



Amy VanSurksum, EdD Biography

Amy VanSurksum, EdD, has worked in international education for over 27 years. Her institutional work experience includes international enrollment management, foreign credentials analysis, recruitment, admissions, international student advising and support services, study abroad administration, and leadership. She has worked at institutions in the US and UK at both the secondary and post-secondary levels at various types of institutions, including secondary school, community college, public and private colleges and universities. More recently, she worked at ApplyBoard, an agent aggregator EdTech company, and currently works for Studyportals as Senior Vice President of Business Development in the US. Amy's initial foray into international education was her study abroad experience in Russia, and she hasn't looked back since. She holds a bachelor's degree in Russian

Studies and International Relation from Concordia College-Moorhead, a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology from North Dakota State University, and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs from St. Cloud State University. Amy lives with her husband and rescue dog on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state.

Statement

From the moment I stepped off the airplane in Russia in 1997, my life changed forever and my career path was set. I developed the intercultural skills we all talk about as the effect of studying abroad, but the most important skill I learned was empathy. As an international student for over 9 months, I learned what it was like to be the "other." Upon my return to the US, I entered the world of work as an international student advisor, vowing the help international student feel safe, welcome, and enabled to do great things. I have dedicated my entire career to supporting international students throughout their educational journey.

As your Service Provider board member, I would take my fiduciary duty very seriously, insuring that AIRC board decisions reflect the mission, vision, and values of the organization, showing up ready to contribute to the organization and membership, and drawing on over 27 years of experience to keep the best interest of all members, the students we serve, and the future of the state of international education at the heart my contributions to AIRC. Not only have I served my time in international

education, I have held roles at all education levels and types of institutions, including the agent and service provider side. I have served the International Enrollment Management community in various roles over the years, including NAFSA state, regional, and national committees, my own community as a board member, Vice President, and President of the Olympia World Affairs Council, and board member roles with other organizations. My holistic view of international enrollment management and my previous board experience make me the best suited candidate for this role. The world is changing, and as an organization AIRC has to be nimble enough to meet the needs of all stakeholders all while upholding the highest ethical standards, being innovative, and bravely advocating for the policies and principles that best support international students.

I would be honored to serve in this inaugural role as the first Service Provider board member. I promise to represent all Service Providers ethically and enthusiastically, keeping in mind the professional needs of all other member types throughout my time on the AIRC board.