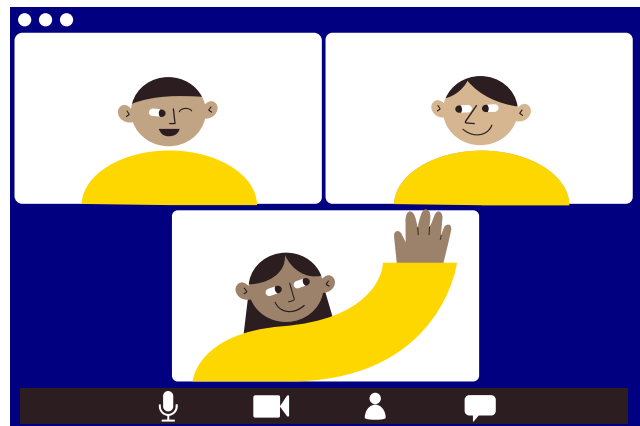
**WELCOME OUR NEW  
CHAIR-ELECT**

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
SPONSORS**

It's hard to believe that I have been Region X Chair for a year. Thank you for working with me to meet our regional goals: financial stability, meaningful learning opportunities, and continued leadership development and advocacy across all our international education knowledge communities. Thank you for making it so easy for me to work with you, and for all you are doing for our students and to help ensure that NAFSA Region X has a bright future.

During this holiday season, I hope you will remember to also honor and celebrate the many good things, the blessings in our own lives, the blessings of our friends and families, the things we love about where we live and the special work that we do, and those aspects of our nation that are decent and honorable...and not let the dark clouds obscure the very good reasons we have to also feel grateful.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT - THOMAS CARTER, SUNY COLLEGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY**

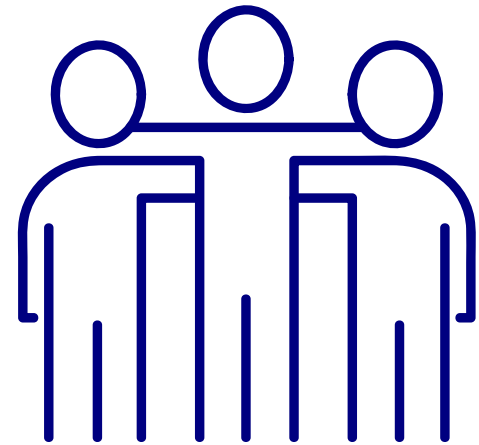


Hello Region X! If you haven't stopped in a while to pat yourself on the back, take a second now. In fact, go ahead and give yourself two pats, a high five, and a couple of hugs for good measure while you are at it. There is no denying the challenges we have all faced in 2021 as a field, a region, and as individuals. Yet, here we are today still going strong – congratulations to all of you, Region X! If we could give out a Region X Perseverance Award, I think everyone in our region would deserve one.

2021 started out with the optimism that we might be able to return to in-person events but slowly that optimism eroded. However, we still persevered and without the suspension of in-person events we never would have the All-Region Summit. And oh my, what a success that was! With session presenters from all knowledge communities, we had some of the most diverse, robust, energetic, and passionate sessions in a long time. Despite the pandemic, we had first-time presenters, seasoned veterans, and everyone in-between. A huge thank you goes out to all of you who presented and helped to make the conference such a big success!

And now we're on to 2022! Our spirits in Region X are high and our hopes are even higher. With the prospect of an in-person 2022 Regional Conference in Albany I can say that I've never looked forward to a conference more. It will be so great to see everyone's smiles in-person once again and even greater to welcome new members to our region who have never experienced an in-person Region X conference. I know we have a reputation to uphold! And so, I hope everyone has a happy end to 2021 and let the good times roll in 2022!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PAST-CHAIR - JOHANNA PAN-CARR, NYU



I am writing with mixed emotions as this is the last month of my three-year tenure on the Region X chair stream. It has been a tough, yet extremely rewarding three years. I thought about my time as a Chair-Elect learning as much as I could to prepare me for the following year's conference.

