



For Immediate Release

Contact:  
Melanie Gottlieb, Deputy Director, AACRAO  
(202) 355-1055  
gottlieb@aacrao.org

## **Perceptions of immigration policy changes cause concerns for international students and their families about study in the U.S.**

*Institutions express concern about yield.*

Minneapolis, MN – International student recruitment professionals report hearing a great deal of concern from students and families all over the globe, with the highest percentage of concerns emanating from the Middle East (79%), India (46%), Asia excluding China and India (36%), and Latin America (34%). Released today by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) in partnership with the Institute of International Education (IIE), the International Association for College Admission Counseling, and the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the final report of the [“International Applicants for Fall 2017 – Institutional & Applicant Perceptions”](#) reveals concerns ranging from perception of a rise in student visa denials at U.S. embassies to concerns that benefits and restrictions around visas could change.

Last month the group issued an early release of key findings from their February 2017 member survey due to the increased and continued focus on immigration issues. The inter-associational survey was conducted in response to expressed concern from international educators that the political discourse leading up to the November 2016 U.S. presidential election could be damaging to institutional recruitment efforts.

This snapshot data could be an early indicator of a potential slowdown or decrease in international student enrollments for the Fall 2017 enrollment period, a decline which would have major negative economic impacts for institutions and could potentially result in an increase in tuition for U.S. students. Other key survey findings include:

- 77% of institutions expressed concerns regarding application yield, with data that aligns closely to the countries of concern.
- 38% of responding institutions report a decline in international applications, 35% reported an increase, and 27% reported no change in applicant numbers.

"The survey results suggest a rising level of concern on the part of institutions that fall enrollments in the United States may be impacted by perceptions that the U.S. is becoming less welcoming of international students," said Michael Reilly, Executive Director, AACRAO. "Institutions are struggling to reassure students that their studies or travels will not be disrupted by future policy changes during this period of tremendous uncertainty."

The [full report](#) is available on the AACRAO website.

*AACRAO is a non-profit, voluntary, professional association of more than 11,000 higher education professionals representing approximately 2,600 institutions in more than 40 countries. Its commitment to the professional development of its members includes best practice guidance on admissions strategies to meet institutional diversity objectives, delivery of academic programs in innovative ways to meet the needs of a changing student body, and exemplary approaches to student retention and completion.*

###