

U.S. CENTER FOR
CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



Call to Action

Sign our petition calling on President Barack Obama to support a national Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy.

[Click here to read the Letter to the President and to sign it.](#)

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New Research

Living abroad increases creativity

New research published by APA has shown that there is a positive relationship between living abroad and creativity. It "was consistent across a number of creativity measures (including those measuring insight, association, and generation), as well as with masters of business administration and undergraduate samples, both in the United States and Europe, demonstrating the robustness of this phenomenon."



[Read the full report by American Psychological Association](#)

Annual Report Posted to Web

The 2008 Annual Report and an updated Case Statement for the U.S. Center have been posted to the Web site and are available for downloading.

[Download a copy](#) of the Annual Report.

View the new [Case Statement](#) here.



Quick Links

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Legislative Updates

[Senate Resolution 49](#), a resolution regarding the importance of public diplomacy, was agreed upon by Unanimous Consent on May 19, 2009. The resolution recommended the Secretary of State to reexamine the public diplomacy strategy as well as implementing American Centers in strategic areas.

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[Citizen Diplomacy In the News](#)

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News Alert

[\\$1.2 billion for summer jobs](#)

[U.S. Department of State Becomes "Global Classroom" for Model UN Students](#)

[Living abroad gives you a creative edge](#)

[Our Annual Report for 2008 is available for download](#)

[Bring 'people power' to Pakistan](#)

[The FY2010 Foreign Affairs Reauthorization Act](#) was approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 20. This Act includes the [Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act](#) which has the goal of expanding the number of undergraduate students studying abroad four-fold within 10 years. The Peace Corps is set to receive almost double its previous funding amount, working to reach the goal of President Obama to double the number of volunteers. The Foreign Service will be adding 1,500 new positions when the bill passes.

[Judith McHale](#) was sworn in as Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs on May 26, ending more than 100 days vacancy in the position.

[Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke](#) about the importance of citizen diplomacy at the New York University and Barnard College commencement ceremonies as well as during her testimony in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In addition to this, the State Department is creating a new [Virtual Student Foreign Service](#) to give undergraduates an opportunity to utilize new media avenues to promote diplomacy.

Bridging the Cultural Divide One Exchange Student at a Time

Two American Families Share their Experiences as Home Hosts

Opening your home to an international student is a great way to involve the whole family in learning about other cultures and development of mutual understanding, often resulting in international friendships for life.

However, aspiring host families understandably can have many questions about the experience, including how will inviting a stranger into my home for a few months or even a year impact my family and my view of the world?

Although Pam and Scott Jones from Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and Lief and Michele Seymour from Folsom, California came from different backgrounds and were inspired to get involved for different reasons, both families are seasoned "hosting veterans" that have been hosting exchange students since 2000.

[Read the full story of these two exemplary host families who are eager to share with others the positive changes and enriched perspective that hosting has brought to their lives...](#)

Spotlight on Home Hosting Organizations

Below are just two of the many organizations who place

international students with host families in the U.S. For more resources, [visit our website.](#)

ERDT/SHARE!

Educational Resource Development Trust/SHARE! places more than 600 foreign exchange students, between the ages of 15 and 18, with host families across the country every year. Students come from Europe, Asia and Latin America to experience life here and attend local high schools for one semester or an entire academic year.



Cultural Homestay International (CHI)

is a non-profit public benefit organization founded in 1980 to promote international understanding, friendship, and goodwill through cultural homestays. They believe that the best way to eliminate fear and prejudice among nations is to experience directly the cultures, languages, and customs of the peoples by living with them. The CHI program focuses primarily on the education of the participating student, the volunteer host family, and the local community through communication and interaction in the home, the classroom, the host business and the neighborhood.



U.S. Center Intern Updates

The U.S. Center says goodbye this month to Intern [Matt Clark](#), who graduated from Drake University. Matt will be heading to Japan to teach English as part of the JET Program. We hope to keep in touch with Matt via his own Web site "Roaming Clark." Best wishes Matt and thank you for all of your hard work!

[Read more about Matt and his future plans on our Intern Page.](#)



A warm welcome to **Case Hemming**, who will be interning at the Center for the summer. Case is a student at Drake University and most recently interned with the Iowa State Legislature. Case has already been hard at work helping with social media and press.

Where are they now?

We recently received an update from [Maria Hickie](#), who interned at the Center in 2007. Since graduation, Maria traveled to China and now is a territorial representative for the study abroad program at Central College. [Read more about Maria's adventures on our Intern Page.](#)



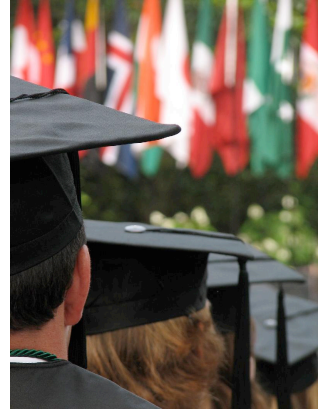
Stay Tuned: School's out for Summer!

Wondering how to keep the kids busy this summer?

Planning to take a summer vacation abroad?

Want to know how get involved as a citizen diplomat in your own community?

Coming in June... tips and resources to help you get involved in citizen diplomacy, summer style.



Recent Grads:

Diploma in hand and looking for meaningful work?

Check out our "[Options for Grads](#)" Web page launched last month!

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