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New AIU President

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AIU Alumni
Unbreakable Spirit

American InterContinental University

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John Kline
AIU President

Message from New President of AIU

As AIU alumni, you know that our university is deeply committed to providing students with the best educational experience possible. We strive to ensure that AIU is always looking ahead to the future, and a large part of that involves making sure that our leadership continues to be forward-facing. It is with this mindset that we are excited to introduce John Kline as the new president of AIU.

With over two decades of experience guiding the leadership and direction of numerous higher education institutions – Including the role of Executive Vice Chancellor of Operations for Argosy University and Senior Vice President here at AIU – John Kline has earned a distinguished reputation as an innovative leader. John is also a passionate advocate for students, and has worked to develop programs and support systems that help to bring balance to the learning experience throughout students' degree paths. His sincere understanding of how best to deliver solutions that meet the needs of today's students makes him an ideal candidate to lead AIU.

"It's an honor for me to build upon AIU's strong foundation and continue to help more students realize their full potential," said John Kline. "At AIU, our students' success is our success," continued Kline. "That's why we have an unwavering commitment to ensure they continue to learn the skills and knowledge that will help them advance in their career now and in the future."

John Kline assumed the role of President as of March 2016, succeeding the position from Dr. George Miller. Dr. Miller, who remains on the Board of Trustees, will retain the title of Chancellor and continue to oversee AIU's ground campuses. Dr. Miller is certain that, despite the transition in leadership, AIU remains in good hands.

"John has a strong track record for boosting student engagement and helping non-traditional students reach their goals," said Dr. Miller. "He has already made a difference in furthering several initiatives that make our institution even more student-centric."

We at AIU are excited to welcome John Kline into his position as President of the university, and look forward to seeing where his leadership and direction will guide us.

Unbreakable Spirit: AIU Alumnus Anabel Velasquez



AIU students know that success doesn't come easily. It's built through hard work, dedication and sheer force of will. No one knows this better than AIU alumni Anabel Velasquez.

Anabel is a textbook example of a great American success story. As the mother of four children, her life was anything but simple. Over the course of her degree pursuit, Anabel experienced great personal loss, including the death of loved ones and a failing marriage. This type of strain could have easily broken her spirit, but Anabel's faith and determination to succeed saw her through her hardship.

"I will not allow our circumstances to be used as an excuse..."

"I am all [my children] have and I have to lead by example," she said. "I will not allow our circumstances to be used as an excuse to NOT be able to reach the dreams that we have in our hearts. If we really want it, no circumstance can stop us. Our circumstances WILL NOT and DO NOT define how far in life we can really go."

Despite the challenges she faced, Anabel was fortunate to have a

strong support system in her life. She credits her boss with providing the inspiration and encouragement to pursue her degree.

"When I first started my Associates degree, I was an admin assistant in the healthcare industry," she said. "My boss back then believed in me...even when I didn't believe in myself...but she was the one who guided and encouraged me in going back to school. She knew that my home life was not ideal and that only by going back to school would I be able to have some breathing space and not have to work so much. She helped set the stage for my educational path. I have been so blessed with her mentoring me."

After Anabel completed her Associate of Business Administration degree, she soon moved on to her Bachelor's in Business Administration-Healthcare Management. Not one to say things are just "good enough," Anabel soon returned to pursue her Master's in Business Administration, thanks in part to the encouragement of her co-workers.

"A long time ago, as a little girl, I had these dreams of making my mark on the world," she said. "Somewhere along the way, I seemed to have lost my way, but those three women that had whispered words of encouragement back then helped me with getting back on track. Their words could still be heard in my heart- 'keep on going - do it for you.'"

However, Anabel cites another inspiring source in her life- her children.

"In reality, it's really not for me- it is for my children – who continue to be my true inspirations...." Anabel said. "Obtaining my Master's degree had always been a goal of mine, but it always boils down to my children – I think of them constantly."

To add further complications to her life, Anabel managed to complete her degree programs while dealing with the painful fallout of a divorce.

