

Annual Report 2025-2026
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
August 14, 2026

Committee Members & Leadership

- *2025/2026 Co-chairs:* Leigh Oliveras, leigh.oliveras@sv.cmu.edu & Maggie Luo, maggieyl@mit.edu, Kelly Woods krwoods@mtholyoke.edu (Interim)
- *2026/2027 Co-chairs:* Maggie Luo, maggieyl@mit.edu, Dr. Pankaj Desai drdesaipankaj@gmail.com
- *2025/2026 Active Members:* Abby Senuty, Angel Liu, Audra Boni, Chainey Gao, Dr. Christine Hall, Dr. Pankaj Desai, Elif Balin, Ellen Zold Goldman, Erica Ford, Hal Matthews, Hao He, Hongshan Shao, Ivette Mekdessi, Jane Sitter, Joshua Gory, Kelly Woods, Leigh Oliveras, Liz Pawley, Logann Todd, Lynette Hepburn-Richardson, Maggie Luo, Martina Schiavo, Mrudula Josyula, Niamh O'Brien, Nicole Anderson, Nina Roa, Ozzy Girit Heck, Paula Lazarim, Rebecca Hale, Romona Camarata, Rosie Shen, Ryan Kristofek, Satomi Chudasama, Shihling Chui-Dwyer, Xiaoyi Huang, Xiaoyi Zhang, Yangyang Liu, Daniel Pack

Committee Activities to Date

- Six general meetings and 20+ sub-team meetings were held. The sub-teams include the Professional Development and Community Connections Team, the Research & Writing Team, and the Resources Team. There are 38 active members represented by 35 universities and organizations.
- Selected incoming co-chair elect, Dr. Pankaj Desai from UIUC and notified NCD A for internal documentation as well as to modify the committee's website for Oct. 1.; Confirmed co-lead roles for 2026-2027.
- The co-chair and active members of the committee (Maggie Luo, Pankaj Desai, Jane Sitter, Shihling Chui-Dwyer) presented at the 2026 NCD A conference about the work of the ISSC.
- Ten members of the Committee presented 11 presentations and roundtables at the 2026 NCD A conference regarding career development, diversity, and International Students.
- Shihling Chui-Dwyer, a member of ISSC, received the 2026 Services to International Students Award from NCD A.
- **Committee Chairs innovated in 2025-2026 in the following ways:**
 - Knowledge Sharing and External Expertise
 - Internal knowledge sharing: Invited the Research Team to share cutting edge research at general meetings, broadening member access and amplifying impact.
 - External expertise: Invited the Presidents' Alliance to share resources and insights on international student employment.
 - Resource development: Partnered with Presidents' Alliance immigration attorneys to update ISSC resources on international student employment guidelines.
 - Peer connection: Led breakout sessions at general meetings to strengthen peer connections and support members navigating the evolving political landscape.
 - Membership Engagement and Retention

