



Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

December 17, 2020

Dear School Leader,

Thank you for considering the enrollment of a U.S. government–sponsored international exchange student at your school through one of the following U.S. Department of State programs:

- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (**CBYX**), for students from Germany
- Future Leaders Exchange (**FLEX**), for students from Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (**YES**), for students predominantly from the Middle East, South or Southeast Asia, Africa, and Southeast Europe

Given current conditions, we know that the 2021-22 school year may be an uncertain and challenging time for your community, but we hope that you will consider hosting a State Department–sponsored scholarship recipient.

Each year, more than 2,000 students from nearly 60 different countries come to American high schools through these programs. Hosting one or more of these State Department–sponsored students is a great way for you to internationalize your school and bring global perspectives into your classroom.

Exchange participants are selected through a highly competitive, merit-based process: Thousands apply for each place, and those selected are carefully screened and vetted. As with all exchange visitors, the students' visa applications go through the U.S. embassies' thorough consular review process. Due to our comprehensive process, these participants generally have above-average scholastic achievements and English skills.

Students live with an American host family, which helps them integrate into a new community. Local support representatives also help students find community service opportunities, and they serve as points of contact for you and your teachers.

As you consider accepting an international exchange participant into your student body, we hope you will also help connect your American students to the U.S. government's scholarship programs that offer high school students a chance to live and study abroad. Program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth>.

Now more than ever, we are grateful to the schools that play such an important role in public diplomacy by hosting our students. If you have any questions, please contact our placement partner who provided you with this letter. Thank you again for considering this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Britta Bjornlund".

Britta Bjornlund
Youth Programs Division Chief

Implementing Partners: American Cultural Exchange Service, AFS USA, AIFS/AYA, American Councils, Aspect Foundation, ASSE International, Ayusa, Borderless Friends Forever, Council on International Educational Exchange, Greenheart Exchange, Iowa Resource for International Service, Northwest Services Inc., Pan Atlantic Foundation, Program of Academic Exchange, States 4-H, STS Foundation, World Link, and Youth for Understanding USA