February 2024

Inside this issue:
A Challenge to You: Gearing Up for the “New Normal” 2
“A Call for Papers” 2
The 95th SIEC International Conference 4
Keynote speaker July 30, 2024 6
We are trying something new this year! 6
Presentation at Vienna Business School 7
Introducing: The International Chapter of SIEC-ISBE 7
SIEC-USA News 8
Website upgrade 8
Internet Café 8
Educatng in aspects relating to Intellectual Property 9
SIEC-ISBE is Social! 9
Upcoming Events 10
Writing a structured abstract 11
SIEC Newsletter Guidelines 12
IJBE Guidelines 13
SIEC-ISBE Executive Committee 14
Conference Flyer 15

International President’s Message

Enhancing one’s own professional formation

I hope you are well, dear colleagues and friends.

The forthcoming international conference due to be held at Illinois State University will be the 95th one. A very round figure … Among others, it calls to mind those professionals who have worked hard before us to keep SIEC-ISBE relevant by providing meaningful professional development opportunities to the members.

It is our intention to continue assisting the organisation in achieving this mission. “Good learning is the source of all good” (https://sdcmuseum.org/). This is a saying from St George Preca, the only saint from Malta. He makes this statement in the context of the need for learning that empowers a better way of living, inviting us to continue searching for knowledge that enhances our human experience.

To this end, we invite you to participate in the professional development that is offered by the organisation. We thank the planning committee of the forthcoming conference for their sheer dedication. I have attended some planning sessions and can attest to their hard work. I believe that this will be another very nourishing conference, addressing topical themes such as the use of artificial intelligence. I urge you to participate and share your research and experience by submitting proposals.

I also invite you to enhance your formation by attending the professional development sessions that will be held throughout the year. These include a session on May 22nd on ‘Business Education in the Age of Generative AI’ and another one in October about ‘Threshold concepts’. We thank the experts who will be delivering these sessions free of charge to the organisation. Another aim behind these sessions is to make SIEC-ISBE relevant to those who might not be able to travel to the conferences.

Another fresh initiative is the Spring Research Symposium to be held on March 5th. The idea is that seasoned members provide feedback to young researchers. This is another attempt at making the organisation more relevant to young people. The themes submitted include ‘Empowering young people against financial crime’ and ‘Infusing entrepreneurship education in the business education subjects’. We look forward to interesting discussions.

Brandon Travis Ciaccio claims that “the pursuit of knowledge is never-ending. The day you stop seeking knowledge is the day you stop growing.” We therefore urge you to register for these events to continue enhancing your professional formation.

I sincerely wish you health and peace of mind and soul for this year 2024.

Dr Emanuel Mizzi
International President

We Want to Hear From You!
Please share your ideas, news, anything of interest to business educators around the world, or send your request to the “Collaboration Column”.

Articles and/or announcements to include in the next newsletter can be sent to:
Maree Liston
Newsletter Editor
mareeliston@gmail.com
A Challenge to You: Gearing Up for the “New Normal”
“A Call for Papers”

Written by Gerry Begeman, Chair, SIEC-ISBE Professional Development Committee

As we enter a new year, plan new events, schedule new meetings, and attend to continuing—yet new—professional development, we challenge you to be a part of a great growth opportunity in so many ways by participating in our annual SIEC-ISBE conference! I am often reminded of Steven Covey’s comment on career and professional development when reading his words: “I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions.” Each of us can also decide to be the rudder on that ship of fate which is our journey that takes us to those new destinations along the way. I challenge YOU to attend, and not only attend, but be a part and an active participant in creating your “New Normal” at our annual Conference this year. Please note the deadlines below.

The SIEC-ISBE 2024 International Conference is our 95th Annual Conference. It will be held at Illinois State University, College of Business, in Normal, Illinois, USA. Keynote speakers and professional development sessions will abound. There are many opportunities to attend a variety of professional offerings during the conference.

We are seeking proposals for several categories, including workshops, presentations, posters, panelists, and full-paper research presentations.

