CIHE at 25: Building on the Past, Embracing the Future

In 2020, the Boston College Center for International Higher Education (CIHE) will celebrate a quarter of a century of research and service to the global higher education community. As we look forward to this important milestone, we are pleased to be able to share some exciting news regarding some upcoming changes in our personnel and structure.

The Center was established and led by Philip Altbach for nearly 20 years, from 1995 to 2013. In 2013, following Philip’s retirement, Hans de Wit was appointed as Director. Since 2015, the Center has also had a full-time Associate Director on staff (Laura Rumbley, from 2015 to 2018, and Rebecca Schendel, since March of this year). Throughout our history, the Center has retained its commitment to undertaking and disseminating the application of international knowledge and critical analysis to higher education policy and practice globally.

In the second half of 2020, Hans de Wit will step down as the Center’s full-time Director, in order to spend more time with his family in Amsterdam. At the time of this transition, a new structure will be put in place, which will support future growth and development within the Center and help us to ensure that we can continue to contribute our research, teaching and service to Boston College and the broader, global international higher education community.

As of the academic year 2020-21, Philip G. Altbach and Hans de Wit will share the role of Academic Director of CIHE, each on a part-time basis (Phil onsite in Boston, and Hans remotely from Amsterdam). In addition:
- Rebecca Schendel will assume the position of Managing Director of the center, responsible for its daily administrative and academic operations, with Salina Kopellas continuing as full-time administrative assistant
- We will recruit a new full-time faculty position in international higher education (open rank, tenure track/tenured), who will help us to strengthen our academic activities in research, teaching, dissemination and professional development
- CIHE will continue to invite visiting professors to join the center for one- or two-year stints, in order to bring important new perspectives to our teaching, research and service. Betty Leask is our current visiting professor and will continue in that role until Summer 2020.
- Graduate assistants, research fellows and visiting scholars will continue to play an important role in our ongoing activities.

This new structure will help us to provide continuity and strengthen our work, enabling us to build on the foundations of the past, while looking forward to the needs of the future. In the next 3-5 years, the center will appoint a new full-time Academic Director to replace Philip Altbach and Hans de Wit.

2020 is an exciting year for CIHE, as we look forward to these changes and also anticipate acknowledging two important anniversaries: the 25th anniversary of CIHE, and the 100th issue of our flagship publication, International Higher Education. We look forward to celebrating all of these events with our extended network of colleagues and friends.

September 2019

Boston College Center for International Higher Education
Philip G. Altbach, Founding Director
Hans de Wit, Director
Rebecca Schendel, Associate Director