



**Winner of the Marjorie Peace Lenn Research Award – Dr. Eric Leise
October, 2023**

AIRC is pleased to announce that this year's winner of the Marjorie Peace Lenn Research Award is Dr. Eric Leise, Director of International Admissions at South Dakota State University. Eric will present his dissertation research, *The Role of University Structures and Cultures in Internationalizing Higher Education*, at the Student Voices Plenary Luncheon at AIRC's Annual Conference in Phoenix on Friday, December 8. The Plenary will also include a panel of international students sharing their experiences being recruited to and studying in the United States.

Eric commented: "Being selected as the recipient of the Marjorie Peace Lenn Research Award is humbling and makes the endeavor of writing a dissertation all the sweeter. My goal in researching internationalization strategies was to allow for reflection on how we engage in this important work. It is my hope practitioners and scholars can apply lessons learned from this research to deepen our commitment to ethical, thoughtful, and impactful internationalization."

The Selection Committee praised Eric's research for the way it "embodies the essence of internationalization in that it includes a non-U.S. lens to investigate a long-standing lexicon, 'internationalization' as it relates to emerging leaders in international education...identifying how our innate and cultural backgrounds can drive our strategy with respect to comprehensive internationalization." They added, "Understanding the axiology of one's institution can ground all other endeavors and connecting enrollment strategies with institutional value is critical to enrolling the best aligned students from abroad and removes much of the focus away from the quantitative headcount."

Dr. Leise began his career in international education as the first study abroad advisor at the University of South Dakota, and since then he has worked across all areas of international education. Having traveled to over 40 countries on all continents (sans Antarctica), Dr. Leise brings an empathetic and ethical praxis to his passion for advancing the cause of international education. In his free time, Dr. Leise enjoys walking his long-hair dachshunds, baking bread, concocting new food fusions based on his travels, playing in the dirt, and watching sports.

Dr. Leise received his Bachelor's degree in German Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, his Master's in German and European Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and his Doctorate in Educational Administration at the University of South Dakota.

AIRC congratulates Eric and looks forward to his presentation at the Annual Conference!