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ACPA RESPONSE TO ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW S.B. 1070

ACPA Governing Board Takes Action To Avoid Member Constraints And Intimidation

Washington, D.C.—May 24, 2010— ACPA members and staff have expressed concerns about the assault on civil rights and unsafe environment in Arizona with the recent passing of S.B. 1070. Article 8-B of the law states:

“WHERE REASONABLE SUSPICION EXISTS THAT THE PERSON IS AN ALIEN WHO IS UNLAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES, A REASONABLE ATTEMPT SHALL BE MADE, WHEN PRACTICABLE, TO DETERMINE THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THE PERSON.”

S.B. 1070 may create an atmosphere that is totally contradictory to the core values of our association and profession. In addition to concerns raised, the question surfaced about our association hosting an event in any other state or country that could potentially create an atmosphere of exclusion, harassment, or an unwelcome environment for an ACPA member. This is problematic and goes against our fundamental values of inclusion.

As a result, the ACPA Governing Board has authorized the Executive Director to only seek reasonably priced venues that are known for their inclusion and perceived safety. It is paramount that our members and guests be able to attend ACPA hosted events free of constraint or intimidation. This Arizona immigration law does not appear to provide this assurance.

Therefore, a new location will be identified to host the 2011 Donna M. Bourassa Mid-Level Management Institute, originally scheduled in Tucson, Arizona in January 2011. As soon as a new location has been identified, it will be announced to the membership.

About ACPA—College Student Educators International:

American College Personnel Association (ACPA), headquartered in Washington, D.C. at the National Center for Higher Education, is the leading comprehensive student affairs association that advances student affairs and engages students for a lifetime of learning and discovery. ACPA, with almost 9,000 members, supports and fosters college student learning through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, which informs policies, practices and programs for student affairs professionals and the higher education community.