



## Professional International Educator Roundtable – PIER

### Minutes PIER Meeting

Wednesday March 26, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

California School of International Management

#### **A. Welcome**

Michael McManus the President of the California School of International Management (CSIM) gave a warm welcome to the PIER Members. He has a long history of working with international students. He was proud to announce that The California School of International Management had just received its accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and doctorate degrees.

The California School of International Management gave a short presentation about their programs and facilities for schools who may have students interested in studying there in the future.

#### **B. Traditional Introduction of PIER Members**

#### **C. Representatives from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Ernesto Soriano and Arnold Cordova introduced themselves.**

- a. Ernesto Soriano Supervisor at Clairemont DMV Office  
Phone: 619-688-3215 Fax: 619-688-0239
- b. Arnold Cordova Office Manager 1 Normal Heights DMV Office  
Phone: 619-688-3107 Fax: 619-688-0239

#### **D. The Representatives from SSN could not attend at this time. We hope that they can attend a PIER meeting at a later date.**

#### **E. DMV information**

- a. The best resource for information about the DMV is on the website at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)  
Many transactions can be done online such as making an appointment to take the driver test or register car (except driver tests), take a sample driver test, locating offices, download the Driver Handbook, get forms and brochures.
- b. If you have a large group of students who want to take the written test at the same time, please contact Arnold to set up an appointment. It could be possible at the Normal Heights location.
- c. A DMV representative can come to your campus to speak to students about the DMV process. Please contact Arnold Cordova to make arrangements.
- d. The written driver test is given in 100+ languages. Arrangements must be made beforehand if the applicant would like to take the test in another language other than English. An additional test is given to these students to confirm that they understand various traffic signs.
- e. The Drivers Handbook is available in 30 languages.

- f. The “behind the wheel” driving test is given in English only.
- g. All countries must take a driving test along with the written driving test.
- h. **Applicants must bring: their passport, I-94, I-20/2019 and if available, their home country driver license when applying for a driver license.**
- i. The Hillcrest DMV Office will be remodeled in the near future to accommodate the DMV and housing at the same location.

**F. The following questions were submitted to Ernesto and Arnold prior to the PIER Meeting**

1. **How long after students enter the U.S. should they wait before applying for a California driver license?**  
There is no time frame, they can apply upon arrival.
2. **What about the SAVE system and DMV?**  
There is no access to SAVE for 30 days. A secondary verification from the DMV “Legal Presence Verification Unit” will be sent to the applicant if the DMV can not verify legal status.  
Legal Presence Verification Unit  
P.O. Box 94280 Mail Station G204  
Sacramento, CA 94290-0001  
Phone: 916-657-7445
3. **We used to have a phone number in Sacramento to call to check whether they have the student's information regarding entry into the U.S., after which they can apply for the license (I forget the name of the office). What is that phone number and can we still call there?**  
Please see the answer to question # 2. You can call this phone number.
4. **Do all international students have to have an SSN in order to apply for a CA ID/driver’s license? (I have had several students’ applications rejected because they did not have SSNs).The Oceanside DMV continues to ask some students for proof of a Social Security Number or refusal letter. This is an additional step which delays the issuance of their permanent driver license. Why does the DMV continue to ask for a SSN?**  
This is a training issue. No SSN is required to apply for a California driver license. If you continue to have this problem, ask to speak to the manager at the DMV location. The applicant signs off that they are ineligible to receive a SSN. If the applicant is eligible to get a SSN then they must show their SSN when they apply.
5. **With the REAL ID act, the driver license will be issued for the duration of the visa not the I-20 or I-94. Nonimmigrants can have an expired visa, but legally be in the U.S. What proof would the DMV like shown if the visa in the passport is expired? What about students on Optional Practical Training (OPT - Work Authorization for one year) or students with a pending or approved extension to their current status?**  
The duration of the visa does not matter. The expiration of the driver license is based on the I-94. It D/S is written on the I-94 then the license will be issued for a duration of 4 birthdays from application date. If the extension or change of status is pending, they must wait until it is approved. They would need to bring the approval notice to the DMV. When the I-94 has a date certain these applicants are given their license until the departure date given on the I-94.
6. **If the driver license is issued for the duration of the visa, what plan does the DMV have when the nonimmigrant can not renew their license based on this fact?**  
Nonimmigrants are allowed to drive in the U.S. with their home country driver license.
7. **My students have been told at the Oceanside DMV that they are ineligible for a driver license if they are in the U.S. less than two months? Can they drive on their home country license with an international license translation?**  
If the I-94 departure date is less than 60 days from the application date, the license can not be issued. Yes, please see the answer for question #6.

- 8. I would like to receive clarification regarding the process for international students to receive a CA driver's license. I'd like information for both those over the age of 18 with no license from their home country and also for those who have a license from their home country. It seems like a simple question, but a number of our students have had very different experiences. I never know exactly how to advise them.**

Applicants must bring: their passport, I-94, I-20/2019 and if available, their home country driver license when applying for a driver license.

Applicants over 18 can apply for a driver permit which allows them to drive with a driver over the age of 25 until they pass their written and driving test. Information about applying for a driver permit can be found online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) and in the California Driver Handbook.

- 9. We had a name of someone at the Hillcrest DMV to ask for if a student was having a problem (I have that at home. I'm out of town right now). Is the name and phone number still correct? And can we have a contact person and phone number at the Clairemont DMV and at others around the county in case the student wants to speak to a supervisor?**

Yes. Their contact information is above.

- 10. How many mail-in renewals can a person have before they must take the written test?**

Two renewals by mail are allowed then the applicant must appear in person. If there are no outstanding citations prior to expiration, applicant can renew by the internet.

- 11. Can a b1/b2 nonimmigrant apply for a driver license?**

Yes, they must bring the same documents as students and scholars except no I-20/2019.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**