



Study Alabama Consortium for Global Engagement and Economic Development (SA/CGEED)

August 28, 2015

SA/CGEED Naming History

This organization has its origins with the **Alabama Council for International Programs (ACIP)** established in the early 1980's as an organization of representatives of the International Education offices of the universities and colleges in the State of Alabama.

In 2004 in collaboration with the ACIP council the Study Alabama concept was initiated under the guidance of Jim Ellis, PhD, the last elected secretary of the organization. StudyAlabama.org has been shepherded since then as the overall ACIP organization fell dormant in 2008/2009.

In the summer and fall of 2014 in collaboration with the US Dept of Commerce Birmingham office and Dr. Ellis the concept of revitalizing the study Alabama efforts were reinitialized under the working name entitled “**The Alabama Higher Education Consortium for Global Engagement and Economic Development/Study Alabama (ACGEED/SA)**”. An organizing meeting took place on February 12, 2015 in collaboration with universities and colleges, the Alabama Dept. of Commerce and the US Dept of Commerce in Montgomery, Alabama.

At this abovementioned meeting all the designated institutional representatives from universities and colleges originally affiliated with ACIP voted unanimously to merge ACIP as a whole into this new study Alabama effort (ACGEED/SA). These representatives furthermore formed a organizing committee working group with the charge of fostering the merger of the ACIP efforts, the working bylaws into the new organization. The OC met both electronically and in person during the summer of 2015 and as a result of these meeting has acted to:

1. establish a web presence by issuing an RFP and selecting/engaging a vendor to begin the establishment of a formal web marketing presence of the organization and all its members
2. develop a final set of bylaws for the organization including a final name for the organization which is now proposed as **Study Alabama/Consortium for Global Engagement and Economic Development (SA/CGEED)**.
3. initiate the steps required to establish the organization.

UPDATE NOTATION: In December of 2015 SACGEED was formally recognized in the State of Alabama as a non-profit organization. In the Spring of 2016 the US IRS 501c3 designation was received retroactive to December 2015.

**An Abbreviated History and Background Documentation on the
Alabama Council for International Programs (ACIP)
January, 2013 – Jim Ellis, Ph.D
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/james-jim-f-ellis-jr/10/165/562/>**

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**ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
HOW IT ALL BEGAN (4/2004)**

B. Onuma Okezie, Ph.D.

Stemming from a concern for lack of State support for International Education and Exchange Programs, Dr. B. Onuma Okezie, in 1983, organized and conducted a survey of Alabama four-year Colleges and Universities to determine whether any of them had any involvement, and to what extent, in international activities, either through teaching, research, outreach or exchange programs. The idea behind this was, if there were institutions that were already engaged in international activities, to try to bring them together as an organized stakeholders or group to serve as a voice or an advocate for, or to promote and bring awareness of the importance and role of international education, research and outreach to citizens of Alabama, particularly, the State legislators in order to generate their necessary support of the programs in a sustainable and effective way.

The result of the survey showed that 98% of the colleges and universities that responded to the survey were already engaged in one form of international activities or another, ranging from having had even one faculty member participation in Fulbright program overseas to elaborate involvements in various aspects. Those few who reported no involvements indicated that they would be interested in establishing such programs like international studies as part of their curriculum and faculty/student exchange programs with institutions in other countries.

It is to be mentioned that as a result of the Title XII legislation (Freedom from Hunger and Famine Prevention Act) passed by the U.S. Congress in 1975 by which U.S. Land-Grant

Colleges and Universities were to be enabled to develop capacities to assist the U.S. government to render technical assistance to developing countries, and in an attempt to have an effective response to Title XII, thirty-two Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in the Southeast of the U.S. came together and formed the South East Consortium for International Development (SECID). Alabama A&M University, Auburn University and Tuskegee University were three Alabama Land-Grant Universities that were members of SECID. As Dr. Okezie began to share his concerns about the limited or total lack of interest in International programs within the State with his colleagues, such as Dr. Don Richardson, the then Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Auburn and the Auburn's SECID Trustee and with the Executive Director of SECID, Dr. Ed Vickery, suggestions were made to find a way of getting more Alabama Universities to participate in the International Development programs in which the three Alabama members of SECID were already engaged. For Dr. Okezie, such increased number would mean increased strong voice and awareness of the importance of International involvement in the State. But because the SECID membership was limited to land-grant universities, it was not possible to invite more Alabama Universities to join the Consortium. Then Dr. Richardson, Dr. Vickery and Dr. Okezie decided to work out a way for SECID to partner with a group of selected Institutions in the State in International Activities or Programs of mutual benefits. This culminated in the formation in 1984 of the Alabama Council for International Development (ACID), which was made up of Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama and University of Alabama, Birmingham. A Joint Memorandum of Understanding (JMOU) was entered into among the members of ACID and between it and SECID (which provided financial support for ACID's meetings) for the partnership or mutual cooperation and engagement in International Development Activities.