Little did I know that during my chair year COVID would take us on a 360-degree different turn where we ventured out into the world of virtual events. I so appreciate the mentors, former chairs and especially our fabulous Region X team members for being there with me. This year we continued with our temporary virtual arrangements. It has been another challenging year but we poised through the time of uncertainty. It's been wonderful serving this year in the role of Past-Chair, passing down the knowledge and history while we discovered new Region X traditions and continued to try our best to maintain what we have. I am excited for the chair stream next year and what they will plan for Region X.

This year once again we had our Past-Chair Happy Hour virtually. It's always great to meet with former chairs, learn about their experiences as chairs and hear them pass down words of wisdom.

Despite not being able to hold any in-person activities this year, we were able to provide grants to some regional members. We provided grants for four participants and our Advocacy Day Coordinator to attend the NAFSA Advocacy Day. Also, for the virtual All-Region Summit this fall, which replaced our traditional Region X conference, we were able to cover conference registrations for 10 Region X members. We did this by asking our Region X Team members, who usually receive conference waivers, to obtain when possible full institution support from their institutions. This enabled us to transfer their waivers to members. We figured it out and made it work and that's what I loved about Region X. We are a group of innovators.

Finally, as Past-Chair one of my roles was to oversee the selection of our special awardees. In Region X we have three award categories, and I would like to take the time to acknowledge our 2021 recipients.

## 2021 REGION X AWARDS

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:**
  - Erika Rohrbach
  - Bruce Sillner, SUNY New Paltz
- **James O'Driscoll Distinguished Service Award:**
  - Gwyneth A. Smith, Columbia University
- **Rising Professional Award:**
  - Carlo Fabros, Student Universe
  - Maria Kopnitsky, SUNY Oswego



## MESSAGE FROM THE 2021 CONFERENCE PLANNERS - DAWN WILKENFELD, MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY AND HYUNJIN YEO, TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**VIRTUAL NAFSA**  
**ALL-REGION SUMMIT**  
**OCTOBER 4-22, 2021**  
**WWW.NAFSA.ORG/2021SUMMIT**

We just wrapped up the NAFSA All-Region Summit, a three-week event that NAFSA hosted with participation from all eleven NAFSA regions. Region X was one of the regions that kicked off the Summit as we were spotlighted during the first week. All NAFSA members had access to the programming that each Region provided. Thank you to all of the presenters, volunteers, and attendees! By the numbers, Region X had:

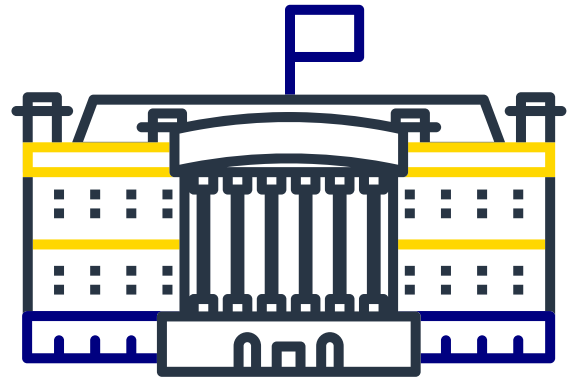
- 155 registered attendees
- 17 sessions
- 2 social events, coffee hour and a Trivia evening
- 10 hours of our Visitor Center

We would also like to give a round of applause for Kaitlin Huemer and Karena Cronin from Region X who were members of the winning team of the very first All-Region Case Study Conundrum! As we look ahead to our 2022 regional conference in Albany, we hope to be able to safely gather in person to share, learn, and connect. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

## MESSAGE FROM THE REGUD REPRESENTATIVES - COLLEEN WEISS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MELISSA ZUROFF, NYU

2021 was another year when much work was remote and meetings/events were held virtually. That stated, it was wonderful to connect with members during the sessions held in June during the Virtual Series.

Fortunately, this year the regulatory landscape for international education has been much quieter, though international travel has continued to be challenging and the pandemic has meant we all needed to adjust to changing travel restrictions and requirements. Regarding communications and guidance from government agencies, they have continued to communicate with NAFSA on a national level in order to ensure that everyone receives the same guidance. At the Fall All-Region Summit, some agencies again partnered with ISS RP on sessions.



