

MEMORANDUM

To: Office of ISSS and Campus Community

From: Meredith A. Newman, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Faculty & Global Affairs

Date: March 6, 2017

Re: Dr. Alejandra Parra, Senior Director of ISSS

I am pleased to let you know that Alejandra Parra, Ed.D., has accepted the position of Senior Director for the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) effective March 13, 2017.

Dr. Parra has over thirty years of experience as an administrator in international education and an instructor and teacher trainer in language education. Among her many professional roles, she served as an administrator and academic supervisor of the International English Language Test System (IELTS) as she designed, implemented and directed programs at Talk International School of Languages. In 2004 she joined Nova Southeastern University (NSU), first as Assistant Director of the International Career Development Center in the Fischler College of Education. A year later she was promoted to Associate Dean for International Affairs. In this position she worked on expanding the college's academic opportunities internationally and she promoted international cooperation designing and implementing programs with foreign universities. From 2010 until present she assumed responsibilities as Associate Director for the Office of International Affairs, which included oversight of the Office of International Students and Scholars, SEVIS and other immigration processing and compliance requirements, the Optional Practical Training and Curricular Practical Training programs, and ensuring optimal staff training and development for optimal support of international students and scholars and service excellence throughout every aspect of their academic experience at NSU. Dr. Parra also oversaw the Office of Education Abroad, which operates study abroad programs, faculty-led programs and exchanges, and the Fulbright Scholar Program. In addition to her administrative leadership roles, Dr. Parra has taught as an adjunct instructor, given professional presentations at home and abroad, and published and edited publications. As an active member of international organizations, Dr. Parra has served as NAFSA Academy Coach, and she currently holds the position of chair-elect for the Florida Association of International Educators. Her hands-on experience with inbound and outbound mobility and direct participation in academic programs, program development and international education initiatives, gives Dr. Parra critical leadership skills needed as we broaden and deepen our campus internationalization efforts.

Dr. Parra earned a B.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language and also in Translation and Interpretation from the Córdoba National University in Córdoba, Argentina; an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language/Applied Linguistics from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, CA; and an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology and Distance Education from Nova Southeastern University with dissertation work on international cooperation in higher education.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Nancy Hernandez who assumed responsibilities as Interim Senior Director of ISSS and who so ably led the teams at MMC and BBC for the past 10 months.

I would also like to thank Dr. Hilary Landorf and the members of the Search and Screen Committee for their commitment and efforts in identifying this excellent candidate.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Dr. Parra to our campus family. Please lend her your support as she transitions into the position as Sr. Director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.