

ON BEHALF OF ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE SIMONE HIMBEAULT TAYLOR

Dear International Center Stakeholders:

As you will recall, Student Life's International Center launched a visioning and strategic planning process at the beginning of this academic year. Many of you participated in this planning work, providing input, feedback and refinement throughout the various stages of this process. I am pleased to report that the IC is set to complete the core of this strategic work by summer's end. The *2015-2020 International Center Strategic Plan* is attached.

As you review this five-year strategic plan, please consider and share any necessary final refinements or related input. A key guiding principle in this plan is the respect and expectation for continued excellence in immigration and related risk management priorities with renewed appreciation for other critical student, faculty and staff needs and important campus climate considerations.

The map for this work is impressive and it is a testament to the leadership and staff team at the IC and the engagement of its many collaborative partners across the institution. Thank you for your continued investment in our shared effort to serve the international population, facilitate intercultural and international education and foster a more global campus community.

The completion of this planning phase situates the IC well for some important next steps and the entry of long-term leadership to facilitate it. In the weeks ahead, I will share more details about the search process and the position description outlining the important leadership experience and characteristics necessary for the next permanent director to lead the IC through the implementation of the 2015-2020 plan and beyond. The search for this new long-term leader will begin immediately.

You will recall that Jennifer Meyer Schrage agreed to serve in the IC's director role to facilitate this strategic planning project. We anticipated the need for a two year term appointment and yet she was able to lead completion of the core of this work by the end of the first year. The timing of the transition of the IC's work to the implementation phase is well-timed. Jennifer recently learned that she and her family will be relocating to Palo Alto, California due to an exciting career opportunity for her partner. Jennifer has agreed to continue to serve in the director role and facilitate the search process to ensure the IC secures the experienced and visionary leadership necessary for the work ahead.

It is worth emphasizing that under Jennifer's leadership, the International Center team sustained success in the IC's immigration services while facilitating this ambitious and highly collaborative strategic planning process. In fact, the IC expanded capacity in this area by investing in additional immigration advising and administrative staffing to further stabilize this growing area of work. Honoring its crucial immigration and compliance obligations, the IC's commitment to this area remains solid and demonstrates that building capacity to deliver on other organizational obligations complements rather than threatens its immigration service functions.

Thank you in advance for your engagement in our search for the new director and for your support as we move onward. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Now that we have the vision and the map, we are looking forward to the journey ahead with each of you.

Please contact me and/or Jennifer with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Simone

Simone Himbeault Taylor, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Student Life
Adjunct Associate Professor,
UM Center for the Study of Higher & Postsecondary Education
University of Michigan
Student Life
6015 Fleming 48109-1340
[734-764-5132](tel:734-764-5132)
shtaylor@umich.edu