Submission Instructions:

Proposals for workshops, presentations, posters, or to be a panel member should be via the online submission as posted on the SIEC-ISBE.org website. Please use this form. The deadline to submit is March 31, 2024. Alternatively, a SIEC-ISBE member can contact their local SIEC-ISBE professional development committee member for assistance.

The Reviewers’ Board of the PDC Committee will evaluate the submissions and select those for inclusion in the conference program 2024. Notification of this decision will be made by April 30, 2024. For more information, please contact Gerry Begeman, PDC Chair, glb_bermuda@yahoo.com, or your country’s national PDC member, or Dana Gray, PDC Review Committee Call for Papers Coordinator.

Submission Link: https://forms.gle/33LrDJ331zfuMvDY8

The deadline to submit is March 31, 2024.

Presentation Requirements:

• Can address the conference theme or related topics relevant for business educators—research track (full paper research topics) and teaching practicum track—please specify clearly in your submission
• Limited to a 45-minute session
• Is a topic of immediate interest to participants
• Consists of a presentation (between 30 and 40 minutes) and discussion
• Can be used as a round table from different countries to present a shared project
Workshop Requirements:
- Must address the conference theme
- Limited to a 75-minute session
- Consists of an introduction, discussion, and/or activity
- Is an interactive session
- Provides 20-30 minutes for an overview with the remainder of the session being an interactive activity. Participants are expected to be involved.

Poster Requirements:
- Can be research- or practice-based
- May be from an educational institution and provide information about programs or projects
- Should be a topic that is of immediate interest to the participants
- Include a short introduction with a poster session.

Professional Development Panelist Requirements:
- Poses opportunities and challenges in aspects of artificial intelligence as relevant to teaching—may include policies, regulations, legal issues, project ideas, etc
- Presents for 5-10 minutes, plus time is allowed for taking audience questions
- Is an interactive session
- Is limited to a 60-minute session for a maximum of five panelists chosen
- May present challenges and solutions for effectively foreseeing changes in policy, regulations, legislation, and how faculty and schools may need to alter teaching techniques, evaluation, etc
- Due to time restrictions, plans now are for only one panel - the topic being teaching tips and artificial intelligence.

The deadline to submit a full paper for consideration is February 29, 2024. A decision will be made by April 15, 2024.

Full-Paper Research Presentations:
- Must follow the overall conference theme. Papers related to artificial intelligence, disruptive technologies, virtual reality, engagement, societal impact, and similar topics will be given first consideration.
- May submit a completed research project following the submission guidelines for the International Journal for Business Education or submit an extended abstract (include objective, methods, results, conclusions, and bibliography). Submission guidelines for full papers can be found at https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html#formatting
- If submitting a structured abstract, you will be expected to submit the full paper no later than October 1, 2024, for publication consideration in the special Conference Edition of the International Journal for Business Education.
  - To learn more about structured abstracts, visit this link from the University of Melbourne or this link from the IEEE Professional Communication Society.
  - Only full papers submitted by the submission deadline of February 29, 2024 will be considered for the Empirical Research Award at the Conference.
  - All accepted papers will be published in a special Conference Edition of the International Journal for Business Education.
- Full papers must be submitted using the following submission link: https://forms.office.com/r/r16vApapyj
This summer, SIEC-ISBE International is once again hosting a fully in-person conference. Our first since COVID.

As many remember, we cancelled our conference in 2020 due to the pandemic, only the third time in SIEC history has an annual conference been cancelled. The first two were during the world wars. In 2021, a small group of members went to Trieste, Italy, while most joined the online portion of the conference. In 2022, the Austrian Chapter hosted in Vienna with the option for online attendance, and in 2023, the US Chapter hosted a fully online conference. This year, the US Chapter is hosting the 95th annual conference in Normal, Illinois, in the College of Business at Illinois State University.

The US Chapter invites you to join us as we celebrate 95 years of SIEC conferences. We are excited to have you join us in the beautiful State Farm Hall of Business (pictured above) on the campus of Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois.

