

### Options After Ending OPT (if NOT applying for STEM OPT Extension)

- You **MUST** stop work by the end date on your EAD card
- You are allowed **60 days to leave the U.S.** after your OPT expiration date, change your status, transfer your F-1 record to a new school, or begin a new academic program at SMU. For many of these choices you will need to begin the process before the end of your OPT. If you stay in the U.S. past your 60-day grace period, without doing any of the above, it could result in serious issues in regard to your future U.S. record/status/visa...
- Send an email to your DSO including the date you will be leaving the U.S. or your plans for after your EAD expiration.

### Going Back to School?

- After the release date of your I-20 transfer has passed, students may not continue work on OPT, even if the EAD has not expired. The release date cancels the EAD. The release date can be within the OPT/EAD dates or up to 60 days after the EAD expiration date.
- A release date may be set for the future to continue working on OPT until that date as long as the program of study has not started and the EAD has not expired.
- Classes must begin within 5 months of the transfer release date or the EAD end date, whichever is the earlier date.