



SEVIS

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
Newsletter
Vol 4, No. 1 • October 2008

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SEVIS BY THE NUMBERS

As of September 2, 2008

- DHS Certified Schools 9,514 total
(6,151 have Active students)
- DoS Designated Sponsors 1,430
- Active Participants
 - Active Students (F & M) 686,649 F-1 + 7,835 M-1
 - Active Exchange Visitors (J) 252,105
 - Active Dependents (F, M & J) 124,765

For an in-depth review of SEVIS by the numbers, click [here](#).
For a list of SEVP certified schools, click [here](#); for a map, click [here](#).

A Message From Louis Farrell, Director

Fiscal Year 2008 has been an exciting year for SEVP and for its stakeholders as this has been a year of change throughout the organization.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all our stakeholders for their continued support and perseverance in staying with us as we transitioned throughout the year. In particular, my congratulations to the recipients of the “Service to the Homeland”

Award recently recognized at the historic Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Their tireless efforts and unwavering support has been an invaluable asset to SEVP’s success. Details about the award ceremony and the recipients can be found on Page 2.

The one change that impacts SEVP’s viability was the introduction of the Fee Rule. The Fee Rule will pay for SEVIS II research and development, recertification resources, Liaisons to Academic Institutions and additional Customs Enforcement Unit (CEU) resources. When combined, these resources help create open doors to the nation’s academia, a more competitive

nation of diverse academic institutions, while simultaneously increasing and maintaining national security as a paramount mission for SEVP.

Other changes in SEVP include: research and development of SEVIS II; preparations for recertification; and SEVP will be relocating from 425 I Street, NW in Washington, D.C. to Crystal City, Virginia.

SEVIS continues to evolve with numerous changes in its development. A brief insight into some of the changes can be found on Page 3. SEVIS II intends to become more user-friendly and reliable to our stakeholders, while being more robust and communicative among various departments within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Form I-17 Petition for Updates/Edits continues to be on the rise nationwide. Every month an increase in updates/edits occur. It is important to note that, while recertification is not active now, it will be in the forthcoming months so preparations now will make recertification easier and faster for stakeholders.

Outreach has been active in coordinating presentations nationwide. With the multitude of venues, SEVP has become one of the most recognizable organizations within the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As the number of our personnel and records grow, our office space must increase and our technologies must evolve. The Crystal City space is three times larger than our current space and the space will accommodate the new technical equipment capable of handling the increase of SEVP-certification records for years to come.

Although this year brings forth much change, in time these changes will positively impact our stakeholders, SEVP and our national security as a whole.

“Service to the Homeland” Award

On August 26, 2008, twelve individuals who serve in the international student affairs offices at their respective colleges and universities were awarded the prestigious “Service to the Homeland” Award by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Washington, D.C.’s historic Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium.

The award recognized their contributions in assisting ICE last spring in coordinating, notifying and hosting town hall meetings at their schools with other academic stakeholders so that valuable discussions could take place about the importance of the congressionally mandated Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).

“A great success story is the partnership between ICE and the academic community,” said Department of Homeland Security’s Secretary Michael Chertoff, the headline speaker for the event.

“They recently worked together to coordinate an informative 12-city national tour to provide valuable information about upcoming changes to the Student and Exchange Visitors Program. Working with our country’s colleges and universities to attract the world’s finest students to legally study



From left to right: Jeanne Kelley, Cristen Casey, Jody Heckman-Bose, Assistant Secretary Julie Myers, David Austell, James Hammerschmidt and the SEVP Director Lou Farrell. *Photo Courtesy ICE Public Affairs Office.*

here in the United States truly benefits us all.”

ICE’s Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers also gave remarks and personally presented each award to honor and recognize the recipients’ hard work and dedication.

This spring, SEVP announced an increase in fees for international students, scholars and exchange visitors coming to America to study. The university and college officials receiving this top honor worked alongside SEVP to host events at their schools for thou-

sands of academic practitioners around the country to be a part of the discussion behind the reasoning and need for the increased fee with ICE officials. Their efforts directly added to the overwhelming success of SEVP’s nationwide initiative to educate the academic community and further the working partnership.