The conference planning team has many professional development opportunities for you to enjoy. Our keynote speakers are experts in disruptive technologies. The company visits will be to local companies dedicated to sustainability, and the optional cultural tour will take you on a walk-through history as we explore the Lincoln Presidential Library and other historic sites in Springfield, Illinois. We have plans to visit Rivian Motors, an electric vehicle manufacturer, for one of the company tours, and the final details for the second company visit are being finalised.

The conference package includes all meetings, company visits with transportation, the welcome reception and dinner, coffee breaks, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and the Gala Dinner on Thursday evening.

The social package (for accompanying persons) will include breakfast, keynote speakers, the morning coffee break, company tours with transportation, and the evening events that are part of the conference package.

We offer an optional cultural tour to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the Lincoln Presidential Library, the Lincoln Homestead, and Lincoln’s Tomb. Springfield is approximately one hour from Normal, and transportation will be provided.

**Getting to Bloomington-Normal:**

**By air:** International guests should fly into Chicago’s O'Hare Airport. There is an airport in Normal, Illinois. Its code is BMI. If you fly into BMI, you must use Uber to travel from the airport to the hotel.

It is possible to take the Amtrak train from Chicago to Normal. More detailed information will be provided for taking the Amtrak in the conference materials available in early spring. I recommend taking the Amtrak. It is a two-hour journey from Chicago to Normal on the train, and you can see much of the surrounding landscape on your journey. The Amtrak station in Bloomington-Normal is directly across the street from our conference hotel, Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.
**By car:** Bloomington-Normal is located at the intersection of Interstate 55, Interstate 74, and Interstate 39, approximately 2½ hours north of St. Louis, Missouri, 2½ hours south of Chicago, Illinois, and 3 hours west of Indianapolis, Indiana.

The tentative schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, July 28</th>
<th>Executive Committee Meeting</th>
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| Monday, July 29 | National Board Meeting (Tentative)  
Assembly of Delegates  
Welcome Reception and Dinner |
| Tuesday, July 30 | Conference Opening and Keynote Speaker  
Professional Development Panel  
Workshops  
Sessions  
Chapter Dinners (to be arranged by individual chapters) |
| Wednesday, July 31 | Keynote Speaker  
Workshops  
Sessions  
Dinner on your own |
| Thursday, August 1 | Company Visits  
Gala Dinner |
| Friday, August 2 | Optional Cultural Tour of Springfield, IL |

To stay updated on the latest schedule and information about the keynote speakers, company visits, and other activities, visit [https://www.siec-isbe.org](https://www.siec-isbe.org) for more information.

The Call for Proposals can be found at [https://www.siec-isbe.org/2024-conference-call-for-proposals.html](https://www.siec-isbe.org/2024-conference-call-for-proposals.html).

Conference Updates can be found at [https://www.siec-isbe.org/2024-international-conference.html](https://www.siec-isbe.org/2024-international-conference.html).


If you have any questions, please contact:

Tamra Connor, SIEC General Secretary  
Tdavis2@ilstu.edu

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**Reserve your room early for the 95th Annual SIEC Conference**

**Book your group rate for 95th SIEC-ISBE International Conference**

Event Summary: 95th SIEC-ISBE International Conference  
Start Date: Saturday, July 27, 2024  
End Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024  
Last Day to Book: Monday, June 17, 2024  
Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:  
Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center for 179 USD per night

**Book your group rate for 95th SIEC-ISBE International Conference**
We are trying something new this year!

For the first time, the SIEC-ISBE International Conference will be hosting an empirical research track at the conference. The *International Journal for Business Education* will publish all accepted papers in a special Conference Edition.

**Full papers received by the deadline will be eligible for consideration for the Empirical Research Paper Award at the 95th SIEC-ISBE International Conference.**

The deadline to submit a full paper for consideration is February 29, 2024. A decision will be made by April 15, 2024.

