

MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is sent to all active participants in the American Immigration Council J-1 Training Program. Please review the information below and remember to always contact the Council if you have questions or concerns about your training program or non-immigrant status. If you are no longer participating in our program, please notify us. If you have a question for the Council, please do not reply to this message, but instead send your question to exchange@immcouncil.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Change of Address
- Trainee/Intern of the Month
- Understanding American Culture
- Carrying Identification
- Contact Information

**Please Report a Change
in Your Address**

Please be aware that the American Immigration Council is required to report any changes in your U.S. home address in the U.S. government's Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) database.

We ask that you report any residential address changes to us within 7 days of your move so that we can enter the information within the government imposed deadline.

Failure to update your address could result in termination of your J-1 visa status. We are responsible for sending you a slew of important documents, such as DS-2019 forms, insurance cards and other correspondence.

Please remember to contact the Council as soon as possible if you change your U.S. address. Thanks!

facebook

The American Immigration Council's International Exchange Center is on Facebook!

If you are already on Facebook, look up our group "**International Exchange Center**" and request to join. We promise we'll accept you.

While it's fun and informative to receive this newsletter, the Council's International Exchange Center group is a great way to interact one-on-one with other trainees and interns. You can post pictures, discuss your experiences and make new friends from all over the world!

Find us at www.facebook.com. It's free and easy to join. Plus you will never know who you might meet or the experiences you could share.

EXCHANGE VISITOR OF THE MONTH

The Kauffman Foundation: Learning Together



The Kauffman Foundation's J-1s pose for a photo.

Usually we select one trainee or intern as our Exchange Visitor of the Month. For May, we have decided to highlight a group of trainees. While the majority of our trainees and interns are the only J-1 visa holders at their host companies, some companies choose to have many trainees or interns at once. This is the case with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, an organization that, according to its mission statement, "works nationwide to catalyze an entrepreneurial society in which job creation, innovation, and the economy flourish."

This year, the Kauffman Foundation is host to 28 J-1 trainees and interns who are taking part in a unique entrepreneurship

program. Participants came from all over the world to learn how to plan, fund and market their own business ideas or how to teach these skills to others at the university level. In addition to training at the Kauffman facilities, exchange visitors in Kauffman's entrepreneurial program travel around the US to learn from industry leaders and academics in the field.

One participant, Rahayu Puji Haryanti, a professor from Indonesia, appreciates the program's experiential teaching style.

"I was involved in lectures, seminars, discussions, role play and other assignments which make me sure that I can contribute a lot to the entrepreneurship program in my country by leveraging the

knowledge...to my colleagues and young people in Indonesia." James D.D. Massie, also of Indonesia, echoes Rahayu's sentiment.

"It was a great experience to get the chance to have a variety of professors teaching us in the Kauffman Labs," he said when asked to speak about the training experience.

James found visits to "well-known universities to join seminars or conferences about entrepreneurship," to be an important part of his training.

A large group of J-1 exchange visitors simultaneously training is one of the major advantages of the Kauffman program. Each participant has the opportunity to share insights and experiences with other participants, all of them budding entrepreneurs with fresh ideas. In addition to helping participants, the exchange program also benefits the work and research of the Kauffman Foundation. "This program affords the Foundation and its associates an invaluable opportunity to understand perspectives on entrepreneurship in several countries," remarks program coordinator Wendy Torrence. The exchange of perspectives among participants makes the program successful and unique.

While learning about American culture and business practices, the participants also learn about the culture of their fellow trainees.

Understanding American Culture

How These States Became United – Spotlight on Texas



Ever wonder how the United States became the United States? Each state has its own unique story. One such story belongs to the southwestern state of Texas. Usually, when someone mentions Texas, images of cowboys and oil wells come to mind, but there's a lot more to this big state. When Texas joined the United States, it brought with it a long and exciting history and a unique cultural perspective.