“It is great to see such collaboration and outreach to the academic community by SEVP. I feel there is true ‘partnership’ and a willingness to work

Individual	School
Dr. David Austell, Director, Office for International Students and Scholars	New York University
Dr. Shalini Bhutani, Associate Director, Bechtel International Center	Stanford University
Rocky Blesso, Assistant Director, International Services Center	University of Central Florida
Jody Heckman-Bose, International Student Advisor	University of Maryland
Cristen Casey, Director, International Student Services	University of Texas at Dallas
James Hammerschmidt, Director, Office of International Services	University of Illinois at Chicago
Heather Housley, Interim Director, International Student & Scholar Services	Georgia State University
Mary Jacob, Director, Office of International Students and Scholars	University of CA, Santa Barbara
Jeanne Kelley, Director, International Students and Scholars Office	Boston University
Christina Luther, Asst. Director, Office of International Student & Scholar Services	Portland State University
Peggy Setoguchi, NAFSA Regulatory Ombudsman Region I	Lake Washington Technical College
Laura Welch, Assistant Director, Office of International Education	University of Colorado



together and they have a genuine interest in hearing the concerns of the academic community and strive toward a workable solution without compromising national security,” said Jim Hammerschmidt, the Director of the Office of International Services at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Mr. Hammerschmidt was also one of the award recipients.

Since SEVP’s inception, the academic community has played a pivotal role in working alongside DHS officials by providing critical feedback and input regarding international student policy, as well as improvements to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) that have made the system more user-friendly and functional, while ensuring that national security needs are met.

“Partnerships greatly multiply our ability to meet the mandate we’ve been given by the Congress to secure our homeland,” said Secretary Chertoff. “We can do much more together than we can ever accomplish alone.”

The Service to the Homeland Award recognizes individuals or teams that have made major contributions to the challenges issued by the White House, the Congress and the public.



News About SEVIS II

SEVP and the Exchange Visitor Program of the Department of State (DOS) are working closely with the ICE Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and our development contractor Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) on the development and deployment of SEVIS II.

We have been working on technical infrastructure, security, and development of the System’s Requirement



The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Assistant Secretary Julie Myers addresses the audience during the ICE Assistant Secretary’s Awards Ceremony at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington D.C. on August 26, 2008. *Photo Courtesy ICE Public Affairs Office.*

Document (SRD). This document will allow setting a baseline for SEVIS II requirements and the schedule.

As part of the SRD, we reviewed the functional requirements and mapped all SEVIS II processes, showing the general flow of activities and which user roles are involved. BAH has divided the processes into nine products. We will develop product by product in an iterative fashion. This allows coding and testing of products throughout the development process.

We are currently working on Product 1, which is submitting of the Form I-17 using a completely paperless process.

We will start the student record and school record maintenance products in late October or early November. We plan to involve representatives from the academic community in this process.

I-17 Petition Update/Edit

The School Certification Branch (SCB) has been monitoring and analyzing the increase in updates/edits to the I-17 Petition since March 2008. The analysis indicated that districts with larger metropolitan areas had more updates submitted per month, as expected, than those centered around smaller metropolitan areas. Accordingly, districts with smaller populations generally had fewer SEVIS-certified schools and thus, required fewer up-

dates.

It appears that districts with larger populations tended to submit more changes per update; however this would require further data tracking in months to come.

The districts that submitted multiple changes in July 2008, i.e., five or more changes per update, include: Atlanta, which had two updates with five or more changes; and Chicago, Miami, Phoenix, St. Paul and Los Angeles with each having one update with five or more changes.

It seems accurate to infer that districts which submitted more updates for the specific month at hand correlate with those that submitted five or more for the prior months. This data is harder to measure than the other data presented and would require more time to gather comprehensive evidence to support this conclusion.

In some instances, the DSOs may wait for multiple changes to take place before submitting an update and others may submit each change as it occurs. As such, the number of updates may not be a matter of population of the district, but rather a DSO’s preference in submission style. It may also relate to which states or regions have conferences taking place in that area whereas SEVP representatives encouraged DSOs in attendance to submit updates more frequently to maintain their school’s SEVIS profile current.



The most common changes submitted to SEVIS for July were changes in mailing addresses (62), degrees available (47), ownership (35) and physical locations (34).

Other common changes included campus additions (30), nature of the subject matter (28), “engaged in” (20) and name (16).