This appeared to be a step forward in increasing participation and awareness of the importance and need of such involvement in international programs by institutions in Alabama. However as time went on, Dr. Okezie thought that more still had to be done to enlarge the membership of ACID and broaden its scope to include other aspects of international dimension such as educational exchanges and study abroad than development assistance. Thus in 1987, he submitted a formal proposal to ACID for such enlargement of membership and a clearly defined set of objectives with suggested activities that could be carried out for accomplishing the objectives.

That proposal is reproduced below.

*WIDENING THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT*

Dr. B. Onuma Okezie

1. *A philosophy of the organization that should be seen as primarily responding to the individual and collective needs of the member institutions should be explored and defined. It should embrace long-term commitments in international dimensions in our various program foci including areas of research, service (or outreach) and classroom teaching.*
2. *The purpose of the organization could also be expanded to include:*
 - (a) *the fostering of development and growth of international education within the State of Alabama through cooperative and collaborative international programming and activities between the member institutions in particular and other state institutions in general.*
 - (b) *the fostering of better communication among member institutions and between their faculty and students in areas related to international activities.*
 - (c) *Fostering cooperation and collaboration in technical assistance projects abroad. This is our major objective at the present time and should be expanded to include cooperation in research and training.*
 - (d) *Support for and/or commitment to international education and development. It should include the promotion of public support for international education and development within the state and on the federal level.*
3. *Activities*

We might think of expanding our activities that will correspond to the philosophy and purposes as indicated to include conferences and workshops either regional or statewide; exchange of information on curriculum, on education exchange, on study abroad and the like; the suggested development of listing of faculty competencies, experience and interests in international area; an inventory of international related activities in Alabama institutions and the institutional contact persons. The brief survey that I conducted earlier, could be expanded to provide for the type of information envisioned above.

4. *If there are committees in the State Office of Education dealing with issues that would affect international education and development, we should seek representation.*

As might be seen, this proposal did not get very far. Members of ACID were not ready for such large steps. Later on in the same year (1987), Dr. Okezie received a communication in the form of a survey, from Dr. Jeral Williams, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, University of South Alabama, seeking information about institutional activities in International affairs or education. Dr. Okezie wrote to him informing him about a similar survey that he conducted in 1983 and sent him a copy of the instrument and the results. He and Dr. Okezie exchanged information and collaborated on the questions of how and what to do with the survey information. After a series of consultations with other stakeholders, Dr. Williams organized a series of meetings on International Education between 1987 and 1988. These meetings involved discussions on incorporating global education in A.C.H.E.'s list of educational priorities. At one of those meetings at Auburn Montgomery on December 2, 1988, a formal name for this International Education Meeting organization as Alabama Council for International Programs (ACIP) was agreed upon and thus ACIP was born. For all intents and purposes, ACID became subsumed under ACIP.

After ACIP was formed, Dr. Okezie advocated that the organization (ACIP) should take steps to assume leadership as knowledge based stakeholder spokes-organ and advocate for international education in the State of Alabama. He suggested ACIP goals/mission and specific objectives and activities for achieving the goals and which were similar to the ones presented to ACID on which no action was taken. But again, and just like ACID, most members of ACIP were lukewarm or not ready for such level of responsibilities. It is clear that up till now not a great deal has been done as far as those proposed goal, objectives and activities are concerned.

ACIP has made some progress since its 14 year existence. Much of the achievements is attributable to the leadership provided by such persons as Dr. Robert Fornaro who has served as its Secretary/Treasurer since its establishment. The current leadership is making concerted efforts to reshape and strengthen the organization and to ensure that it plays its appropriate role of building, strengthening and promoting effective and sustainable international education, research and outreach in the State of Alabama.

Alabama Council for International Programs History Update (1/2013)

Jim Ellis www.linkedin.com/pub/james-jim-f-ellis-jr/10/165/562/

In October of 2000 I came to Alabama as Director of International Education at Auburn University. According to the information available at that time ACIP had to a great extent gone relatively dormant for a few years prior to 2000. However in 2000, ACIP as an organization in collaboration with the University of Alabama and the then ACIP treasurer Robert Fornaro (University of South Alabama) a Fulbright Group Program Abroad proposal was submitted for the ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS PEACE STUDIES SEMINAR: EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. This program was to be conducted in the summer of 2001. This program was awarded and coordinated through the ACIP leadership, UA and USA. A second proposal was developed beginning in 2001 following the success of the Egypt program and submitted in 2002. This program was titled: ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FACULTY SEMINAR GUATEMALA: DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN A TRADITIONAL SOCIETY to run summer of 2003. This Fulbright Group Program was awarded in Coordination to be done through the ACIP leadership with leadership this time from the University of South Alabama and UA.