"Although I was married at the start of my educational path, it was on a road that was sinking to nowhere fast, and I knew that I had to do something to ensure my children and I didn't drown alongside with those that were determined to take us with them," she said.

During this difficult time, Anabel turned to her friends and family for support, as well as her AIU advisor.

"I was able to overcome these hurdles that life threw in my way because I had the support of AIU behind me."

"I was able to overcome these hurdles that life threw in my way because I had the support of AIU behind me, amongst my family and my friends," she said. "I shared my story with my advisor who became my advocate... AIU was my cheerleader, nudging and cheering me along, leading me in the right direction. AIU was there when I needed a breather, but with the reassurance that I could continue right where I left off and when I felt it was okay to. AIU gave me the motivation to tackle life. AIU helped me find my purpose and my passion. AIU helped mold ME to BE ME."

Today, Anabel Velasquez works as a Computing Information Systems Analyst for a University in California, a job she absolutely loves. Along with the practical knowledge she learned at AIU, she also credits the online program itself for preparing her for her current career.

"An online program is much harder than an in-person program and being diligent, engaging in the discussion boards and in group assignments, submitting our individual projects on a timely basis are all abilities that one must develop and polish up in order to be successful," she said. "With all of this 'practice' at AIU and all the while still working, and dealing with life itself, self-management comes as second nature to me in my career."

Even though Anabel's path to her degrees was trying and filled with

challenges, she adamantly believes it was worth it.

"Seeing and actually FEELING the raised embossed letters on the front, opening it to see MY NAME on that diploma...this is just something I don't have enough words to describe," she said. "Those sleepless nights that turned into mornings and the sincere effort of putting my all into these chapters in my life – I had something tangible to PROVE that I did it. There is so much meaning to these diplomas than it being just a fancy document to hang on my wall or display in my office. There is an actual STORY

behind each one – not just milestones, but stories and chapters of strong-willed determination to complete what I've started."

When asked what words of advice she could offer to others looking to pursue their degrees, Anabel offers the same enthusiastic encouragement that set her on her own path.

***"Just GO FOR IT!
Go for it with
all of your heart!"***

"Just GO FOR IT! Go for it with all of your heart! Yes, adding schoolwork to an already hectic schedule, life in general, and its crazy demands – I AM the poster child with a chaotic and crazy life, but that is just another reason to pursue that grad level degree! Life is going to continuously pass you by – another week, another month...another year...there will ALWAYS be obstacles in your life – that is why they are called "obstacles" – they are meant for you to go over." 📖

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Career success will depend largely on the effort put into studies, job search efforts, experience and attitude. The experience of this alumnus is not representative of all students. This graduate story is unique and may not represent typical experiences or outcomes for our graduates. Graduates should expect to pursue entry-level opportunities in their chosen fields.

University News

AIU Launches AIU Mobile App!

In December, AIU piloted the new and improved AIU Mobile app to a select group of students and the app received an overwhelmingly positive response. We're excited to announce that as of January 11, 2016 AIU Online students can download AIU Mobile onto their iOS® and Android™ mobile devices.

Here are a few features of the app that we're excited to provide students:

- Post discussion boards
- View course materials
- Attend Live Chats or listen to Live Chat archives
- View grades for current course(s)
- Receive "push" notifications related to grades, assignments, or discussion board posts

This is an exciting step for AIU, as mobile apps are becoming more of a necessity for our student population. Read what some of the students who piloted the app had to say about it!

To view the full details on the AIU Mobile app via the Android and iOS operating systems, please view the full user guides at: aiuniv.edu/students/online-learning-support/mobile-apps

Please email AIUMobile@aiuonline.edu with any questions you may have about the app! 📱

"The mobile app for AIU puts all of your course information in the palm of your hand. I love the fact that you can see and access all of the information about every assignment, including the grade you received for a particular assignment. It also includes the link to any feedback left from your professor. Very simply... the best app to have when you're away from home!" – Sandy C.