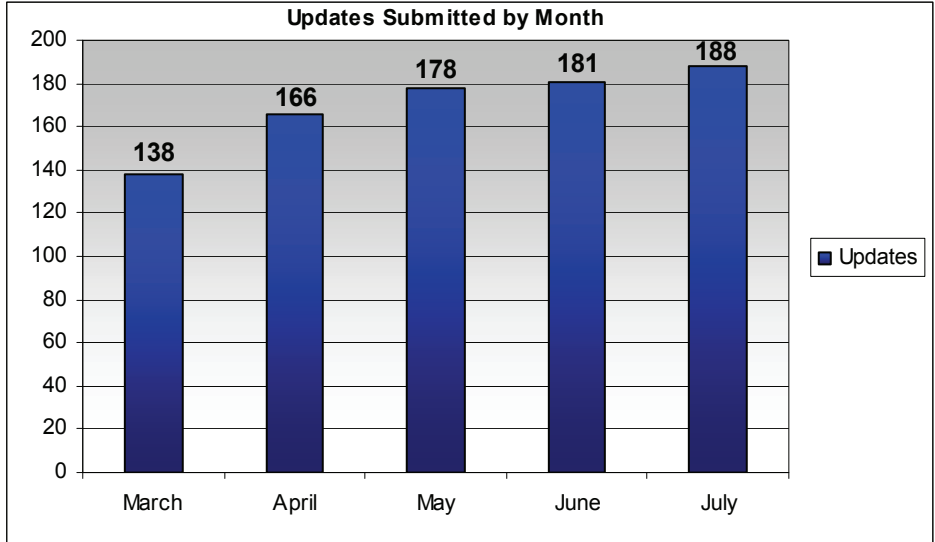
The least common changes submitted were the type of school, whether public or private (zero), and F or M designation (two). The data collected in this category was fairly consistent with the data collected from the previous period reported.

SCB anticipates larger increases in updates/edits as Recertification approaches.

Outreach Efforts Continue to Rise

The Outreach Branch has been active in planning, coordinating and participating in conferences this fiscal year nationwide.

Last year, Outreach coordinated and participated in 36 outreach events, which included national, regional, state and local conferences and teleconferences. This year, Outreach has reached 59 venues, which yielded a 63.9% increase from the previous year. This significant increase in SEVP’s Outreach efforts with its stakeholders has made it one of the most recognizable organizations within the U.S. Immigra-



The diagram above shows the frequency of Form I-17 Petition Updates/Edits from March 2008 through July 2008. The updates/edits continue to rise for the remainder of the fiscal year.

tion and Customs Enforcement.

This year’s focus has been on SEVP Updates, Petition for Updates and the new Fee Rule. Following each presentation was a time allotted for a question and answer session. The question and answer session allowed audience members to speak directly with SEVP staff members for guidance, clarification of policies and/or procedures and insights into school certification.

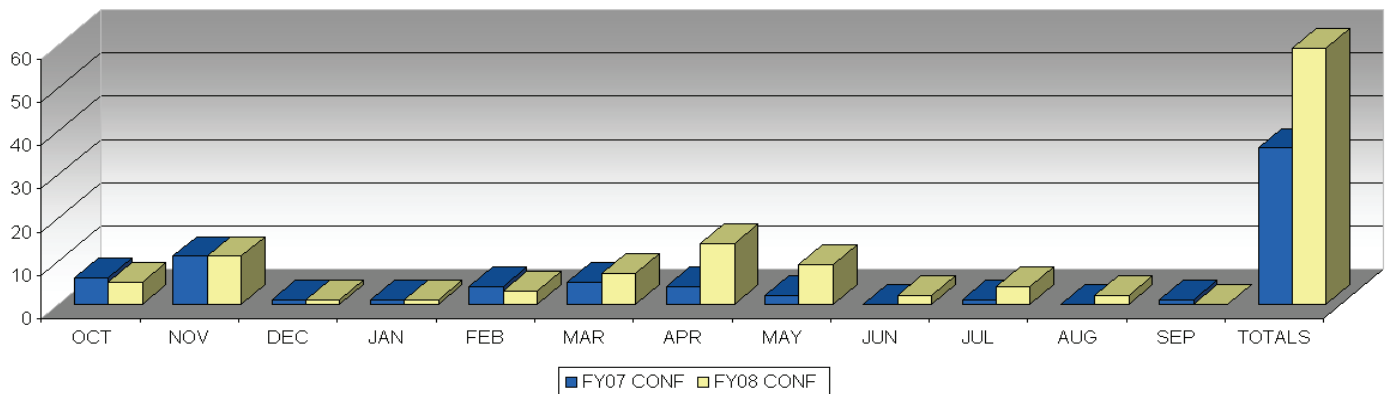
The SEVP Updates showcased current trends and statistics pertaining to SEVIS-certified schools, their demographics and their student’s

demographics.

