



***Annual Report 2024-2025***  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**August 8, 2025**

**Committee Members & Leadership**

- *2024/2025 Co-chairs:* Ellen Goldman, [e.goldman@northeastern.edu](mailto:e.goldman@northeastern.edu)) & Leigh Oliveras, [leigh.oliveras@sv.cmu.edu](mailto:leigh.oliveras@sv.cmu.edu)
- *2025/2026 Co-chairs:* Leigh Oliveras, [leigh.oliveras@sv.cmu.edu](mailto:leigh.oliveras@sv.cmu.edu) & Maggie Luo, [maggieyl@mit.edu](mailto:maggieyl@mit.edu)
- *2024/2025 Active Members:* Abby Senuty, Ann-Marie Williams, Dr. Anupama Malik, Corissa Wandmacher, Daniel Pack, Dr. Audra Boni, Delyash Tsartsaeva, Elif Balin, Ellen Zold Goldman, Erica Ford, Emily Li, Genevieve Winn, Hal Matthews, Hanghang Li, Hongshan Shao, Ivette Mekdessi, Jane Sitter, Jodie Tadlock, Jon Niles, Jessica Schueller, Kelly Woods, Leigh Oliveras, Liz Pawley, Logann Todd, Lynette Hepburn-Richardson, Maggie Luo, Muskaan Sofet, Nina Roa, Nicole Anderson, Ozzy Girit Heck, Dr. Pankaj Desai, Paula Lazarim, Rana Sedeeq, Rosie Shen, Ryan Kristofek, Samah Barakat, Sanaz Nabati, Satomi Yaji Chudasama, Shihling Chui-Dwyer, Sophie Manigo Fuller, Yangyang Liu, Yuleinys Castillo, Zhiqi (Angel) Liu

**Committee Activities to Date**

- Six general meetings and 27 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 43 active members represented by 36 universities and organizations.
- Selected incoming co-chair elect, Maggie Luo from MIT and notified NCDA for internal documentation as well as to modify committees website for Oct. 1.
- Confirmed co-lead roles for 2025-2026
- The Co-Chairs of the committee (Ellen Goldman & Leigh Oliveras) presented at the 2025 NCDA conference about our conference committee.
- Twelve members of the Committee presented 12 presentations and roundtables at the 2025 NCDA conference regarding career development, diversity, and International Students.
- Representation from committee through three members accepted to NCDA AI Taskforce including Daniel Pack, Maggie Luo, and Logann Todd.
- This year the Mini-Conference and Social Media sub-teams were combined into one team and renamed the **Professional Development and Community Connections** sub-team in order to align with NCDA's new strategic plan. The group 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.

- o Professional Development and Community Connections hosted the **fifth annual ISSC Mini-Conference on August 8, 2025 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 “**Cultivating Confidence and Readiness in a Changing World**”. 275 members registered to attend this conference with 6 invited presentations, 7 invited presenters, one structured group discussion, and a membership chat led by the Co-Chairs. On the day of the conference, the peak attendance was 142 unique members who were logged in simultaneously. As of 8/8/2025 the number of attendees for whom we requested continuing education hours was 55. The deadline to request CE credits is 8/31/2025 and this number is expected to increase.
  - o Professional Development and Community Connections also hosted a **Cross-Cultural Career Coaching Exchange Webinar**, *inviting 4 experienced* international students career advisors, to build a community and connect on best ways to support our international students during this complicated time with 30+ attendees on June 4, 2025.
  - o The team has grown the [YouTube channel](#) to now have 94 subscribers and 13 videos, generating *1076 views*.
  - o The [ISSC LinkedIn Group](#)’s strategic engagement enabled the group’s growth to *1322 members*.
  - o Selected new co-lead to replace Maggie Luo, incoming co-chair is: Shihling Chui-Dwyer
- The **Research and Writing Team’s contributions in 2024-2025 included:**
  - o **Quantitative Research Project - Influencing Factors on Career Adaptability of International Students:**
    - Data collection is complete and data processing will be completed by the end of August, with the team then moving to the manuscript/reporting writing phase and selecting a journal for submission. The estimated project completion date is August 30, 2025. All of the gift cards from last year’s budget were distributed to participants.
  - o **Best Practices in Team Research Project** - includes a focus on multicultural aspects of team research work linked to best practices in collaborative research.
    - **NCDA Conference 2025 Roundtable:** Best Practices in Team Research and the Publication Process, NCDA Presentation, June 20, 8:00-9:00 am ET.
    - This project will be presented in the **AARC Conference 2025**. Paula Lazarim Marques to present, September 12-13, Daytona Beach, FL.
    - **Participated in NCDA Research Committee meeting-** Committee and sub-team connected with the larger NCDA group related to research with Galixina G. Wright and Debra Osborn with the Research Committee, Julia Makela from Assessment, Evaluation, and Outcomes, and others including Ellen as Co-Chair of the ISSC.
  - o **Guest Speaker Project-** Dr. Jim Lani, PhD, Founder & CEO at Intellectus Statistics ([james@intellectusstatistics.com](mailto:james@intellectusstatistics.com)) on Use of Intellectus Statistics and Qualitative software/training. This tool has an optional connection to AI; open to all ISSC members.
  - o **New Co-Leader Announcement:** Angel Liu accepted the role of co-lead for the sub-team.
- The **Resources Sub-Team** has developed a new **18 page AI Career Resources and Best Practices** section of the Resources for Partnering with International Students Guide. Also included are sample international student prompts for each topic area related to AI and 12 distinct sections. This updated guide is a comprehensive 80 page NCDA member-only publication for career practitioners nationally who work with international students.
- **Dr. Pankaj Desai**, a member of ISSC, was accepted into the **NCDA Leadership Academy**. Dr. Pankaj Desai was nominated for the Service to International Students Award. Dr. Pankaj

Desai along with The Career Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign received the **NCDI Diversity Initiative Award**.