As always, [IssueNet](#) is also available for Get Liaison Help if you need case-specific assistance, as well as the Report an Issue function, which helps ISS RP keep track of all on-going issues affecting our field and allows them to bring concerns to the appropriate government agencies. There is strength in reporting!

## MESSAGES FROM THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY (KC) LIAISONS

### **International Education Leadership (IEL) KC - Mary Nellis, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

I am now in my second term as your International Education Leadership Liaison for Region X, and I am so happy to have continued to serve this year. My personal interest in the role is promoting a broad meaning of “leadership” in international education, engaging discussion about what “leadership” means more widely, and what it means to support leaders - particularly individuals who have taken new leadership roles in the field. I also serve in this role to help keep the Region X abreast of current happenings at the national level related to IEL Knowledge Community.

Broadly speaking, the IEL KC supports senior international officers and internationalization leaders who provide the vision and build commitment for comprehensive internationalization. Are you interested in joining the conversation about leadership? Are you looking to connect with other leaders in the region, or presenting on related topics? If so, please feel free to reach out Mary at [nellim@rpi.edu](mailto:nellim@rpi.edu).

### **Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship (TLS) KC - Tim White, New Jersey City University**

Greetings! A local achievement for Region X was when our colleague, Vivi Wei-Chun Hua, Psy.D. (花薇淳 心理學博士) and International Student Success Coach & Licensed Psychologist, prepared a book chapter called [The Power of Being Different: Navigating Grad School as International Students](#) in the book [Thriving In Graduate School](#). And looking to the future, there will be a NAFSA Research Symposium in Fall 2022, entitled "A Critical Discussion of Theories, Methodologies, and Practices in International Education". The Call for Proposals will open in May 2022 with additional details forthcoming on the main NAFSA website.

The TLS KC liaison position for Region X is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and stay up-to-date with the teaching, learning and scholarship trends in International Education. Anyone considering the position for now or in the future is cordially invited to contact me at [twhite@njcu.edu](mailto:twhite@njcu.edu) for more information.



## CONTINUED MESSAGES FROM THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY (KC) LIAISONS

### **International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) KC - Lauren Berlamino, Stevens Institute of Tech.**

Greetings from your KC-ISSS Representative! Our community has weathered yet another difficult year. Thank you to those contributing to [IssueNet](#) this year. This reporting helps recognize emerging trends and regulatory challenges in ISSS and allows NAFSA to work with our government partners on the matters reported. My term is up at the end of the year and you will have a new KC-ISSS Representative in 2022. However, I am still available to the Region X community if you ever need any help ([lberlami@stevens.edu](mailto:lberlami@stevens.edu)). It has been a pleasure serving as your Region X KC-ISSS Representative. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

### **Education Abroad (EA) KC - Catherine Collado, State University of New York at New Paltz**

Greetings from your Education Abroad Liaison! Though another year has gone by without in-person meetings, it was wonderful to have our regional EA membership well-represented at virtual sessions and networking events. In June, Region X hosted a Virtual Series, including a robust Study Abroad Hot Topics session with panelists Ben Levy of Ramapo College of New Jersey, Helen Newman of NYU, and Rebecca James of CEA Study Abroad. Region X education abroad colleagues were also well represented at the All-Region Summit this Fall, with continued discussion on health and safety, virtual programming, campus internationalization, sustainability and more! If you have ideas for further regional engagement, questions/ concerns, or interest in the EA KC Liaison role, please reach out to [colladoc@newpaltz.edu](mailto:colladoc@newpaltz.edu).

### **International Enrollment Management (IEM) KC - Anna Wise, Hamilton College**

This year as Region X IEM's regional liaison I connected with Region XI to create a resource of helpful information for newcomers to the field. In addition to conversations about ongoing virtual recruitment connecting with the first hints of in-person travel, we addressed this year's high turnover in IEM offices. Some transitions occurred due to consolidation of staffing determined by administrations and some occurred due to the unfreezing of hiring processes. Because of the impact this has had in the field, we wanted to focus on nurturing and supporting newcomers who may have joined the field in these challenging pandemic days. So, our programming at the regional conference focused on virtual recruitment and innovations that have emerged in the field and conversations about staff retention and the nurturing of newcomers through challenging times. For more information, reach out to Anna directly at [awise@hamilton.edu](mailto:awise@hamilton.edu).

