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**MEMORANDUM**

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To: International Education Program Administrators

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b) DACA Applications Require I-765 Applications

c) "Secure Personal myE-Verify Accounts" Accessible in 16 More States Including NY and NJ

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1) Miscellaneous Items of Interest

a) CBP/JFK Deferred Inspection Unit Relocated

Customs and Border Protection in New York City has recently announced that the Deferred Inspection Unit at JFK Airport has been relocated from the American Airlines terminal to the Jet Blue Airlines Terminal 5 Arrivals area across from Baggage Belt 6.

The new unit is available Monday-Thursday 9-2pm. The telephone numbers are (718) 553-3683 and (718) 553-3684.

b) DACA Applications Require I-765 Applications

On January 20, USCIS emailed a reminder for those requesting DACA relief that Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) with required fee must be filed with the DACA application (Form I-821D). The filing of the I-765 is mandatory for both initial and renewal DACA applications.

c) "Secure Personal myE-Verify Accounts" Accessible in 16 More States- Including NY and NJ

USCIS announced by email of January 13 that myE-Verify accounts which have been provided with secure personal and self lock features in 5 states and the District of Columbia have been extended to use the self-lock feature on social security numbers to prevent unauthorized or fraudulent use within E-Verify accounts. 16 new states are included. These are: California, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Eventually the self-lock feature will be available nationwide.

d) J-2 Spouses of J-1 Successful MAVNI Citizens Exempt from Home Residence Requirement

As the result of a question having arisen regarding USCIS treatment of J-2 spouses of J-1 visa holders who are subject to the 2 year home residency requirement, but who have become U.S. citizens under the MAVNI program, it was announced on January 8<sup>th</sup> that:

A J-1 exchange visitor subject to INA 212(e) who enlists in the military under the MAVNI program is not required to comply with the foreign residence requirement or obtain a waiver in order to naturalize under INA 329. As such, DOS has determined that a J-2 spouse or child of a J-1 who naturalized under MAVNI is also not required to

comply with the foreign residence requirement or obtain a waiver in order to adjust status as a lawful permanent resident.

Therefore the J-1 spouse of the new citizen may now receive a greencard as the immediate relative of a US citizen without being subject to the two year home residence requirement.

2) Government Resources on Cuba Normalization Available

On December 17, President Obama announced a thaw on US relations with Cuba. Regulations and answers to questions are now beginning to flow. The Department of the Treasury has released a Press Release and a Fact Sheet regarding regulatory amendments to Cuba sanctions. The Press Release is [here](#). The Fact Sheet may be found [here](#). Questions addressed include travel, money transfers; and the fact that \$100.00 of tobacco products and alcohol may now be imported. Cuban cigars and Cuban rum are back!

3) Severe Hardship Employment Authorization for Syrian F-1 Students is Extended

The *Federal Register* of January 5, 2015 carried a Notice extending employment authorization for Syrian F-1 nonimmigrant students experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the civil unrest in Syria. The extension will remain in effect until September 30, 2016. The F-1 Syrian student must have been lawfully present in the United States in F-1 nonimmigrant status on April 3, 2012 enrolled in an institution certified for F-1 student enrollment under SEVP, currently maintaining F-1 status, and experiencing severe economic hardship as the result of the Syrian civil war which began in March 2011. The Notice applies to both graduate and undergraduate students. Primary and secondary school students are also covered. However, the extension may apply differently to them. The *Federal Register* Notice may be found [here](#).

4) TPS Developments

a) TPS Extended for Syria

The *Federal Register* of January 5, 2015 also carried an extension of Temporary Protected Status for Syrians for 18 months through September 30, 2016 for individuals who are already in TPS status. The *Federal Register* notice may be found [here](#).

b) TPS Extended for El Salvador

The *Federal Register* of January 7, 2015 carried a Notice by USCIS

extending the designation of El Salvador for Temporary Protected Status through September 9, 2016 for El Salvadorians who are presently in TPS status. The *Federal Register* notice may be found [here](#).

5) NYC ID Cards Available

The City of New York announced on January 12, 2015, that New York City Identification cards are now available (with a picture of the Brooklyn Bridge-of course). The cards will be issued at enrollment centers across the city and are free in 2015, although fees may be charged in the future. The applicant must prove her or his identity with documents that include passports, driver's licenses, or birth certificates from the United States or elsewhere, among other options. The card will provide access to city buildings and free membership in various zoos, museums, and facilities throughout the city. It will also be accepted as a library card at the three public library systems in the city, and may be used to open bank accounts at several (unnamed) banks and credit unions.

Although the idea behind the card was to provide lawful documentation for undocumented aliens, all new Yorkers are being encouraged to apply so that the card is not limited to undocumented individuals and does not become a scarlet letter. The card has become very successful and the enrollment centers have been overwhelmed. Applicants must now make an appointment. Details may be found at the New York City website at [NYC.gov/site.idnyc](http://NYC.gov/site.idnyc). The card seems like a good way for international students and scholars to get discounts to NYC attractions.

6) Sheriff Arpaio's Lawsuit against the Obama Executive Action Program Dismissed

Last month's Memorandum contained an item that Sheriff Joseph Arpaio of Phoenix (Maricopa County), Arizona had sued the administration in the US District Court in Washington, DC to eliminate the President's Executive Action programs. On January 6, a Judge denied the Sheriff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction against the United States and federal officials. Apparently, Sheriff Arpaio, who is also known for making county prisoners wear pink underwear, has been told to change his approach.

*Many thanks for your comments, your suggestions and your confidence in us, and for referring your students, scholars and faculty members.*

*Please let us know if you have any questions, or if you would like copies of any of the materials covered.*

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