- **Logann Todd**, a member of ISSC, **received the President's Award**, given for her work as Co-Chair of the **Inaugural President's NCDI AI Taskforce**.
- **Committee Chairs innovated in 2024-2025 in the following ways:**
  - Co-chairs developed **new sub-team succession planning guidelines** in conjunction with sub-team leads.
  - The **definition of active members** was refined this past year to strengthen consistency and clarity across all committee members as this is a working committee.
  - Co-Chairs **led breakout rooms as part of all of our ISSC general member meetings** via Zoom to create space for members to develop closer connections in the new political landscape to support one another.
  - Sarah JanTausch from **Government Relations presented** and led a discussion in our April 9 all member general committee meeting on pending and tracked legislation impacting international students and what our committee can do to collaborate, and invited members to subscribe to fiscal note, as well as to connect with her committee.
  - **A new 18 page AI sub-section was created to innovate on our committee's NCDI Resources for Partnering with International Students Guide**, soon to be available to all NCDI members.
  - The Mini-Conference and Social Media sub-teams were changed to become one **Professional Development and Community Connections Sub-Team in order to align with NCDI's new strategic plan**.
  - Innovated in planning for next year to have ISSC's first meeting of the year now have breakout rooms in which **new members rotate through breakouts hosted by each sub-team** to learn more about the work to select a sub-team to work with for the year.
  - Our practice now includes **rotating meeting days for general member meetings** in order to maximize the ability of more members to attend general meetings.
  - **Created a separate NCDI ISSC gmail account** so that ownership is not tied to a specific individual committee member.
  - New addition to committee meetings: Crowdsourcing a list of Career Offices which have hired at least one individual on OPT and/or an H-1B to help our colleagues each year who are searching for a professional role.
  - Outreached to members who hadn't signed up this year but had participated in prior years and invited them to complete the Interest Form and re-join the committee.
  - Reviewed 2025 annual conference NCDI presentations for presenters with an international student presentation tie-in to invite if U.S. focus to join our group.
  - When possible, co-chairs should include one former or current international student member.

## **2025-2026 Annual Work Plan**

- General Committee - *areas for consideration and planning:*
  - Consider further alignment with NCDI's new strategic plan and adjust planning as needed for future ISSC planning
  - Potential for deeper collaboration with Government Relations Committee in 2025-2026
- Resource Team
  - Share AI section of Resources Guide with NCDI AI Task Force to ensure that the recommendations coming from various NCDI groups are consistent in our messaging. We believe it will be important to communicate with other groups working on AI to

decide on content, as well as the level of detail, that will eventually be included in the Resource Guide.

- o Identify relevant resources, programs, or information and complete updates for each section of 2025-2026 guide update, including the attorney handout for employers given changing landscape

- Professional Development and Community Connections Team

- o Collaborate with members for YouTube video content production and curation
- o Promote LinkedIn group and manage LinkedIn posts to advocate best practices sharing among career service practitioners
- o Host live learning sessions that can become recordings for our Youtube channel
- o Ensure that participants who applied for CE Credits receive them
- o Complete recording editing and upload recorded mini-conference videos on Youtube Channel
- o Finalize feedback from participants and debrief with planning group, sub-team, and co-chairs to enhance 2026 Virtual Mini-Conference

- Research & Writing Team

- Ongoing Projects**

- o **Career Adaptability of International Students Research:**
  - Consider Journals to publish the research findings
- o **Presentation Opportunities for 2026:** We are seeking members to present with us at the Mini-Conference 2026 and NCDA Conference 2026. Potentially present at DEI Symposium.
- o **Possible Submission to Convergence:** We are considering a submission and will be engaging members on this process
- o **Complete development of a guideline for best practices** in team-based research. This guideline is currently in development and has been designed to support both our work within the Research and Writing Subcommittee and broader collaborative research efforts. This guideline will emphasize ethical principles, professional conduct, and strategies to support productive and inclusive team dynamics, taking into account the cultural backgrounds of each research team member. It's intended to be applicable to any research team or committee, as the focus is on the relational and ethical aspects of collaborative research/work.
- o **Other possible activities include:**
  - Create/record a podcast on research and writing in collaboration with Professional Development and Community Connections Team or NCDA's podcasts
  - Inviting 2 guest speakers to discuss their research agendas (October, November)

### Funding requests for projects during the 2025-2026 AY

Request No Funding Requested for 2025-2026	Cost	Rationale	Expected Date of Completion