Additionally, there were procedural updates from the Information Technology, School Certification and Policy Branches presented.

The Petition for Updates presentation focused on preparations for recertification. Information included

In a month-to-month comparison by fiscal year, the most conference increases occurred between March through July. Declining months occurred in October, February and September.



	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	TOTALS
FY07 CONF	6	11	1	1	4	5	4	2	0	1	0	1	36
FY08 CONF	5	11	1	1	3	7	14	9	2	4	2	0	59
% IINCREASE	-16.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	-25.00	40.00	250.00	350.00	200.00	300.00	200.00	-100.00	63.89



procedures to prepare now in anticipation of recertification.

The Fee Rule presentations aided in launching the roll-out. These presentations explained the reasons for the increase, the benefits for the increase and how SEVP's viability depends on it. The four primary benefits for the Fee Rule were:

1. SEVIS II Implementation
2. Additional CEU
3. Recertification Resources
4. School Liaison

Fiscal Year 2009 will be another exciting year for SEVP and Outreach as planning and coordinating for various venues are already underway and the list continues to grow.

Mission Support Branch Continues to Manage, Monitor

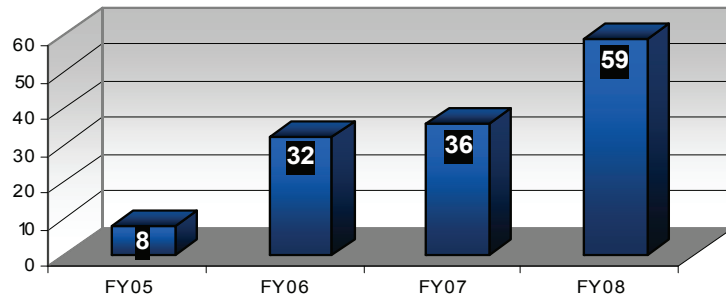
The Mission Support Branch (MSB) within SEVP continues to manage, monitor and evaluate fees that SEVP receives from school certification.

MSB recently worked closely with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Management and Budget to procure additional collected fee money to pay for the accelerated development of SEVIS II. This will help ensure that the robust and state-of-the-art database will be online in time to meet the established Presidential timelines.

MSB continues to closely monitor fees coming into SEVP and are working to predict how that will fund our expanded liaison and recertification efforts for Fiscal Year 2009 when the fee rates are scheduled to increase.

MSB continues to maintain its role of monitoring and tracking the incoming I-901 and I-515A forms.

Total Conferences by Fiscal Year



In comparing fiscal years, FY08 has been the most active year in conference participation to date with a nearly 64% increase as compared to FY07.

This increase in conference participation has been largely attributed to the new Fee Rule and associated changes within SEVP.

Outreach wishes to thank all the academia, organizations and associations for allowing SEVP to participate in their venue.

SEVIS Toolbox Corner:

Publications for the Public.

The following links are either web sites or Acrobat PDF format. Acrobat PDF formats require a free Acrobat Reader program. If your computer does not have the latest Acrobat PDF Reader, click [here](#) to download the latest version.

1. [Sign-up](#) for Free ICE E-

newsletters.

2. [The ICE Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report](#).
3. Public Information [frequently asked questions about ICE](#).
4. FAQs for [Students and Exchange Visitors](#).
5. FAQs for [Schools and Programs](#).
6. The latest [I-901 Information](#).
7. Contacts for [Outreach and Training](#).
8. FAQs about [SEVIS](#).

ICE

Contact Information

- All general inquiries: SEVIS.Source@DHS.gov
- General telephone number: (202) 305-2346
- Technical questions:
 - Email: SevisHelpDesk@EDS.com
 - Or call the SEVIS Help Desk: (800) 892-4829
 - ♦ between 8 AM and 8 PM, EST
 - For urgent, technical issues: ToolBox.SEVIS@DHS.gov
- I-901 questions:
 - Check the web: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.htm>
 - Or email SEVP: FMJFee.SEVIS@DHS.gov
 - Or call the hotline: (314) 418-8833
- School Certification questions:
 - Email: SchoolCert.SEVIS@DHS.gov
 - Or call: (202) 305-2346
 - Or fax: (202) 353-3723



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