"This quick, easy to understand app, does not fall short of the exceptional products AIU provides to ensure the success of their students." – Patrick D

"This AIU Mobile app is very helpful to keep track of your schoolwork both at home and on the go. And you're able to still view and see things as if you're on a computer." – Cassidy G.

AIU Recognized by U.S. News & World Report!

Several of AIU's online degree programs earned recognition in the prestigious U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs listings for 2016. We are honored to be included in these rankings and are very excited to share this news with you. We hope you take as much pride in it as we do!



Most notably, the university's online bachelor's programs ranked at No. 30 in the listing of 2016 Best Online Bachelor's Programs among a total 300 schools included. AIU's MBA and M.Ed. programs also ranked among the 2016 Best Online MBA Programs and 2016 Best Online Graduate Education Programs.

U.S. News & World Report is one of the leading providers of consumer advice and analysis and is a trusted resource for students exploring their options in higher education. For the 2016 Best Online Bachelor's Programs, it evaluated schools in four categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, and peer reputation. Criteria for graduate-level programs also included admissions selectivity.

In the 2016 Best Online Bachelor's Programs listing, AIU ranked ahead of many other universities, including American Public University System (No. 58), DeVry University (No. 120), Kaplan University (No. 137) and University of Phoenix (No. 150). See the full rankings at usnews.com/education/online-education. 📱

University News

Business Program Update

New Forensic Accounting specialization in the Bachelors of Business Administration degree program!



January 2016 the University began offering the new specialization which focuses on all aspects of financial reporting including fraud examination, security and loss prevention, and cybercrimes.

Check out the new specialization now!

aiuniv.edu/forensic-accounting-program-sheet

Education Program Update

In addition to being regionally accredited, the full Masters of Education program is programmatically accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) as of October 2015. TEAC supports the preparation of competent, caring, and qualified professional educators through an evident-based accreditation process.



Learn more about the education program today!
aiuniv.edu/degrees/education

Updates from University Program Dean Dr. Jeannette Jones



To better serve teachers pursuing their M.Ed. degree and help meet the needs of the market, effective for the January start, the M.Ed. specialization in Elementary and Secondary Education now have a tuition price of \$15,000, excluding fees. (Note that this pricing is ONLY valid for the

Elementary and Secondary Education specialization and not the other four M.Ed. specializations.)

Our full M.Ed. program is now TEAC-accredited. TEAC, the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, supports the preparation of competent, caring, and qualified professional educators through an evidence-based accreditation process.

Message from Kristy Kotek: Director of Alumni Services

“ Alumni,

I am deeply proud to serve and support the alumni community as your new leader. I have been in



various roles within the student service departments at AIU for over twelve years and assumed my current role in October 2015.

The commonality I have recognized in our students

and alumni over the years is their desire to succeed despite challenges and hurdles along the way. I'm always inspired by your stories and look forward to strengthening relationships and the services we offer.

Since graduating from AIU, each of you has taken your own journey. Whether you graduated yesterday, last year or a decade has passed, AIU plays a role in your personal story. That makes you a part of our network of more than 120,000. AIU's diverse Alumni Association is unlike any other university across the globe. I encourage you to reflect on the community you are a part of and take full advantage of the programs and services available to you as an alum. Graduation may be behind you, but your relationship with AIU extends far beyond the years you spent at AIU.

I will continue to focus on how to better reach, serve and engage you – our graduates – because I believe the power of our alumni network is unlimited if we stay connected. Please contact me to share your stories, suggestions and feedback, because you also play a role in strengthening our community.”

Kristy Kotek

Where do I go Next? Brian Solar, Career Coach



Congratulations, you have completed a long and arduous journey by earning your degree, and were able to take a giant step forward in your career. Now, a question comes to mind, “Where do I go next?” It is a question that may not have a singular answer. Let’s look at one of those possible answers in continuing your education. While your first step may be complete, there are many benefits into continuing forward. You are able to invest in your career, further develop and enhance your skills, and look into additional opportunities.