**Full-Paper Research Presentations:**

- Must follow the overall conference theme. Papers on artificial intelligence, disruptive technologies, virtual reality, engagement, societal impact, and similar topics will be considered first.
- May submit a completed research project following the *International Journal for Business Education* submission guidelines or submit an extended abstract (include objective, methods, results, conclusions, and bibliography). Submission guidelines for full papers can be found at [https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html#formatting](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html#formatting)
  - If submitting a structured abstract, you will be expected to submit the full paper no later than October 1, 2024, for publication consideration in the special Conference Edition of the *International Journal for Business Education*.
  - To learn more about structured abstracts, visit this [link](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html#formatting) from the University of Melbourne or this [link](https://www.ieee-pcs.org/) from the IEEE Professional Communication Society.
  - Only full papers submitted by the February 29, 2024 submission deadline will be considered for the Empirical Research Award at the Conference.
- All accepted papers will be published in a special *International Journal for Business Education* Conference Edition.
- Full papers must be submitted using the following submission link: [https://forms.office.com/r/r16vApapvj](https://forms.office.com/r/r16vApapvj)

Submitted by Tamra Connor, Editor-in-Chief

*International Journal for Business Education*

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1 All papers will undergo the standard review process for inclusion in the journal. This includes a blind peer-review by three international researchers.
Introducing:
The International Chapter of SIEC-ISBE

The International Chapter of SIEC-ISBE was formed to provide the opportunity for people who do not have a National Chapter in their country to join SIEC-ISBE. So, if your location does not have a country chapter (details are available on our website—Membership and Chapters - SIEC-ISBE INTERNATIONAL) and you would like to become a member of SIEC-ISBE, you can join the International Chapter.

We would like to introduce a few more of our members:

I am a second year student at the University of Malta, currently reading for a Masters in Teaching and Learning in Business Education. I am presently conducting a research study for my dissertation titled “Empowering Young People Against Financial Crime: Education about Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in Business Subjects”. For me, this research goes beyond the confines of academia. It carries personal meaning. I am motivated by the opportunity to make a difference and the potential positive impact it can have on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Lorna Ciantar, Malta

I am in my second year of Master of Teaching and Learning in Business Education at the University of Malta. My research focuses on infusing entrepreneurship education into teaching business subjects, which is important since entrepreneurship enables students to build confidence, make rational decisions, work as a team, and think critically. I believe that by being a part of SIEC-ISBE, I will have opportunities to learn from business educators around the world, and at the same time, I would also like to share my experience and findings with regards to my area of study.

Xiaobo Jiang, Malta

Gerry Begeman, SIEC-ISBE Professional Development Chair, and Dean emeritus at Bermuda College, (at right) presented two lecture-presentations at the Vienna Business School Akademiestrasse to the Year 4 and 5 student—those who will graduate this year and next. The subject was on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) - “How does AI affect entrepreneurship today? And how does it impact our everyday lives?” Professor Begeman posed these and similar questions to the 4th and 5th year students at #vbsakademiestraße. The inspiring lecture was not only instructive but also provided plenty of food for thought for a future shaped by creativity and technological progress. “These students will be entering the workforce in the near future, and AI will play a role in their daily lives and their employment,” according to SIEC-ISBE Professional Development Chair, Gerry Begeman. Vienna Business School Akademiestrasse is a premier private business school in Vienna, Austria. They played a role in hosting part of the SIEC-ISBE Conference 2022, and this lecture-session follow-up was a return visit response in November, 2023, as a thank you to Vienna Business School Akademiestrasse and by invitation from Headmaster MMag Evelyn Meyer (left), who is thanking Mr Begeman in this photo.
The SIEC USA chapter is focused on delivering a top-notch 2024 International Conference to SIEC ISBE members around the world. The 2024 Conference is hosted by the USA chapter and the conference will be held on the beautiful campus of Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. Details about the conference are posted on both the SIEC USA and SIEC ISBE websites.

The theme of the 2024 Conference is *The New Normal in Business Education*. Call for presentations is now live at [https://forms.gle/33LrDJ33IzfuMVvDY8](https://forms.gle/33LrDJ33IzfuMVvDY8). Submission deadline: March 31, 2024. Individuals will be notified of proposals by mid April, 2024.

A separate call for papers will be available in February 2024, inviting manuscripts for a special edition of the International Journal for Business Education (IJBE).

In addition to the conference, the USA chapter continues to host virtual quarterly membership meetings and invites members from all chapters to attend. Please email Dana Gray to be added to SIEC USA emails.

