Why “ICE” in program title:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) manages SEVIS program.
- Every U.S. institution of higher education that accepts international F, M & J students must participate in SEVIS.

SEVIS – Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

- Managed by Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security.
- Web-based database system.
- Collects real-time info.
- Monitors status and activities of nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors in the United States, approved schools and program sponsors.
As of Oct. 14, 2008, SEVIS is tracking:

- 753,889 international students (F-1 & M-1)
- 176,839 exchange visitors (J)
- 126,829 dependents (of F, M, & J visa holders)
- 9,555 participating institutions of higher education
- 1,435 international exchange programs

SEVIS Requirement for Certification

Before applying, school must be:

- A bona fide school;
- An established institution of learning or other recognized place of study;
- In possession of the necessary facilities, personnel, and finances to conduct instruction in recognized courses; and
- Engaged in instruction of those courses.

SEVIS Requirement for Certification (cont’d)

Before applying, school must:

- Have already begun instructing students in the courses/programs for which it is seeking approval.
- Have the necessary facilities and qualified personnel for teaching, and adequate finances to operate.
- Meet all state requirements to operate as an institution of learning or be exempt from those requirements.
- Provide instruction to students to fulfill a professional, educational, or vocational objective, or pursuing a degree.
- Have graduated students before applying or be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency (recognized by the U.S. Department of Education).
SEVIS Changes for 2008-2009 Academic Year

- Fees increased Oct. 27, 2008 for international students, exchange visitors, and schools.
- SEVIS-certified Schools Must Be Recertified:
  - Jan. 2, 2009 - ICE issued 180-day notice to first group of SEVP-certified schools of eligibility for recertification.
  - Recertification notices go out to some 400 schools every month for next 2 years
  - July 2009 - First recertification due
  - Currently participating schools will not be required to pay additional certification fee.

Most Popular U.S. Destinations:

- Top 5 F-1 approved schools:
  1. City University of New York - 12,237 students
  2. U. of Southern California - 6,695 students
  3. Columbia U. - 5,944 students
  4. Purdue U. - 5,866 students
  5. U. of Illinois - 5,574 students

- Top 5 F-1 & M-1 approved schools:
  1. Cornell U. - 3,788
  2. Houston Community College System - 3,245
  3. Santa Monica College - 3,193
  4. San Francisco State U. - 2,182
  5. Northern Virginia Community College - 2,018

51% of all active international students in U.S. located in six states:
- California - 127,921
- New York - 95,005
- Texas - 56,368
- Massachusetts - 40,244
- Illinois - 32,924
- Florida - 34,094
Challenges for Schools

Multiple agency involvement:
- Department of State’s Consular Affairs
- DHS’s Customs and Border Protection
- DHS’s ICE
- DHS’s USCIS
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Labor
- Internal Revenue Service

Confusing array of processes and regulations

Legal challenges re: policies on undocumented immigrant students:
- California - Challenge to 2001 state law providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrant students who attended at least three years of CA high school.
- Alabama - Ban, effective spring 2009, on undocumented immigrant students in the state’s 2-year community colleges.
- North Carolina – Ban on undocumented immigrants enrolling in state’s community college system.

Approximately 2.9 million students worldwide study abroad

U.S. institutions face competition from foreign schools for “Market Share” of international student enrollment
1. United States 20%
2. United Kingdom 13%
3. France 8%
4. Germany 8%
5. Australia 7%
6. China 7%
7. Canada 5%
8. Japan 4%

(Source: Institute of International Education)
International Students in U.S.

- Total Continues to Grow:
  - In previous (2007-2008) academic year, total increased to 623,805.
  - This was a 7% increase from 2006-2007 academic year.

- Countries of Origin:
  - More than 50% from Asian nations

- Leading academic major:
  - Business (the major of 150,211 international students)

Top 10 Countries of Origin:

- India – 94,563
- China – 81,127
- South Korea – 69,124
- Japan – 33,974
- Canada – 29,051
- Taiwan, 29,001
- Mexico – 14,837
- Turkey – 12,030
- Saudi Arabia – 9,873
- Thailand – 9,004

(Source: Institute of International Education)

Importance of International Students in U.S.

- International students injected an estimated $15.5 billion (tuition and living expenses) into the U.S. economy in the 2007-2008 academic year.
- $413 million paid in dependents’ living expenses

(Source: Institute of International Education)
Common Challenges/Issues for Students

Complicated Process - Documents and Deadlines:
- Application to and acceptance from SEVIS-certified school.
- Issuance of Form I-20 for initial attendance. Needed for:
  - Paying Sevis I-901 fee.
  - Applying for visa or change of status.
  - Obtaining entry to U.S.
- Payment of SEVIS I-901 fee using www.fmjfee.com Web site.
- Application for student visa up to 120 days before start of studies.
- Application for entry to U.S. 30 or fewer days before start of studies.

Missing documents at Port of Entry
- CBP inability to confirm destination school
- Secondary inspection and issuance of I-515A (temporary admittance)
- National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) requirement Employment issues
- Maintaining status
- Traveling

Recommended Best Practices
- Encourage international students to participate in campus life and events.
- Match international students with American campus buddies.
- Offer an orientation specifically for new international students.
- Provide housing options for new international students.
- Provides English instruction for non-native speakers if needed.
- Provide emergency housing options for international students during vacation periods.
- Visit EducationUSA (http://educationusa.state.gov) for more tips and advice.
Useful Web Sites

EducationUSA
Educationusa.state.gov

SEVIS Home Page
http://www.ice.gov/sevis/

Association of International Educators
www.nafsa.org

Institute of International Education Network
www.iienetwork.org/

QUESTIONS?

Prakash Khatri
President & CEO
KPK Global Solutions, LLC
301-642-2661
www.kpkgs.com