FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIRC commends NACAC for balanced agent decision

BETHESDA, MARYLAND - July 28th, 2011. AIRC commends the NACAC Board for its Statement on Incentive-based Compensation for International Student Recruitment, which was issued today. In its statement, NACAC's board called for the appointment of a commission to make recommendations regarding incentive based compensation and ethical practices for international student recruitment, among other things. NACAC also deferred recommending any change to its Statement of Principles of Good Practice that would ban the practice of paying recruitment commissions.

"This decision represents clear and careful thinking about some very complicated issues, and AIRC is very pleased with the balanced outcome," said AIRC Chair and President Stephen Foster, "In view of NACAC's new directive, AIRC continues to extended its hand, and proposes collaborating in a joint task force composed of institutional members of both organizations to work on issues of common concerns. AIRC has also invited NACAC to nominate an individual from one of its own member institutions to sit on the AIRC Certification Board."

AIRC thanks the many institutions and organizations who have contributed to this dialogue, and wishes to specifically single out the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) for its call for further deliberation.

In view of these important and positive developments, AIRC calls upon the U.S. Department of State to revisit its September 2009 "Policy Guidance for EducationUSA Centers on Commercial Recruitment Agents," which has caused significant harm to the efforts of many U.S. colleges and universities. "The time has come for all parties to make a hard and critical review of this policy guidance and, to either abandon it or substantially revise it to align with current realities," stated AIRC co-founder and current Vice President Mitch Leventhal. AIRC endorses the proposal to establish a national export council for higher education, which would bring the State Department, Commerce Department, NACAC, AIRC and others to a common table, with the objective of aligning strategy and effort. According to Leventhal, "Now is the time for the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to enter into a productive dialogue with all parties for the common good."

For more information about AIRC and how it sets quality standards for international student recruitment agencies, please visit the AIRC website at: www.airc-education.org

For additional information, contact:
John Deupree, Executive Director, AIRC, tel: +1 240 547 6400, info@airc-education.org

ABOUT THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT COUNCIL - Founded in June 2008, the AIRC is a Standards Development Organization (SDO) officially registered with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. Its mission is to develop standards of ethical practice pertaining to international student recruitment to American educational institutions and to establish a certification framework for international student recruitment agencies. The AIRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.