- Membership health: Established a process to verify active ISSC participation and NCDA membership status.
 - Re engagement: Empowered subteam leads to identify inactive members and proactively encourage renewed participation.
- Inclusion and Member Engagement
 - Member voice: Leveraged active members as speakers during NCDA information sessions to showcase member experiences and strengthen recruitment.
 - Inclusive leadership: Prioritized inclusion of current or former international student members in Co Chair leadership when possible.
- **Professional Development and Community Connections** sub-team focused on serving career development professionals with avenues to exchange ideas, resources, best practices, programs, recommendations, and innovations for working with international students and employers.
 - Professional Development and Community Connections Team (PDCC) hosted the sixth annual ISSC Mini-Conference on August 7, 2026 from 10-4 pm Central Time with the aim to serve as a beacon for those dedicated to supporting the career aspirations of international students. The theme of the conference was “Building Together: Centering Advocacy, Community, and Adaptability.” 123 members registered to attend this conference, which featured 4 45-minute presentations and 4 15-minute mini-sessions facilitated by 13 invited presenters, as well as a membership chat led by the Co-Chairs. On the day of the conference, attendance averaged about 73 participants per session, with a total of 98 unique members attending over the course of the event. As of 8/10/2026 the number of attendees for whom we requested continuing education hours was 41.
 - The PDCC hosted a Bridging Campus and Employers on International Student Hiring Webinar, inviting 3 employer representatives and 1 employer engagement staff member in higher education, to build a community and connect on best ways to support our international students during this complicated time with 92 attendees (including panelists) on June 12, 2026.
 - The PDCC Team hosted two virtual Coffee Chats to serve as open discussion opportunities to connect and learn with colleagues. The first coffee chat was held in December 2025 with 12 attendees on a topic of educating employers on international student hiring. The second coffee chat was held in May 2026 with around 20 attendees on the topic of global experiences in supporting international student career development and collective discussion around best practices for international student career development.
 - The team continues to maintain our [YouTube channel](#) to now have 107 subscribers and 13 videos, generating 1500 views.
 - The [ISSC LinkedIn Group](#)'s strategic engagement enabled the group's growth to 1476 members.
- **The Research and Writing Team**
 - Quantitative Research Project: Influencing Factors on the Career Adaptability of International Students
 - The report has been completed, and the manuscript is being prepared for submission to *The Career Development Quarterly* (CDQ). The estimated project completion date is August 30, 2026.
 - Best Practices in Team Research Project: The *Research Team Development Best Practices Guideline* was completed in June 2025, focusing on integrating multicultural/relational considerations into collaborative research practices.
 - Martina Schiato joined the team for the manuscript phase.
 - Conference Presentations:
 - NCDA Conference 2025 Roundtable: *Best Practices in Team Research and the Publication Process*, presented by Angel Liu and Lynette Hupbern-Richardson on June 20, 2025.
 - AARC Conference 2025: Presented by Paula Lazarim Marques on September 12–13, 2025, in Daytona Beach, Florida.
 - New Co-Lead Announcement: Rosie Shen has been invited to serve as the new co-lead of the sub-team.

- **The Resources Team**

- Held 5 sub-team meetings (10/16, 12/4, 1/22, 3/19, 6/8); Mrudula Josyula joined as co-lead alongside Daniel Victor Pack; set up shared Drive with working folders per section.
- Assigned and progressed volunteer leads across all guide sections (Diversity, Job & Internship Search, Building Career Services, Supporting Successful Transitions - fully reviewed, U.S. Employer's Guide to Hiring International Students, etc.)
- Launched new collaboration with the President's Alliance for legal-expert review of the visa/employer section.
- Built and added a new 18-page AI in Career Development section - 12 topic areas with sample AI prompts for international students - bringing the guide to 80 comprehensive pages.
- Flagged outdated content in Building Career Services (many articles 10–20 years old) and identified more current resources to reference (e.g., Interstride Symposium, International Student Resource Center).
- Gathered extensive usability feedback: guide is too dense, hard to navigate, too link-heavy; interest in a condensed flyer version and clearer free vs. members-only labeling.
- Finalizing reviewed/updated sections for the 2026 live version, targeted to post by September.

2026-2027 Annual Work Plan

- **General Committee - *areas for consideration and planning:***

- Consider further alignment with NCDA's new strategic plan and adjust planning as needed for future ISSC planning
- Marketing and Brand Awareness: Promote and amplify the impact of the NCDA International Student Services Committee through the YouTube channel, webinars, the LinkedIn group, and conference presentations.
- Team Member Professional Development and Best Practice Sharing: Foster continuous learning by inviting subject matter experts, including immigration attorneys and higher education professionals, to share expertise, best practices, and emerging trends with committee members.
- Team Member Recognition: Recognize and celebrate active committee members' contributions through certificates of appreciation and other forms of recognition.

