

• Pictures:





- A brief reflection about the event

SIREUS MEMBERS forum was an idea that was sparked in SIREUS' Working Group 4. Participants of the meeting expressed an interest in a SIREUS-hosted event in conjunction with NAFSA, an education conference in Washington, D.C. that took place on May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The participants of the meeting agreed that it would be a valuable opportunity for networking with representatives from Swedish and American academia.

The invitations to the event were distributed by each respective SIREUS Swedish Member University and SIREUS Affiliated American University. Each university got the opportunity to invite current or potential partners from other universities or other people interested in bilateral cooperation in academia. The result was 249 registered participants representing 16 countries, 23 American states and 94 universities. In total, 199 people attended the event, which took place between 6:30 PM – 9 PM on the rooftop of the House of Sweden on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The speakers of the event were Maria Brogren from the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C., Christer Bergman from SIREUS, Karin Hammar from SACC-USA, and Kelly Perry, a Thai American researcher, writer and strategist who performed [We Hear You – A Climate Archive](#). They shared relevant insights and expertise and further amplified the collaborative spirit of the event.

Overall, the event proved to be successful in allowing the participants to discuss opportunities that foster collaboration and innovation between Sweden and the U.S. With so many universities being represented, it was an excellent chance to network with potential partners – SIREUS and its members aim to increase talent mobility and knowledge exchange between Sweden and the U.S., and discussing this in a relaxed setting allowed for many connections to be made between the guests.

SIREUS is overall very happy with the outcome of the event, but there are areas of improvement that can be noted. To keep the costs of the event to a minimum, SIREUS decided to abstain from using a catering firm. This resulted in a significantly lower cost for the event, however, this meant that the staff of the event, which consisted of seven interns from SIREUS and SACC, oversaw that the venue looked neat, that the food was re-filled at the buffet, etc. There were a lot of duties to be done at the event, and therefore, the staff did not always have time to focus on the maintenance of food/venue. Therefore, one or two more members of staff is advised for a similar event. Additionally, had the event been longer, it could have allowed for more time to network. Because NAFSA was in full swing until approximately 6 PM and the sun was down at around 9 PM, it seemed appropriate to schedule the event for a duration of 2 and a half hours, however if the NAFSA schedule and the natural light would have allowed for more time, this could have improved the quality of the event.