



November 25, 2019

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

A few days ago, SVA, together with over 110 colleges and universities, joined an amicus brief in support of international students, Optional Practical Training (OPT), and STEM OPT in [Washtech vs. DHS](#). You can download the brief [here](#). This case involves a legal challenge to the OPT program. OPT represents valuable experiential learning for our campus's international students, allowing them to obtain practical training that complements and expands upon their academic studies.

We joined this "friend of the court" brief to demonstrate our unwavering support for our international students and OPT. International students, scholars, and alumni bring a tremendous amount of diversity to campuses across the nation, including ours. We are deeply invested in the success of our students, and the continued existence of OPT is integral to the success of our international students. When international students thrive, we thrive. International students contribute to our campuses and communities with their talent, drive and diversity of perspectives. Our institution stands firmly alongside our international students, scholars and alumni.

International students in F-1 status with questions regarding OPT can contact the [International Student Office](#).

Thank you,

David Rhodes  
President