In September of 2009 ACIP agreed to partner with the University of South Alabama on a Fulbright GPA proposal titled “Fulbright GPA Seminar Republic of Korea: "From Tradition to Modernity: A Half Century of Change and the Role of P-20 Education and Work Force Development in the Republic of Korea – University of South Alabama, Inha University (Korea) and the Alabama Council for International Programs”. This proposal was NOT funded by the Fulbright Program primarily due to lack of funding resources for the US side of the program (costs associated with the pre-departure, costs to the participant, and matching source funding).

ACIP continued to have active meetings of the roughly 14 member institutions on a twice yearly basis through Spring 2008. During this time period meetings moved from a rotational basis to meeting in Montgomery to allow better coordination with the then Alabama Development Office, ACHE and to make the meetings more readily accessible for all members (from the north to the south of Alabama). The focus of the organization became one of attempting to connect all the international interests of the schools with the economic development efforts of the State of Alabama. Given the increasing efforts by schools in the US to recruit more international

students and to send more students abroad the organization agreed with the establishment of the “StudyAlabama.org” concept in 2005. At that time and in support of these efforts Dr. Jim Ellis established the domain name at that time and has maintained the domain since that time (including retaining domain ownership since its inception).

ACIP meetings continued through Spring 2008 however with retirements and changes in the leadership at the various institutions in the state and the increasingly dire economic conditions in the state the organization entered a period of dormancy which remains to this date. The treasury of the ACIP was formally transferred from USA to UA between 2000 and 2005 in preparation for the retirement of Dr. Fornaro (USA) and then again transfer efforts began in the Fall of 2007 to the University of North Alabama where it rests to this date (1/2013) with an approximate balance of funds in the range of \$40,000 from accumulated membership fees and matching fund remainders from the various grant/project efforts. Dr. Robert Adler (UNA) became the ACIP treasurer following on the planned retirement of Dr. Jane Stanfield (UA) who became ACIP treasurer following the retirement of Dr. Fornaro who was treasurer for many years. For all the meetings held in Montgomery the treasury covered meeting costs for one member institutional representative (voting) attending the semiannual meetings and this included: hotel room expense, meeting rooms and all meals during the two day meeting. No per diem or other expenses were covered.

Per all available records the last membership roster for ACIP was for 2008-2009 and included:

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Athens State University
- Auburn University
- Birmingham-Southern College
- Huntingdon College
- Jacksonville State University
- Samford University
- Spring Hill College
- Troy University
- Tuskegee University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Montevallo
- University of North Alabama
- University of South Alabama
- University of West Alabama
- United States Sports Academy (assoc.)

Leadership changes in the ACIP following 2000 included the following:

President – 2009- present? (2013) Michael Howley Alabama State University

Vice President – position was vacant beginning 2009.

Secretary Jim Ellis 2005-present? (2013) – (previously with University of South Alabama, now IE consultant)

Treasurer – 2007-present? (2013) Robert Adler University of North Alabama

Past Presidents:

Ana Burgamy 2008-09 University of South Alabama;
Mark Anderson 2007-08 Athens State University;
Josh Carter 2006-07 University of Alabama Birmingham;
Curtis Porter 2005-06 Troy University;
Jim Ellis 2004-05 Auburn University;
Anne Ledvina, 2002-2004, Birmingham-Southern College

Past Vice President: (the position of VP serves both as VP and president elect. as of 2005) this position was vacant as of 2009

Past Treasurers:

Jane Stanfield 2003-05 University Alabama;
Robert Fornaro *-2005 University of South Alabama

Past Secretary:

Josh Carter 2004-05 University of Alabama Birmingham;
Ana Burgamy *-05 University of South Alabama

* there is no information currently available on the early years, this record may be in paper historical files which have not been reviewed. ACIP records were managed in the early years through the University of South Alabama and it is understood that there are files in the university archives as well which have not been reviewed.

Approved
04/15/04

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (ACIP)

ARTICLE II: MISSION

ACIP shall provide leadership for international education in the State of Alabama through advocacy, development, and implementation of shared goals.

ARTICLE III: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Goal 1: ACIP shall play a key leadership role in the relationship between and among State and educational agencies and institutions involved in international education and affairs.

Objectives:

- a. Establish an international education policy for the State.
- b. Establish ACIP as the State advocate on behalf of International Education.
- c. Organize a systematic exchange between ACIP and ADECA, the ADO, the Tourism Board, ACHE, Post Secondary Education and Others.
- d. Establish a regular inventory database of international initiatives and resources.

