



Karen M Bauer

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR

Building Bridges: An International Education Perspective

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KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Experienced Regional Educational Advising Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, representing Middle East and Central Asia for over 25 years.
- Strong resource and lead for the U.S. higher education community looking to recruit students from the Middle East and Central Asia regions, providing valuable insights and advice.
- Possess expertise in international education in the MENA and Central Asia region as a teacher, coordinator, trainer, and director within the EducationUSA network since 2005.
- Proficient in facilitating discussions, providing expert advice, designing and delivering workshops, attending and presenting at conferences, collaborating with organizations, and providing analysis of international student mobility trends.
- Worked collaboratively to create a successful career counseling program around a Design Thinking curriculum.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Regional Manager (REAC) for the Middle East and Central Asia

EducationUSA, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs

Institute of International Education, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

June 2014 – Current

- Provide leadership, guidance, consultations, and training to hosting EducationUSA centers. Facilitated expert advice, provided and acted as a regional resource to local education ministries, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and regional Public Diplomacy offices at the State Department, U.S. Embassies and ambassadors, and U.S. higher education institutions.
- Manage a network of 40 EducationUSA advisers across 13 countries and 27 advising centers in the Middle East, Gulf, and Central Asia. This ensured cohesive support through 40% travel, center site visits, and high-level engagements with U.S. Embassy officials, Ministries of Education, and regional student mobility stakeholders.
- Designing EducationUSA programs in the region to align with public diplomacy goals and the vision of Ambassadors and Public Affairs Section officers. Collaborated with centers and advisers to build a consistent EducationUSA brand and program across the region while collaborating with stakeholders to manage budgets and the annual strategic plans for portfolio countries.
- Representing EducationUSA at U.S.-based conferences and delivering workshops and sessions to share best practices and promote the program. Collaboration with organizations such as Council for International Schools, AIEA, The CollegeBoard, and NAFSA to deliver training to U.S. higher education institutions, providing insights and guidance on the latest trends and developments in international student mobility.

Senior Education Advisor

U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section (EducationUSA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

November 2010 – May 2014

- As a former EducationUSA Senior Advisor for Saudi Arabia, the largest EducationUSA program in the MENA region, I was given responsibilities.
- Prepared and executed Saudi Arabia's EducationUSA strategic plan with an annual budget of \$60,000. The Ministry of Higher Education assisted in pre-departure orientations, reaching 7,000 students in 2012.

- In addition to these initiatives, the annual U.S. pavilion at the IECHE/MOHE Expo was organized and promoted, drawing over 82 colleges per year. High-level contacts throughout the Saudi education establishment were developed and maintained, and opportunities were identified to encourage cooperative agreements to further bilateral goals.
- Organized and led a two-day annual meeting for advisors in Saudi Arabia, including Jeddah and Dhahran, designed and facilitated to share knowledge and best practices. The contributions were vital to the success of EducationUSA's programs in Saudi Arabia.

Education Advisor/Assistant Education Adviser

U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section (EducationUSA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

May 2005-June 2010

- Conducted individual and group advising on the U.S. education system and admissions process. Established and maintained positive relationships with schools, institutions, and universities. Managed the latest information resources on U.S. higher education and Saudi's standardized education system.
- Represented EducationUSA and the U.S. Mission at fairs, conferences, and Public Affairs events while assisting in meeting Public Diplomacy Goals on education, youth outreach, women's counter-terrorism, and coordinating with various government departments. Managed the latest information resources on U.S. higher education, the Saudi education system, standardized testing, bulletins and catalogs, and other references, educational and professional development materials.
- Initiated and oversaw the Competitive College Club (CCC) workshop series for five years while conducting individual and group advising on the U.S. education system and admissions process.

Program Coordinator & On-Site Representative

Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA

July 2001 – October 2004

- On-site representative ensuring adherence to the U.S. education model and host campus ideology.
- Coordinated and co-wrote licensure application to the Ministry of Higher Education for accreditation in the UAE (successfully granted).
- Member of team assisting NEASC review of a satellite campus for U.S. regional accrediting association and recognition under the U.S. Department of Education.

Emirates Center for Management & Information Technology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates & Mumbai, India

- Established student service center and career development programs in satellite campuses in Dubai, UAE, and Mumbai, India.
- Developed internship program, career services, placement process, and alumni association.
- Promoted internship program to 15 Human Resource departments across various companies in Mumbai.
- Implemented "First Year Seminar" for students to transition to college life and the U.S. education system. Provided career development workshops and one-on-one student counseling

EDUCATION

- Masters of Arts in International Education, The School for International Training (SIT), Brattleboro, VT, 2002.
- Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs & History (Cum Laude), Holy Names University, Oakland, CA, 1994.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Life Design Studio Training for University Educators (Online), Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, December 2022.
- Certified Career Adviser (CA), International Association of Career Advisers, July 2021.
- College Counseling Certificate, University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, 2009.
- TEFL/TESL Teaching Certificate, Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, CA, 1998.

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Council of International Schools CIS Middle East Workshop, Abu Dhabi, UAE, February 2023.
- The CollegeBoard Summer Institution at NYU, Visiting Facility, Abu Dhabi, UAE, March 2017/Feb 2020.
- Collaboration with EducationUSA & Mobility Int: Working with Disabled Students, May 2017.
- Recruiting and Retaining Students Displaced in Conflict-Affected Areas, May 2017.
- Developments in the Middle East/North African Recruitment, Nov 2017.

- Countries in Crisis: Credential Evaluation and Admission for Interrupted or Undocumented Studies, July 2016.
- Entrance Exams, Communication, and Campus Accommodations: Key Support for Students with Learning Disabilities, July 2016.
- What's Happening in the Top Five Sending Countries, June 2013.
- The Latest News on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Scholarship Countries, May 2011.
- Best Practices for Success with Saudi Students on U.S. Campuses, May 2011.
- Regional Trends, Updates and Analysis, June 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

- Bauer, Karen and Davison, Christina. "[Design Thinking to Support International Students' Planning](#)" Chapter 18 for Global Student Mobility - Entry Points on the Avenue of Student Success (2024)
- "[A Journey of the Heart: A High School Experience in Japan that Forever Changed the Trajectory of My Life.](#)" NAFSA: International Educator Magazine (December 2023)
- "Promoting Education: Advising Office Aids U.S. Bound Saudi Students" DOS, State Magazine (Sept 2012)
- "Working with Government Scholarship Programs" EducationUSA Connections E-Newsletter, (Sept 2010)
- "A View From Out Here" NAFSA Admissions WrapUp E-Journal, (February 2007)
- Capstone Thesis: Post September 11 - College International Student Offices, Crisis Management Plans, and Student Support in a Time of Crisis. (November 2003)

AWARDS

- Department of State - Group Meritorious Honor Award, issued by U.S. Consulate General Dubai, UAE, May 2016.
- Vice President Biden Visit Department of State - Eagle Award, issued by Ambassador Joseph W. Westphal, U.S. Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, June 2011.
- Department of State - Meritorious Honor Award, issued by Ambassador James B. Smith, U.S. Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 2012.
- Department of State - Meritorious Honor Award, issued by Ambassador Richard Erdman, U.S. Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, July 2009.
- Department of State – EducationUSA Best Mentor, issued by the Department of State Washington, D.C., June 2008.

LANGUAGES

- English, native.
- Arabic, beginner.