

# SENIOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS GROUP

**PARTNERS ON A GRAND SCALE**

**BIG**<sup>®</sup>  
ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

# About the Senior International Officers Group (SIOs)

One of the seven core groups of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the Senior International Officers advance their universities' mission of comprehensive internationalization through strategic collaboration. The Big Ten Academic Alliance SIOs work together to:

- Share policies, data, best practices, and lessons learned from successes and challenges alike;
- Increase visibility, leadership, and advocacy of global education and research; and,
- Develop strategic signature collaborative projects that establish a shared international presence and extend opportunities to students, faculty, and staff.



**113**  
APPLICATIONS  
OVER 4 YEARS

**39**  
PLACEMENTS

## PROFESSIONAL PEER COMMUNITIES

Institutional leaders of key areas and functions impacting international education enjoy trusted consortial communities in which they exchange information and data and explore collaborative efforts to address areas of collective interest.

### International Students and Scholars Directors

Engage in peer consulting and community conversations regarding mutual areas of responsibility, such as:

- International students and scholars' support
- Immigration regulations
- Government, embassies, and foundations' relations
- Cross-cultural community exchanges

**GLOBAL**  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



### Study Abroad Directors

Come together to learn from one another and thereby advance their shared missions to:

- Assist students in pursuing education opportunities globally and domestically
- Offer credit-bearing study abroad, exchange and academic internship opportunities
- Foster global partnerships that aid students abroad as well as greater university

### International Marketing & Communications Professionals

Exchange approaches and explore strategies for:

- Creating consistent and creative marketing for university global initiatives
- Presenting university global footprint to local and international partners
- Serving as liaisons between university communications and related Global Affairs offices

## PROVIDING GLOBAL REACH

### International Research Experience Program (IREP)

Piloted in 2018, the Senior International Officers and the FIGURE Network partnered to create the International Research Experience Program (IREP). This program brings together 31 French universities and the Big Ten universities to facilitate short-term research experiences for French students enrolled in the competitive FIGURE Network Curriculum in Masters of Engineering (CMI).

Using a competitive process, participating Big Ten universities select CMI students for a 3-6 month research experience in their area of STEM study. Big Ten universities gain additional global perspectives in their labs and further graduate school recruitment interests. IREP scholars benefit through exploration of their research interests and advancement of academic or private sector career opportunities.

“My experience was great. I learned a lot about research . . . had great opportunities . . . and I would love to [come] back to do a semester abroad.”

**2024 IREP Scholar**

### Professional Development Program on Internationalization

This program offers selected staff who support international scholars and programs the opportunity to gain a better understanding of university internationalization strategies.

Webinars and interactive virtual meetings explore the current state of global education. Speakers include current Big Ten Senior International Officers and representatives from international partners. The program’s capstone experience is an international field experience in which participants take part in meetings, educational, and cultural sessions with international partners in higher education and others.

“I think no matter what position or office someone comes from; this program will open eyes to new ways of thinking about campus internationalization and provide an important opportunity to build a professional network across Big Ten institutions.”

**2024 Participant**

“The Senior International Officers (SIOs) are a highly collegial and collaborative group that meets regularly to explore issues related to global engagement. Perhaps more than any other sector in our profession, international education was hit hardest by the pandemic. Our group banded together, sharing ideas and expertise to overcome the challenges posed by a world health crisis and the almost complete halt to student mobility that ensued. As we rebound from Covid, the Big Ten SIOs look to forge even stronger ties within the group, with enhanced staff development opportunities and possible programmatic collaboration on the horizon.”

**Russell Ganim**

Associate Provost & Dean of International Programs  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



The Big Ten Academic Alliance is the academic consortium of the world-class research universities in the Big Ten Conference and the University of Chicago. By casting our collective futures together, we can fulfill our missions and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

#### Core Member Groups

- Provosts
- Chief Information Officers
- Deans of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Graduate Deans
- Senior International Officers
- Procurement Directors
- University Librarians
- Vice Provosts for Faculty Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
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