One of the larger barriers that students and recent graduates come across is that they compartmentalize their education and experience/career, and see them as separate entities, when in reality; the two should go hand in hand. Your education is an investment into your career. First, research your chosen field. A great start could be utilizing the Interest Profiler at <http://mynextmove.org/explore/ip>. This can help assess your ideal career interests that are

tied into your personality traits. Based on this research, does it help solidify your initial career aspirations? Or has it caused you to reconsider your career trajectory? There is no way to achieve your goal, unless you know what your goal is. Once you have this solidified, the next step is to look into the educational avenues that fit into your career plan.

The key to a successful career approach is to not only identify what you are skilled at, but also knowing what you need to improve upon. There are two different types of skillsets; your soft skills, and your hard skills. Both can be equally important to an employer. Soft skills are those that can span across many fields, but are extremely valuable. These can consist of collaboration, conflict resolution, negotiation, and critical thinking, to name a few. Your hard skills generally relate more specifically to your industry, for example specific software, payroll, report creation, and project management to name a few. Your skills are an ever evolving trait that you start gaining while you are young, and that growth continues forward. Continuing your education is a great way to strengthen your current skills while gaining new skills, which can help fill in those skill gaps.

When looking into new opportunities, especially when switching career fields, the best thing you can do is research. There are many great tools on the internet to start your search, and the Department of Labor provides great statistics and analysis of industry and positional trends. Do not be afraid to network. As they say, “It’s all about who you know,”

and within the job search, this holds true. Start with your friends and acquaintances. Gather information that they may know, and look to meet people within the industry. If you are not able to gain this information from friends/family or acquaintances, reach out and make your own contacts. Also, there are many industries have organizations that hold events and meetings. Join these organizations and become involved. These people work in the industry and can be a great resource. LinkedIn is another great option. It allows you to research and reach out to others who work in a field or an organization of interest. All these efforts can lead to Informational Interviews, which can be invaluable. These are meetings or conversations that you have with individuals in an industry or organization that you are interested in for the purpose of information gathering. Your goal is to gain as much information as you can to make a sound decision on whether the industry is right for you, as well as skills and education you may need to obtain in order to be successful.

Whether you are looking to change or further your career, gain new skills, or learn a new talent, continuing your education may be the best option for you. The person in charge of your next step forward is you.

Contact Career Services at 877-221-5800 option 6 for career assistance. 📞

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Employer Development

Employer Development Servicing You

Every year, the Employer Development team at AIU facilitates regular Employer Information Sessions (EIS) for students and alumni. These sessions can be a gold mine of information for those in the job market because they are a great way to learn about opportunities and network with employers. Through the sessions, you are served up insights on topics ranging from organizational culture, open positions and the recruiting process. Many employers

also share tips on how to prepare for an upcoming interview. Employers also welcome questions from participants giving you the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the organization and its careers. The sessions are a powerful career exploration opportunity that is conveniently broadcasted virtually.

Employer Development has welcomed top organizations to AIU, such as AlliedBarton, Verizon, West Corporation, ManTech and Acxiom,

to name a few. Most recently this past March, Hewlett Packard Enterprise joined the list when Global Strategic Talent Acquisition representative and AIU alum, Julio Hernandez, shared information about his organization's hiring process and needs.

To learn about the events be sure to keep an eye on your email for informational flyers and connect with AIU on social media – you don't want to miss out! 📧



AIU's Employer Development team is also excited to announce the newest version of the Employer Network job board. The team collaborated with CareerBuilder to incorporate an enhanced user experience along with the Featured Employer page to keep you informed on our employer partnerships.

The Employer Network's link remains the same:
jobs.net/jobs/aiu/en-us/

If you are currently not a user of the Employer Network, visit the page and create your account to get started today!

The Employer Network is just one tool AIU provides that connects students and alumni with employers and their career opportunities. To maximize your career search, leverage the resources and expertise of Career Services and partner with your Career Coach to develop an effective job search strategy.

