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The Future of International Education: Why Agility Is Now Integral to Strategic Planning

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TERRADOTTA

AIEA Partnered Town Hall with Terra Dotta

The Future of International Education:
Why Agility Is Now Integral to Strategic Planning

August 19, 2020

2021 AIEA Annual Conference

Leading Internationalization in a New Era: Collaborating for Global Solutions

February 14–17, 2021

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC, USA**

Session Proposals due by **August 22**

<https://www.aieaworld.org/2021-call-for-proposals>

Town Hall Discussion Format

- All participants are encouraged to use the chat feature for discussing insights and sharing resources.
- As we are using a webinar platform, your video will not be visible, and all participants are muted.
- If you wish to ask a question, please submit it using the Q&A feature. Both panelists and participants are able to answer others' questions in the Q&A window.
- If you would like to share your question with the group during general discussion time, please select "Raise Hand" to be called on, and a moderator will unmute you.
- The chat transcript and other resources shared in the Town Hall will be made available on the AIEA website.



Presenters



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Assistant Provost & Dean,
International Programs
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Elaine Meyer-Lee, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice
President of Academic Affairs
Goucher University

Agenda

- Opening comments
- Introduction and Overview
- Remarks from Speakers
- General Q&A
- Concluding Thoughts
- Closing

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Based on my experience, agility is truly based on the principles of resiliency.

Resiliency is an approach to sustainability that focuses on building capacity to deal with disasters, unexpected changes and/or shifts to our daily routines.

- Kampala, Uganda example shows mild disruption, poor maintenance, and insufficient infrastructure creates a lack of resiliency.

At Embry-Riddle, hurricanes are the norm.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Principles of Resiliency

Invest in resilience resources before disaster	Invested in risk management software & risk data information gathering; mass communication service; created/continuing to develop travel/location monitoring for students
Invest in human capital	Invested wisely to free-up job functions
Action planning	Created a step-by-step guide for moving international students to any modality that the university offers
Build advocates	Shared weekly reports; provided FAQs with each governmental change; explain jargon to decision-makers
Monitor & evaluate	Collected data, provided updates & changes to numbers for Key Indicators; evaluated and listened to student concerns; invested time and energy in resolving concerns

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The post-pandemic future context for international education:

- Between climate change, disease, and political polarization, we need to remain ready to pivot at any time
- Erosion of trust in government agencies may recover slowly or not at all
- Rapid pace of events challenges professional associations to resource
- Stakes remain extremely high financially, legally, morally (life and death)
- Gauging by peer institutions and benchmarks may be harder
- Virtual and hybrid formats are here to stay, along with mobility
- Planning is still important, but cannot be rigid or perhaps as long-term



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Agility in action:

- Weigh risks of underreacting and overreacting, in your specific context
- Consider ethical implications of options
- Seek as much input & shared governance as you can given timeframes
- Balance data-gathering and aspirations with need for decisive certainty
- Never let a good crisis go to waste
- Seize the teachable moments
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Build in self-care for everyone, including yourself

Upcoming AIEA Town Hall Discussions

- **September 10:** The Impact of COVID-19 on Institutions Outside the United States
- **September 24:** Study Abroad 2021
- **October** Town Hall Topics: International Students and Institutional Engagement under the New Normal; Finance and International Program Offices
- **November** Town Hall: Implications of the U.S. Election Results

Organized by the Professional Development & Engagement Committee



COVID-19 Resources

- Town Hall Discussions
- Online AIEA Member Resources (login required)
 - Chat transcripts from Town Halls
 - Resources shared from member institutions
- AIEA General Resources (www.aieaworld.org)
 - Sister association information
 - Resources relevant to those leading internationalization

Upcoming AIEA Deadlines

- **2021 AIEA Annual Conference—Call for Session Proposals:**
 - Proposals will be accepted until August 22
- **2021 AIEA Awards Nominations:**
 - Accepted through October 1
- **Applications are now open** for 2020-2021 AIEA membership, including discounts for multi-year renewals
- **Job Seeker Survey, Fall Plans Document**

Thank You!



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Featured Speakers:
Aaron Clevenger
Elaine Meyer-Lee