The slogan "Six Flags Over Texas" refers to the six nations that have had control of the

area. The land that is now Texas was first claimed by Spain, then France, then Mexico. Texas became its own republic in 1836. It became the 28th state in the United States in 1845 and has since remained under the US flag except for a brief period during the American Civil War when Texas, along with other Southern states, was part of the Confederate States of America.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, Texas was home to at least 13 different Native American tribes. As more settlers ar-

rived, the land was gradually taken over from the tribes. The Spanish claimed the land but did not immediately set up colonies, allowing an opening for French explorer René-Robert Cavelier. Sieur de La Salle to establish a French colony in 1785. The colony was a short-lived experiment, and by 1790 Texas was back in the hands of the Spanish. Texas was part of the territory of Mexico and when Mexico gained independence in the 1820's Texas was also freed of Spanish rule. In 1835 Texas began the fight for independence from Mexico and became its own republic in 1836.

By 1845, Texans decided to annex themselves and their territory to the United States; the decision set off the Mexican-American War. Mexico had never fully recognized Texas' independence and saw the annexation as an act of war. The US won the Mexican-American war, and in 1848, Texas was cemented as a part of the United States. Since then, Texas has attracted immigrants from all over the world with its

focus on technology and its natural resources.

Throughout its history, Texas has been a tremendous cultural melting pot within the greater melting pot that is the United States. Native Americans, settlers from each ruling country, and immigrants from around the world have all left their mark on Texas. To experience the results of this mix of cultures you can check out a number of hot spots and annual events if you find yourself in Texas. Get a taste of the cowboy culture at the Houston Livestock show and Rodeo held every year from February to March. The Texas State Fair is held every year from late September to early October and features food unique to Texas as well as an auto show, live music and children's activities. Every April since 1891, with breaks in 1918 and 1942 -1945, San Antonio has celebrated its unique cultural mix with Fiesta days featuring parades, a battle of the bands, and ten days of non-stop activities.

What Forms of Identification Should I Carry?

It's hard to listen to the evening news or pass by a newspaper stand without coming across a story about the recently enacted law in the State of Arizona - a law which allows police to inquire about anyone's immigration status. This raises questions for J-1 exchange visitors about which documents to carry in public.

Identification cards from a J-1 exchange visitor's home country do not establish lawful presence in the United States. Many J-1 and J-2 participants do not have American driver's licenses - the most common form of identity document in the U.S.

So, what kind of identification should J-1 or J-2 participants carry with them in public? According to federal regulations, J-1 trainee or intern need to carry his/her passport and the I-94 card stapled inside it as proof of legal status in this country.

Of course, carrying a passport in public requires care to avoid the risk of losing it. We recommend making a color photocopy of the

identification page of your passport, J-1 or J-2 visa, and I-94 card. Leave these copies locked in a secure place along with your DS-2019 form. This will help you in case you need to replace lost or stolen documents. Make sure to carry your insurance card with your passport and I-94 card. You don't want to try to locate the insurance card in an emergency.

Also be sure to carry with you the contact information for the American Immigration Council. Our job as your J-1 program sponsor is to be your advocate in an emergency. Make sure you know how to contact us:

American Immigration Council

Telephone: 1-202-507-7500

Email: J1program@immcouncil.org

If you have a U.S.-issued Social Security Card, keep this secure at home with your document copies. You do not need to carry the Social Security Card with you, and should keep in mind

that loss of the Social Security Card is one of the leading causes of identity theft in the United States. Your Social Security number should be kept private. Be wary of websites that ask for Social Security Numbers, as they may be scams attempting to steal your SSN.

Finally, one last thing to carry with you at all times – your sense of humor. It will go a long way toward helping you have an outstanding experience in the United States.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The best way to contact us with address changes, questions or suggestions is via email. Please send your message to exchange@immcouncil.org. We welcome any and all newsletter suggestions or comments.

American Immigration Council
1331 G Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 507-7500
(202) 742-5619 (fax)

www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org
exchange@immcouncil.org