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**The SIEC-International Website has received an upgrade!**

The next time you log into [https://www.siec-isbe.org](https://www.siec-isbe.org), you can create an account to give you access to the Members Only area. Please Register as a member. Once you have been approved, you can access our Conference Reports. New Members Only content will be added as we grow and add new membership benefits!

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**Calling all business teachers around the world!**

Did you know that we have an Internet Café on our website? We would love to post your favourite teaching tips, ideas, pictures of your classroom setup, or anything else you would like to post. Check out the Internet Café and send your submissions to Tamra Connor, SIEC-ISBE General Secretary for posting.

Feel free to leave a comment on any of the current postings!

[SIEC-ISBE INTERNATIONAL - Internet Cafe](https://www.siec-isbe.org)
Educating in aspects relating to Intellectual Property

Written by Emanuel Mizzi, Malta

A fruitful professional development session open to SIEC-ISBE members was held online on January 15. The session was organised by Dr Emanuel Mizzi and kindly delivered by officials from the Malta Commerce Department - https://commerce.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx

The following aspects were discussed, aimed at facilitating entrepreneurial initiatives:

- Overview on Intellectual Property and the importance of protecting one’s innovation and creation
- Trademark, patents and design and how to register them at a European and international level
- SME Fund Initiative (€20 million grant scheme created to help EU SMEs)

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SME fund

EU funding for your business

Protect your trademarks, patents and designs

Save up to €2,500

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SIEC-ISBE is Social!

SIEC-ISBE has multiple social media options to share information. Check out our social media at the following places:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SIECISBE/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/siecisbe/

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCRma1zg1HBUPXQIlgwb3nUg

If you would like to share your own experiences about SIEC-ISBE on social media, please use #siecisbe.

Written by Tamra S Connor
Upcoming Events

Virtual Meetings in 2024

2024 Spring Research Symposium
March 5, 2024
Virtual—9:00 am Central Standard Time
Registration Link
A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants

SIEC Professional Development Session with Dr Leonard Busuttil
Topic:  Business Education in the Age of Generative AI
May 22, 2024
Virtual—Time 9:00 am Central Daylight Time
Link to Abstract and Biography of the Speaker
Registration Link
A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants

SIEC Professional Development Session with Drs Emanuel Mizzi, Lucy Hatt, and Jan-Martin Geiger
Topic:  Threshold Concepts in Entrepreneurship Education
October 30, 2024
Virtual—9:00 am Central Daylight Time
A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming SIEC-ISBE Conferences
2024— Illinois, USA (onsite)
2025— Malta (onsite)
2026—Finland (onsite)
Have you ever wanted to enter a paper into a research forum or submit it to a journal that required a structured abstract but didn’t know how to create one? First, what is a structured abstract? According to IEEE Professional Communication Society’s website (2024), structured abstracts provide the readers with the key findings of a research paper and are like an executive summary.

A well-developed, structured abstract should be approximately 200-250 words long. The sections used in the abstract are typically discipline-specific. It is always best to consult the journal guidelines when preparing your abstract.

The Academic Skills unit at the University of Melbourne states, “Informative abstracts act as substitutes for the actual papers as all the key arguments and conclusions are presented; specifically, the context and importance of the research, reasons for methods, principal results and conclusions.”

Structured abstracts can be divided into various sections. Including some basic information in the abstract is important, as outlined below.

The first section of your abstract should summarise why the research is important. Provide the background for your study. Include the key points from your literature review, but do not focus on the literature. When writing the abstract, the focus is on your work.

In the second section, describe the research problem or questions you are trying to solve. What is the thesis statement of your research? What are the aims of the research project? What are the key points you are trying to prove?

Describe the methodology used in the next section. This could include the type of research conducted, your research model, theoretical perspective, how your participants were selected, data collection methods, and a description of the evidence you will gather to support your research questions. The methodology will need to be customised based on the specific type of research you are conducting.

Next, summarise the results of your research. This could be specific data or a more general statement of your findings. Remember, the abstract is limited to approximately 200-250 words.

