



## **Jonathan (Jon) Weller, PhD**

### **Biography**

Jon Weller, PhD, is the Director of Operational Innovations at the University of Cincinnati, where he has served in various enrollment management leadership roles for 25 years. A life-long Cincinnati, he earned a Bachelor's from Xavier University and a Master's degree and PhD from the University of Cincinnati (UC).

Jon spent most of the past 20 years leading UC's international enrollment efforts, including helping create the International Admissions Office and

growing UC's international undergraduate enrollment to over 1,500 students. He helped UC gain national attention for its undergraduate international enrollment efforts and success, frequently presents at national and international conferences, and responds to media inquiries related to international enrollment. Jon has served in numerous roles with AIRC: Association for International Enrollment, including currently serving on its Board of Directors.

Jon helps lead UC's enrollment strategies and serves on various committees and task forces related to domestic and international enrollment. He also created and implemented the Global Opportunity Scholarship that partners with NGOs to provide scholarships for academically gifted, but extremely financially challenged, international students.

Jon currently serves as Director of Operational Innovation where his team supports 60,000+ applicants to UC, including first-year, transfer, and graduate students. In this capacity, he works collaboratively with colleges to establish and enforce admission requirements, provides continuous improvement in enrollment processes, and works to remove barriers and increase access for all students.

In addition to his Enrollment Management responsibilities, Jon is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Organizational Leadership. He has created, and continues to teach, popular classes, such as "How to Change the World" and "How to Combat Human Trafficking". He has also led nearly 100 students on his study abroad programs through his "Changemakers: Lessons Learned through Travel in the Developing World" course.

## Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve as President-Elect for AIRC: Association for International Enrollment Management. AIRC has played an instrumental role in my professional career of international enrollment management, and I am grateful for the ways in which I have been able to contribute back to AIRC over the years, including serving on the Board of Directors for the past two years.

I will always cherish my relationship with AIRC. The University of Cincinnati (UC) was a founding member of AIRC and I was fortunate to be able to participate in its evolution even before it was founded. As AIRC became a national organization, my primary roles were related to external site reviews. Serving as one of AIRC's first and most active external reviewers, I conducted over a dozen reviews throughout the world and remain in close contact with many of these agencies today. I was also honored to receive AIRC's inaugural Quality Assurance Award.

I, and my team at the University of Cincinnati, regularly attend the AIRC conference and frequently present at national and international conferences, as well as participate in various other formats around the country to stress the importance of international enrollment being conducted through efficient, and most importantly, ethical means. We are proud of our accomplishments at UC, including not just significant international enrollment increases – but enrolling high quality students who are engaged on campus, serve as leaders at the university, and flourish academically.

The international enrollment landscape is facing unprecedented changes. My own university, for example, has 700 fewer international students enrolled today as compared to one a year ago. Despite these challenges, there are opportunities to find new and innovative solutions to international enrollment. Serving as the premier professional organization for international enrollment for the past two decades, AIRC can play a critical role in leading the industry during these difficult times. We can continue to expand our focus to address a wide range of areas related to international enrollment, continue to serve as an inclusive organization that welcomes all institutions, and maintain our commitment to being the gold standard for agency certification. Simply put, the industry needs us to lead – and we are well-prepared to meet these challenges.

I believe that my experience in a wide range of enrollment and academic roles at the University of Cincinnati - a large, complex, public university experiencing unprecedented enrollment growth – as well as my long history of serving AIRC in several different formats, and my commitment to hearing from all voices, has prepared me to lead AIRC through these times in a way that is meaningful and dynamic. Together, we can set the course for international enrollment for years to come.