## MESSAGE FROM THE K-12 REPRESENTATIVE - JOLENE BOWSER, BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL



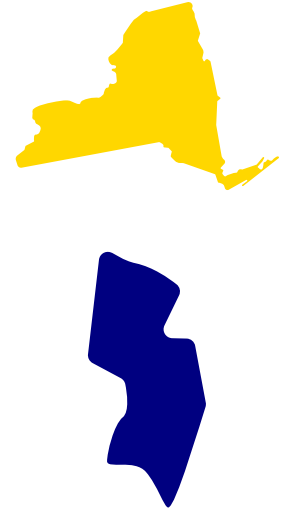
Once again it has been an honor and a pleasure to support the Region X K-12 community this year. In June, I hosted a Hot Topics session for the secondary school community during the Summer 2021 Region X Virtual Series. This attracted a small but fruitful gathering providing high school international educators an opportunity to network and connect as well as work through concerns on a tough year of reopening. One goal I had during my two-years of service on the Region X leadership team was to spread the word and share what NAFSA has to offer to the K-12 community. We have definitely made progress in this regard, but there is still more work to be done! A heartfelt thank you to the team and all of our Region membership for supporting K-12 colleagues!

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**Martha Baillargeon - Downstate NY Rep, School of Visual Arts**  
**Magee Barney - Upstate NY Rep, Cornell University**

With a little more experience planning virtual sessions and conferences, we were proud to organize the Summer 2021 Region X Virtual Series, held June 22-24, 2021. We had hoped to meet in-person with some colleagues, but NAFSA required all of our activities to remain 100% virtual during 2021. These free hot topics sessions were organized by Region X team members and provided a great opportunity to catch up on the latest trends, regulatory changes, and announcements in the different Knowledge Community areas. In an effort to address the needs of all of our Region X colleagues, we also held sessions specifically for international educators working in K-12 and Community College institutions. It was also great to get together in the virtual space for a Region X update and networking event!

If you were unable to attend the Virtual Series, some of the session recordings are still available on our [website](#). We are looking ahead to 2022 and excited to see what fresh ideas the new State representatives will come up with for our (hopefully hybrid or in-person) State Conferences in June 2022!



## MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER - ROBERT SANFORD, NYU

First, let me thank Region X for the fantastic opportunity to serve our wonderful region. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Region these past three years. And, what a three years it has been!


If you are interested in learning more about the Business Manager position for the future, please reach out to me [robert.sanford@nyu.edu](mailto:robert.sanford@nyu.edu).

The Region managed through the pandemic financially fairly well considering all; we expected it to be much worse with the potential of having to pay huge penalties to a couple of our fall conference venues over the past two years, but we, as a Region, were able to avoid penalties which is great news.

Currently, we are in a rebuilding phase, trying to build up our financial resources with the hope and goal of eventually having \$100K+ in reserves as a cushion/emergency fund in the event of any other unforeseen area, regional or worldwide. Let's hope we never have one, but just in case, we need to be prepared.

This is a summary of 2021 financials and other relevant details that you may be interested in:

CURRENT BALANCE



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- Current Balance on deposit in Region X Accounts: **\$60,088.00**
- Prepaid Hotel Deposits – Already Paid:
  - 2023 Montreal Approx. \$30,000.00
  - 2024 Atlantic City \$20,000.00
- Hotel Deposits Due:
  - Atlantic City Due Jun 22 \$10,000.00
- 2021 Review:
  - Total Revenue to-date: \$33,708.00\*
  - Pending Rev. \$ 678.00
  - Total Expenses to-date: \$ 396.00
  - Pending Expenses: \$ 4,762.73