Finally, describe your conclusions and the implications of your research. How can your findings be applied by others and to future research?

Other key tips for writing your abstract.

- Avoid using abbreviations and acronyms
- Use active voice
- Write the abstract as a separate document, not a series of copy/paste from the full paper
- Use keywords (and define them if needed)
- Edit, proofread, and review your abstract
- Ensure that the abstract is an accurate representation of the full paper
- Follow the word limit given in the submission instructions
- Write the abstract after the paper has been written (unless you are submitting an abstract for an in-progress research project where you will receive feedback from mentors).

Remember that the abstract is your hook to get others to read your full paper. A well-written abstract will draw in your audience and capture their attention. A great abstract can entice the audience to read your work and stimulate additional research in the topic area.

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SIEC-ISBE Newsletter Guidelines

Next Deadline for Submissions:

May 15, 2024

The SIEC-ISBE Newsletter is published three times a year. Submissions must be made in English.

Appropriate submissions include:
- Teaching tips
- Technology tips
- Lesson plans
- Classroom activities
- Descriptions of teacher and/or student exchanges
- Opportunities for teacher and/or student exchanges
- News that would appeal to SIEC-ISBE members
- Teaching/learning resources on the web
- Transitions—Births, deaths, marriages, job changes, etc.
- Requests for support for classroom activities

Requirements for submissions are:
- MSWord software
- 12-point font, single-spaced
- Include your name, school affiliation, and a digital picture of the author with the manuscript
- Photos that describe the activity may be included and should include the full names and countries of everyone in the picture, the event where the picture was taken and the name of the photographer
- Articles will be accepted up to a maximum of 1000 words or two pages. If longer, the author will be asked to submit an abstract and include a link to the longer article. If the submission is research based it should be submitted to the Journal.

Submissions for the newsletter can be made to:
Maree Liston, Newsletter Editor
mareelliston@gmail.com
Publication Guidelines for the *International Journal for Business Education*

The *International Journal for Business Education* has moved to a new home. We are now located at [https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/cgi/siteview.cgi/ijbe](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/cgi/siteview.cgi/ijbe) which is part of the library system of Illinois State University Milner Library’s ISU ReD: Research and eData collection. This move places us in the Illinois Research Commons and connects us to the Digital Commons Network, a collection of research from hundreds of universities worldwide. To submit a manuscript to the journal, you will use the Submit Article link on our home page.

The submission process consists of the following steps:

1. Read and accept the Article Submission Agreement
2. Provide information about yourself
3. Provide information about any authors
4. Upload your article and related items

Before you begin, please be sure you have the following items:

- **Article Title**
- An abstract (separate from the article body)
- **Keywords** for your article (optional)
- **Article in one of the following formats:** Microsoft Word, or RTF.
  
  Articles must be submitted without a title page, abstract, or page numbers. These will be provided by the system.

Formatting guidelines are provided on the journal’s policies page.

[https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/ijbe/policies.html)

If you have any questions, please contact Tamra Connor using this link:

[https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/do/email_editor/?context=ijbe](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/do/email_editor/?context=ijbe).
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Chair, Professional Development Committee:
Gerry Begeman, USA
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http://www.siec-isbe.org

The premier professional international education organisation for those engaged in business education
The New “Normal” in Business Education

July 29 - August 2, 2024

Join us as we celebrate 95 years of successful conferences!

Location
Illinois State University
College of Business
Normal, Illinois

Registration Early Bird June 1
Members $899  Non-members $949
Social Package $399
Students $299

Includes: Expert Speakers, 8 meals, coffee breaks, company tours focused on sustainability in the beautiful State Farm Hall of Business

Note: All prices increase by $75 after June 1, 2024

Conference Hotel
Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center  $179 + taxes per night--

Why should you attend?

- Networking with International Peers
- Cutting-Edge Professional Development
- International Research Conference
- Business Tours focused on Sustainability
- It will be FUN!!!

Take the First Step Towards Your Digital Transformation Today!

Conference Call for Proposals Link

Conference Schedule Link

tdavis2@ilstu.edu
for more information

To learn more, visit our website and conference pages at
https://www.siec-isbe.org