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PRESS RELEASE

The IC3 Institute appoints Dr. Rajika Bhandari as its President and CEO.

New York, November 12, 2019: Dr. Rajika Bhandari will join the IC3 Institute as its President and CEO on January 2, 2020.

A global expert in international higher education with over two decades of leadership in research and program evaluation in the nonprofit, private and higher education sectors, Dr. Bhandari worked most recently at the Institute of International Education (IIE), where she shaped and led IIE's global and groundbreaking research and impact studies focused on academic mobility, including the flagship [Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange](#), [Project Atlas](#), and the ongoing [ten-year alumni impact study](#) of the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program. She also launched IIE's Center for Academic Mobility Research and Impact and shaped IIE's global thought leadership strategy.

Dr. Bhandari is a frequent speaker on higher education issues and a widely published author, including of six books, and has written for the *Guardian*, *Times Higher Ed*, the *Huff Post*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *University World News*, with her work covered by NPR, PRI International, the BBC, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, Quartz, *Time* magazine and the *Times of India*. Her other roles include ones at MPR Associates [now part of RTI International] in Berkeley, California; at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and at Teachers College, Columbia University. Reflecting her commitment to global issues in education, Dr. Bhandari has served as a Commissioner on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

The appointment of Dr. Bhandari signals the next phase in the rapid growth and impact of the [IC3 \[International Career and College Counseling\] Movement](#), a mission-driven and systemic effort that brings together high schools, colleges and universities, and employers to bring effective counseling to high school students around the world, paving the path for college readiness and career success. The goal of the IC3 Institute is to train 100,000 professionals and impact 176,000 schools in the next 15 years. Serving as the nerve center of the IC3 Movement, the IC3 Institute is supported by the annual IC3 Conference in India that draws 1,000 school, higher education and industry leaders from around the world, and the IC3 Regional Forums that are a series of one-day events that



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provide an opportunity for learning for counselors, teachers, and principals in specific cities in Asia, Oceania, the Middle East, Africa, and beyond.

"Millions of young people are leaving high school like airplanes without a navigation system – armed with subject knowledge but without any career and college guidance. With no specific direction, there is a high chance of them crashing into a world of disengagement, frustration, and unproductivity. It is the prerogative of schools around the world to ensure that all students get good career and college counseling, just as they get Math or English education," said Ganesh Kohli, Founder of the IC3 Movement. "Through the IC3 Movement, we are working to fix a broken system and the IC3 Institute is at the leading edge of this effort. Dr. Bhandari is an accomplished professional who deeply resonates with the goal of IC3 – counseling in every school – and we are delighted to have her lead the IC3 Institute globally. Rajika's thought leadership, intense focus on research and proven experience leading high-impact international initiatives should help the IC3 Institute grow from strength-to-strength under her leadership."

"In our fast-paced disruptive world it is impossible to predict what the job market of the future will look like. Many of the jobs that today's students will hold don't yet exist. How do we help students prepare and succeed in this uncertain environment? College and skills counseling, and career pathways – education to employability – are key to unlocking student potential. But these critical support mechanisms either don't exist or are not available at scale – a gap that the IC3 Movement addresses," said Karthik Krishnan, IC3 Advisory Committee member and Global Chief Executive Officer for Britannica Group. "We are excited to tap Rajika for a leadership role that will translate the founding vision and mission of the movement into further action and impact, reaching teachers and students globally through the IC3 Institute."

"As someone who is originally from a developing country and is a product of student mobility, I have always been committed to access and equity in education, and in ensuring that today's students have available a full range of future opportunities that enable them to find their best fit. I am grateful to have the opportunity to build and scale the impact of the IC3 Institute. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to contribute to a great mission with the potential for impacting students, educational institutions, and the workforce," said Dr. Bhandari.



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ABOUT THE IC3 INSTITUTE

The IC3 Institute, part of the IC3 Movement, enables access to career and college counseling for high school students around the world, positioning them for future success in postsecondary education and the global workforce. With offices in the U.S. and India, the IC3 Institute empowers high schools by providing guidance and training resources to help them establish and maintain robust career and college counseling departments. The IC3 Institute also serves as a think tank and thought leader on global higher education and career readiness through convenings of experts and by conducting timely research on student decision-making and mobility; the impact of the IC3 Institute and its curricula; and issues of college readiness and workforce development.

The IC3 Institute's year-long core curriculum/certificate is designed for full-time high school counselors and teachers, as well as visionary institutional leaders who will help percolate this culture and strengthen the momentum of career counseling and guidance across their schools' ecosystem. The curriculum is designed and developed in collaboration with global partner institutions, with volunteer faculty and trainers drawn from subject-matter experts and experienced professionals from the Indian educational system and international universities; faculty from partner universities; global volunteers from industry; and trained high school counselors. Host institutions for the year-long certificate include some of India's most innovative institutions, including Ashoka University, Ahmedabad University, O.P. Jindal Global University, Shiv Nadar University, among others.

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