\*All Regions Summit Reg. Revenue, Exhibit Revenue & Sponsorship

## AMAZING 2021 REGION X EVENTS

### FUN RUN



Despite the disappointment of being remote once again for Fall conferences in 2021, Region X rallied to bring back the fun with our 2021 Gwyneth A. Smith Virtual Fun Run and watch party! Twenty-five Region X colleagues did their own run, walk, or biking and then sent in their registrations, photos, and/or videos for a fun compilation video and community-building watch party held in November. With original lyrics and singing by Region X's very own Helen Leonard and Tim White, plus a surprise celebrity hello from someone who truly misses being in "The Office", it was a fun time had by all. The Region X Fun Run Committee will be looking for ways to create great networking and community-building events in 2022, hopefully through the return of an in-person run when we are next able to have an in-person conference. Stay in touch with Region X to stay involved.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

On October 5th, Region X hosted a virtual Trivia Night as part of the NAFSA All-Region Summit. While it was a smaller event than a similar one held last year, we had four teams who competed for bragging rights and a \$100 prize, sponsored by Campus Sims. Emcees Carlo Fabros and Mary Nellis kept the game moving with wit and vigor and with questions expertly curated by Lindsay Wersebe, our own Region X Communications Manager. After a heated competition, "Quizard of Oz" rose to the top spot with second place going to "Smartinis", followed by "X Factor" and the "Quizly Bears."

This event raised \$1000 to help fund Region X grants and other outreach efforts. We are so thankful to the event participants and sponsors who made this fun event possible!



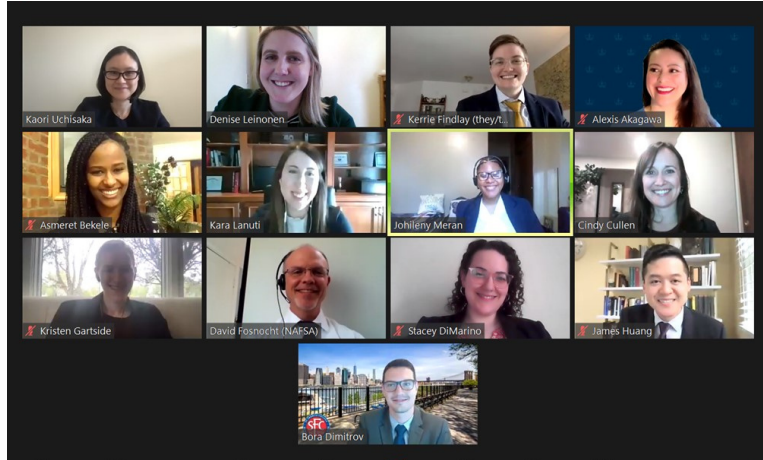
If you missed trivia night, you can play along now! Here are three questions to jog your brain. Can you guess the answers?? They're included at the end of the newsletter.

1. What is the only edible food that never goes bad?
2. What were the four main characters' names in the TV series "Golden Girls" that ran from 1985-1992?
3. Which Central American country has a name which translates to English as "The Saviour"?



## MESSAGE FROM THE ADVOCACY COORDINATOR - LAURA VALERI, NYU

This year Advocacy Day 2021 was held virtually, and it was a very interesting experience since for the first time we met with Congressional representatives and conducted our advocacy on Zoom! Region X had 18 members representing the Region from Upstate NY to NJ. Seven (7) participants received Region X Advocacy Grants to cover registration fees. The grants were greatly appreciated during a year of budget cuts and challenges for our field.



We had very successful Congressional meetings with House Representatives and with Senators. We were able in the meeting with NJ Senator Menendez to engage in a concrete follow-up on a letter to DOS about visa delays and difficulties international students and scholars are experiencing. And, the meeting with NY Senator Schumer prompted a follow-up on specific appropriations requests and coordination with the NAFSA National Advocacy team.

Throughout 2021, one of the main challenges for our students, especially in the metropolitan NYC-NJ area, was the process of requesting and obtaining a Social Security Number (SSN). The Social Security Administration (SSA) was largely unreachable during the entire pandemic time that started in 2020 and continuing to the present. Students have experienced huge difficulties, such as being unable to obtain an appointment for the entire duration of their CPT or on-campus employment and then being denied after their employment had ended which had serious implications for taxes and payroll issues.

