

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: May 15, 2017

Re: SEVP Leadership Change

Number: 1705-01

Dear SEVP Stakeholders,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of a leadership change within the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). After more than 10 years of outstanding service to the program, Director Louis Farrell's last day as the SEVP Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) was Sunday, May 14.

Over the years, Director Farrell has been a tireless advocate for SEVP within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and for you, its stakeholders. Under his leadership, the program's size and scope matured impressively, and he oversaw some of SEVP's most successful initiatives—including the comprehensive roll out of the 2008 fee rule, the establishment of the Study in the States website in 2011, the 2014 deployment of SEVP field representatives nationwide, and the successful publishing of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics optional practical training rule in 2016.

Director Farrell inherently understood the need to balance national security with the needs of the academic community. We warmly thank him for his outstanding contributions and for his ongoing service to the program, the division and the nation. In the coming weeks, Director Farrell will transition to a new role within the National Security Investigations Division.

Beginning today, May 15, Rachel Canty will assume the role of acting DAD of SEVP. Prior to assuming this role, Ms. Canty was the division chief of SEVP's External Operations for the past five years. In this role, Ms. Canty oversaw the certification and compliance of schools enrolling international students, as well as the Field Representative Unit, the SEVP Response Center (SRC), and the development of all policies and regulations related to the international student and school life cycles. Ms. Canty has been with the department since 2001 and previously served as the acting assistant director of the ICE Office of Policy from 2011 to 2012. She is a graduate of Emory University and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Florida.

As SEVP undergoes this leadership transition, it will remain business as usual with regards to the program's processes and policies for the academic community and international students. As always, schools should maintain compliance and international students should maintain their status.

Additionally, we encourage the academic community to stay abreast of the very latest by connecting with SEVP on [LinkedIn](#) and by following DHS's Study in the States on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). SEVP will distribute the next quarterly issue of the [SEVP Spotlight](#) in late June.

And stakeholders can always contact the [SRC](#) if they have questions about their school's certification or students' status.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Director Farrell again for his passionate service to ICE and SEVP. He has been a stellar leader for the past decade. It has been an honor getting to know him and learning about the outstanding work SEVP has produced on his watch. Thank you in advance for the warm welcome the academic community will provide incoming SEVP Acting DAD Canty. She is eager to dive into her new role and looks forward to engaging with you all, hearing your concerns, and leading SEVP through this period of transition and into its next chapter.

Sincerely,
Clark Settles
Assistant Director, National Security Investigations Division

Comments

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