If you have questions or need help creating your account please contact:
employerservices@aiuonline.edu
or careerservices@aiuonline.edu 📧

Gift of Education: AIU Alumnus Erica Watkins



Erica Watkins had a good job and good pay. But, once her first child arrived, she decided she needed more than a job she was content with. Erica wanted to launch a career where each job, experience and educational milestone contributed to her professional advancement. As a new mother with a new perspective, Erica enrolled at AIU and started her Associates of Arts in Business Administration. She took this step not only for herself, but to set a positive example for her child.

Erica jumped right into the Bachelor of Business Administration program specializing in Project Management after completing her associate level courses at the University. She enjoyed the learning platform and the online classes fit with her lifestyle as a working mom with a long commute. The benefits of her hard work were also materializing in different ways. “My education helped me gain valuable experience; it has helped me enhance my speech, my confidence, and my knowledge in various areas,” Erica stated. Her hard earned degrees were also advancing her career just

as Erica envisioned. She shared, “Shortly after my bachelor’s degree in Project Management, about three months to be exact. I was promoted to a Sr. Project Manager. It has been infinity and beyond since then.”

Many take a break and many stop after dedicating years to their educational studies. Erica took a different path. She was determined to charge forward. She pursued her Masters of Business Administration at her new second home – AIU. Her career continued to be positively impacted by her educational pursuits. “A little ways down the line, I landed my first six figure job. Thanks to my experience, degree, and perseverance.”

As an AIU alumnus, Erica also inspired others to pursue their educational goals at AIU. She opened the door of opportunity to four very important people in her life. “This was very important to me because I value education and have seen how it is a very important factor in our future to come.” Erica believes in leading by example and that investing in her future was one of the best decisions she made in her lifetime. “I took the steps and leap of faith to become a part of AIU because I had a vision and belief that not only can I make a difference in my life and children’s future, but to also be a positive influence and leader to others.”

Everyone’s educational journey starts somewhere. Erica’s began with a growing family as her point of motivation. Since then, she achieved three degrees, continuous career success and became the role model she intended to for her children. To add on to her list of accomplishments, Erica spread the

gift of education. With certainty Erica will leave her mark wherever she’s headed next.

The Alumni Association was honored to award an Alumni Referral Scholarship in Erica’s name in December 2015. Erica is a pillar in our alumni community and we are proud that she is a part of the AIU family. Congratulations on your success Erica! 🎓

Alumni Referral Scholarship

An education can change the trajectory of our lives, opening up possibilities, experiences and connections.

When AIU alumni refer a new student who attends AIU for one semester, that student can receive up to a \$1,000* AIU scholarship.

Learn more about how you can have a scholarship awarded in your name.

Click here to refer a student.
aiuniv.edu/alumni/referral-scholarship

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Online: www.aiuniv.edu/alumni
Email: alumni@aiuniv.edu

AIU® School Store is Online!

The AIU store features a variety of AIU merchandise. Whether you're a student, parent, or alum you're sure to find the AIU hat, shirt, or sweatshirt you are looking for.

Need the perfect gift? We can ship directly to you or to the doorstep of the AIU student on your list. Visit: www.estoresbyzome.com/aiu_online.php



Knowledge is Meant to be Shared

As an AIU® alumnus, you recognize the value of higher education. Now's your chance to share AIU with someone you know through the AIU Alumni Referral Scholarship Program. Refer a student and they could receive a \$1,000 Alumni Referral Scholarship given in your name.



Share AIU today!
aiuniv.edu/alumni/referral-scholarship

Join AIU®    

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Contact: Alumni@aiuniv.edu for more information.

Would you like the Alumni Association to Host an Event in your Area?

Send your inquiry to alumni@aiuniv.edu



AIU Alumni Association Mission

The mission of the AIU Alumni Association is to establish and strengthen a mutually beneficial relationship between AIU and its alumni, provide opportunities for the professional, social and intellectual growth of its members and enhance the stature of AIU by promoting its interests.

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