There was a robust outreach to SSA with letters drafted and signed by many Region X universities. This prompted a positive response from the SSA; the local contact from Office of Regional Affairs offered to be the liaison and support reference for students experiencing persistent issues. Most issues were resolved when contacting the office on behalf of the students, e.g. students were called to schedule appointments; in some cases appointments were expedited when urgency was confirmed.

For 2022 NAFSA has launched a new strategic Advocacy approach. In a change from the Advocacy Days of previous years, the focus of the March 2022 Day of Action will be connecting constituents with the lawmakers that sit on the U.S. House and Senate committees that matter most to advancing the Association's public policy goals.

NAFSA will be focusing on specific members of Congress who are particularly relevant to advancing the international education agenda. Several members are in Region X and include both of New Jersey U.S. senators as well as New York's Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Jerry Nadler, Rep. Adriano Espaillat and Rep. John Katko. But, if you do not live in these districts, fear not! NAFSA is committed to providing other advocacy opportunities available to all on a year-round basis. So, be sure to sign up on Connecting Our World for our advocacy emails and alerts for ways to advocate with NAFSA.

We look forward to a great 2022 filled with advocacy!

## NAFSA REGION X 2021 TEAM **\*\*Term ending**

**Jennifer Douglas** - Chair, Columbia University  
**Thomas Carter** - Chair-Elect, SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry  
**Johanna Pan Carr\*\*** - Past-Chair, New York University  
**Robert Sanford\*\*** - Business Manager, New York University  
**Dawn Wilkenfeld\*\*** - Lead Conference Planner, Montclair State University  
**Hyunjin Yeo** - Conference Planner, Columbia University  
**Carlo Fabros** - Marketing and Development Coordinator, Student Universe  
**Lindsay Wersebe\*\*** - Communications Manager, New York University  
**Lauren Berlamino\*\*** - KCISSS Liaison, Stevens Institute of Technology  
**Mary Nellis\*\*** - IEL Liaison, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Tim White\*\*** - TLS Liaison, New Jersey City University  
**Anna Wise** - IEM Representative, Hamilton College  
**Catherine Collado\*\*** - EA Liaison, State University of New York at New Paltz  
**Colleen Weiss\*\*** - Regulatory Ombud for Scholar Issues, Columbia University  
**Melissa Zuroff** - Regulatory Ombud for Student Issues, New York University  
**Magee Barney\*\*** - New York Upstate Representative, Cornell University  
**Scott Keller\*\*** - New Jersey State Representative, Saint Peter's University  
**Martha Baillargeon** - New York Downstate Representative, School of Visual Arts  
**Laura Valeri\*\*** - Advocacy Coordinator, New York University  
**Jolene E.B. Bowser\*\*** - K-12 Representative, Bishop Kearney High School  
**Linda Tobash** - Secretary, The Korea Society

**Thank you** to our team members, who continue to go above and beyond serving the Region. Region X would not be the same without you! We will miss our team members whose terms are ending, and are excited to invite new members to the team for 2022.



## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIR-ELECT - KATSUMI KISHIDA, KEAN UNIVERSITY**

Lastly, congrats to Katsumi Kishida, our new Chair-Elect for Region X! Katsumi has over 15 years of experience in International Education. She currently works at the Center for International Studies at Kean University supporting international students as a PDSO as well as assisting outbound study abroad students. Katsumi earned her B.A. in International Relations at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and moved to the US where she earned her M.A. in International Education at Teachers College, Columbia University as an F-1 student. She is an active member of NAFSA trainer corps, has presented at regional and national conferences and served as the New Jersey NAFSA State Representative from 2017-2018. Katsumi is particularly passionate about promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in international education.

## NAFSA REGION X SPONSORS

### MESSAGE FROM THE MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR - CARLO FABROS, STUDENT UNIVERSE

Thank you to our [NAFSA Region X Sponsors and Exhibitors](#) for supporting our International Education initiatives in 2021. We greatly appreciate that you were part of our Region X community.



## NAFSA REGION X SOCIAL MEDIA AND RESOURCES



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Region X Website](#)



[Region X Network](#)



**Trivia Answers from page 8:**

1. Honey
2. Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, and Sophia
3. El Salvador