



Fanta Aw

CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**NAFSA: ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS**



Fanta Aw, PhD, currently serves as the Executive Director and CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, having previously held its presidency from 2013 to 2016. NAFSA is the world's largest and most comprehensive international education membership association with over 11,000 members at over 4,000 institutions in 140+ countries. NAFSA is dedicated to the advancement of international education and exchange.

Dr. Aw is dedicated to addressing pivotal issues. She often serves as a keynote speaker, sharing her expertise on various topics, including internationalization; international educational exchange; diversity, equity, and inclusion; women in leadership; global trends; geopolitics; public policy; and immigration. Dr. Aw is a champion for innovation and transformation in the realm of higher education. She speaks to the importance of humanity coexisting with artificial intelligence and the social responsibility of educators in preparing and nurturing the next generation of empathetic leaders.

Dr. Aw dedicated more than three decades to American University (AU) in Washington, D.C., where she earned a BS in accounting, an MA in public administration with a specialization in organizational development, and a PhD in sociology with a focus on international education, social stratification, and transnational migration.

During her 30+ years at AU, Dr. Aw held several leadership positions, including being the vice president of undergraduate enrollment, campus life, and inclusive excellence. She has been recognized as an award-winning lecturer while holding the title of Hurst Senior Professorial Lecturer at AU's School of International Service. Dr. Aw also actively participates on several boards including as a member of the board of directors of World Education Services (WES) and has previously chaired the ETS TOEFL board.

Dr. Aw is originally from Mali, West Africa and has lived in West and East Africa and the United States. She has interviewed by major media outlets including CNN, Agence France Presse, Forbes, China Daily, and many others.