

June/July 2011

eNEWSLINE

Management Education News from AACSB International

Reflections and the Path Ahead



by Andrew Policano
Chair, AACSB International Board of Directors
Dean, Paul Merage School of Business
University of California, Irvine

It has been my honor to serve you over the last one and a half years. I have had the pleasure of talking with many AACSB members and have found the diversity of schools and cultures to be impressive and invigorating. At no time in our history has the potential for business schools been greater. With many emerging economies throughout the globe, the importance of business education continues to grow. AACSB has played a significant role in establishing the standards for business school quality worldwide, and will continue to play a prominent role in helping schools along the path to excellence.

At the same time, we are all facing many challenges. Funding from governments for public universities in many countries is coming under pressure as many other needs compete with higher education. Business schools, which have been moving toward financial self-reliance for some time can help lead the way on publicly funded campuses, helping the campus as a whole move to a healthier financial situation. Moreover, while political tensions across countries continue to exist, business schools can help chart a path for greater economic integration and overall cooperation across nations by promoting peace through commerce.

As I hand over the reins to my good friend and impressive successor, Jan Williams, I am happy to report much progress over the last year. With the reports on innovation and globalization, we have reconfirmed AACSB's role as a thought leader on critical issues and we have brought useful, insightful information to our membership. With the appointment of the advisory council for Asia and the continued work of the European Advisory Council, we have broadened our infrastructure to receive global inputs for all of the activities at AACSB. And finally, with the appointment of the new Blue Ribbon Committee we are ensuring

that our standards for accreditation remain at the cusp of what the best research, teaching, and service in our discipline should be.

With that I want to congratulate John Fernandes, Jerry Trapnell, and all the AACSB staff members for their accomplishments this year and their continued excellent work. At the same time let me thank all of you as well for all you do for your schools and for our profession. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next AACSB gathering.