- **Resource Team**

- Add searchable, hyperlinked table of contents highlighting "hot" topics (e.g., AI in career development); replace raw URLs with hyperlinked text.
- Add an intro infographic explaining who the guide is for and its benefits; move full ISSC overview to an appendix.
- Present more content as tables/infographics (modeled on NCDA's multicultural career resources page) instead of long article lists.
- Build a downloadable "toolkit" of templates, worksheets, and sample materials.
- Scope a new Global Career Resources phase: skilled-worker/"returner" visa paths, international events/fairs, global mobility advising, and advising students returning home.
- Explore a public-facing landing page under NCDA's Resources/Online Resources tab that points to the members-only guide.
- Continue conversations with co-chairs on what content could be made freely accessible.
- Share the AI section of the Resource Guide with the NCDA AI Task Force to ensure messaging stays consistent across NCDA groups working on AI - coordinating on content and level of detail before it's finalized in the guide.
- Identify relevant resources, programs, and information to complete updates for each section of the 2025–2026 guide, including refreshing the attorney-prepared employer handout given the changing immigration/visa landscape.

- **Professional Development and Community Connections Team**

- Collaborate with members for YouTube video content production and curation.
- Promote LinkedIn group and manage LinkedIn posts to advocate best practices sharing among career service practitioners.

- Host live learning sessions that can become recordings for our Youtube channel.
- Ensure that participants who applied for CE Credits receive them.
- Complete recording editing and upload recorded mini-conference videos on Youtube Channel.
- Finalize feedback from participants and debrief with planning group, sub-team, and co-chairs to enhance 2027 Virtual Mini-Conference.

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● **Research & Writing Team**

- New Co-Lead Announcement:
Rosie Shen has been invited to serve as the new co-lead of the sub-team (to serve in this role during the 2026–2027 term).
- Meetings and Planning:
Monthly subcommittee team meetings, along with additional meetings as needed, will be held to finalize the project and advance the 2026–2027 activities calendar. The activities calendar is available in the subcommittee meeting notes.
- Best Practices in Team Research Project:
During the 2026–2027 term, our subcommittee will focus on developing the manuscript based on the *Team Research Best Practices Guideline*, with completion anticipated by December 2026. We are considering submitting the manuscript to a journal that aligns with its interdisciplinary and transformational education focus. Potential journal options include those listed by the [American Association for Adult and Continuing Education \(AAACE\)](#).
- Upcoming Conference Presentations:
 - AARC Conference 2026: Presentation by Paula Lazarim Marques scheduled for September 18, 2026, in Dallas, Texas.
- Additional activities for the 2026–2027 term may include:
 - Launching a new qualitative research project and pursuing opportunities to submit and present the subcommittee's work at additional conferences.

2026-2027 AY Funding Requests

Request	Cost	Rationale	Expected Date of Completion
Standard Allotment	\$200	Member Engagement/ Incentive - gathering during the 2027 conference outside the conference facility (ie dinner or coffee gathering)	Sep 2027
10 NCDA New Membership Scholarship	\$600	This proposal requests \$600 to fund 10 NCDA membership scholarships at \$60 each for New Professional or First Timer memberships for international career practitioners outside the U.S. who may find NCDA membership cost prohibitive. 1. Cultivate a more connected global community: Each year, non NCDA members express strong interest in ISSC mini conferences and webinars to access research, best practices, and resources for supporting international students. Financial barriers often prevent them from engaging more fully. These scholarships will remove a key access	Sep 2027

		barrier, create a pathway from ISSC participation to NCDA membership, and expand NCDA's global practitioner community. This directly advances NCDA's strategic priority of Cultivating Community while strengthening international collaboration and access to professional resources. 2. Develop global practitioner leaders: Scholarship recipients will be invited to contribute to ISSC mini conference planning, creating hands-on opportunities for leadership, collaboration, and professional development. This supports NCDA's Career Empowerment goal by engaging practitioners as active contributors and future leaders. 3. Advance global reach and equity: By expanding access to NCDA membership, the initiative will strengthen career development capacity outside the U.S. and extend NCDA's research, resources, and best practices to practitioners serving international students worldwide. It advances NCDA's commitment to advocacy, equity, and international engagement while creating a sustainable pipeline of globally engaged members. In short, this \$600 investment removes a key access barrier, converts interest into membership and engagement, and amplifies NCDA's strategic impact globally.	
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