B. Goal 2: ACIP shall foster structures of support for international education throughout the State of Alabama.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a non-profit educational foundation to support ACIP goals.
- b. Develop an international scholarship program for students, faculty, and professional administrators.
- c. Develop a network of communication between institutions, businesses, and agencies involved in international education.

C. Goal 3: ACIP shall promote and facilitate the implementation of international initiatives and programs through collaborative and innovative partnerships

Objectives:

- a. Develop grant opportunities for international study and research.
- b. Develop joint community and international programs throughout the State.
- c. Develop study abroad partnerships.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

A. INSTITUTIONAL

Membership is open to all post-secondary institutions of higher education in the State of Alabama. Each member institution shall have one vote. The chief academic officer of each member institution shall appoint an institutional representative with voting power and may appoint an additional non-voting representative. All employees of member institutions are considered affiliates and may be invited to participate in ACIP activities

by the President of ACIP or at the suggestion of the designated voting representative and/or chief academic officer of each member institution.

B. ASSOCIATE

Associate membership may be extended to other organizations, agencies and entities as associates. Associate membership is not accompanied by voting privileges.

ARTICLE V: DUES

Institutional members of ACIP shall pay annual dues to be determined on the basis of student enrollment and shall be paid prior to the fall meeting. These dues shall be set annually at the spring meeting and approved by the ACIP board. Associate members are not required to pay dues. Associate members are expected, however, to make material contributions toward the achievement of ACIP goals. "Material contribution" shall be understood to mean active participation in and promotion and sponsorship of ACIP programs and activities.

ARTICLE VI: GOVERNANCE

A. BOARD: The ACIP board shall consist of the voting representative of each member institution.

B. OFFICERS: The officers of ACIP shall be a President, a Vice President, a Past-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers comprise the Executive Committee of the board. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President. All officers shall serve one-year terms.

C. DUTIES:

1. The President is the Chief Executive Officer. He/She shall preside at the ACIP Business and Executive Committee meetings. The President appoints, assigns duties and directs the activities of all standing committees. He/She designates Chairs of Standing or Ad Hoc Committees.

2. The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President. He/She shall plan the programs of ACIP for the fall meeting with the advice of the Past-President; he/she shall undertake any other duties as the President shall direct. He/She shall become President for the remainder of the term if the President should for any reason be unable to serve.

3. The Secretary fulfills all secretarial duties of ACIP and shall prepare and disseminate the minutes of all meetings of ACIP to all members at the start of each meeting. The Secretary shall maintain a permanent file and historical archive.

4. The Treasurer shall receive and account for membership dues and all funds received on behalf of ACIP. He/She shall provide annual reports including revenues and expenditures, fund balances and fund management as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall advise and instruct his/her successor to ensure the effective continuity of the Treasury functions of ACIP.

5. The Past-President, in addition to serving as Chair of the Nominations Committee shall advise the Executive Committee.

D. ELECTIONS: Elections shall be held at the spring meeting and officer installation at the fall meeting. The Executive Committee officers shall be selected from among institutional representatives. With the exception of the President, officers may be re-elected or stand for election to other offices. The general duties of the Executive Committee are to ensure the efficient operation and governance of ACIP and to represent ACIP to other organizations, agencies and entities.

ARTICLE VII: OPERATIONS

The operation of ACIP will be managed through two standing committees and ad hoc committees as needed. The two standing committees are (1.) the Executive Committee, chaired by the President and (2.) the Nominations Committee, chaired by the Past-President. The activities of all committees shall be reported to the board.

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee of ACIP shall formulate and plan for the achievement of ACIP goals and objectives. The annual report of the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the board for its approval at the spring meeting and shall consist of a financial report and a summary of activities and achievements.

B. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: The Nominations Committee shall consist of no more than four members appointed by the President in consultation with the Past-President, who shall chair the Nominations Committee. The Past-President shall make the committee's report to the board at the spring meeting, prior to the elections. For each elected vacant office, the Nominations Committee shall select a slate of at least one candidate who has indicated a willingness to serve if elected. Nominations of other willing candidates may be made from the floor during elections. A simple majority is required for election.

C. AD-HOC COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE: The ACIP President may establish an Ad-Hoc Committee as he/she deems necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the association.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

ACIP shall hold two general meetings per year. Procedures at all business meetings of ACIP shall be according to Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IX: QUORUM

For the purpose of transacting business of ACIP, a quorum shall consist of those present at any duly called meeting where a written notice and agenda are sent out at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. A simple majority resolves all issues except the amendment of the Constitution/By-laws.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be reviewed and amended at any meeting of ACIP, provided the proposed amendment has been distributed to all members no less than 30 days in advance of the meeting. An amendment shall be passed by two-thirds majority of the voting representatives of ACIP.