



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

OCT. 1-3, 2024 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural CIEE International Exchange Conference! How fortunate we are to be gathered in such a vibrant and dynamic city, surrounded by leaders and advocates of cultural exchange from around the world.

As we come together under our conference's theme of "Democracy at Work," we have so much to celebrate. In the last 63 years since the inception of the BridgeUSA programs, we have sent over 1.5 million CIEE participants to the U.S. This past year alone, we have collectively supported and engaged with more than 30,000 BridgeUSA participants from 137 different nationalities placed in all 50 states, fostering the core values of democracy, collaboration, and cultural understanding. Without your passion, commitment, and dedication, none of this would be possible, and we at CIEE are deeply grateful.

Over the course of the next few days, our goal is to celebrate BridgeUSA programs and the deep impact they have on public diplomacy, economic prosperity, as well as national security. We also look to celebrate all of you – our key stakeholders who make these life changing programs happen for our CIEE participants. This conference is more than just an opportunity to learn, share best practices, and network with colleagues—it's a celebration of the powerful impact each of you makes through your work on the BridgeUSA programs.

Thank you for being here, for the difference you make in so many lives, and for your unwavering support of CIEE's mission – we feel grateful to have you as partners. We look forward to an inspiring and productive time together—let us celebrate our achievements, build new connections, and continue working towards a future where cultural exchange empowers and unites us all.

With sincere appreciation,



Carye Duffin
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
CIEE





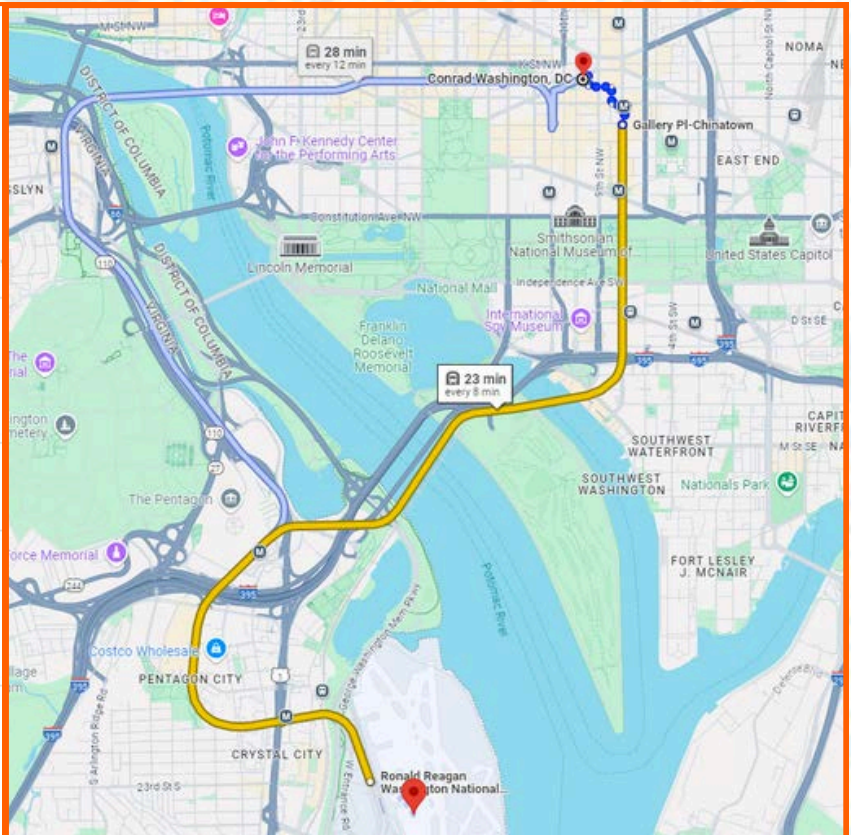
Welcome to the **Conrad Washington, D.C.**

**950 New York Ave. NW,
Washington D.C. 20001**

The Conrad Hotel is conveniently located, and attendees can easily reach the venue by Uber, taxi, or metro.

D.C. METRO

- 1:43 PM ○ Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
2401 Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Access Rd, Arlington, VA 22202
- 1:43 PM ○ Ronald Reagan Washington Nation...
- 
Yellow Mount Vernon Square
 ▼ 13 min (6 stops)
- 1:56 PM ○ Gallery Pl-Chinatown
- 
 Walk
 ▼ About 10 min, 0.4 mi
- 2:06 PM ● Conrad Washington, DC
950 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001



CONFERENCE AGENDA 2024

Tuesday - October 1

IEC Check-In

Location: CIEE Welcome table set up in Falling Flowers

All Day

Arrivals and Check-In

7:00-9:00pm

IEC Welcome Reception

Location: Rooftop Terrace (Cocktails & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres)

In case of rain, location will be moved to Falling Flowers Gallery.

Wednesday - October 2

7:45-8:45am

Breakfast

Location: Grand Ballroom

9:00-9:30am

Welcome & Meeting Kickoff

Location: Grand Ballroom

Carye Duffin - Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE

Martine Mangion - Senior Vice President, International Exchange Programs, CIEE

Jim Pellow - President & CEO, CIEE

9:30-10:30am

IEC Opening Plenary: The Big Why

Location: Grand Ballroom

A moderated panel of experts will speak to “The Big Why,” highlighting why BridgeUSA programs and cultural exchanges matter. The panel will focus on the goals and power of BridgeUSA programs as they relate to our theme of “Democracy at Work” using the three pillars of public diplomacy, economic prosperity, and national security.

Panelists:

Jon Baselice - Vice President, Immigration Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Rebecca Pasini - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, U.S. Department of State

Frank X Taylor (Virtually) - President and CEO, FXTaylor Associates

Moderator: *Carmen Iezzi Mezzera - Executive Director, CAPDL*

Wednesday - October 2 - Continued**10:30-11:30am BridgeUSA Best Practices**
Location: Grand Ballroom

A moderated panel of industry leaders including an Intern/Trainee Host Organization, a Summer Work Travel Host Employer, a Secondary School Student Host Family, an International Representative, and a Community Leader, who will share best practices and benefits of the BridgeUSA Programs.

Panelists:

Denise Beckson - Senior Executive Officer, Morey's Piers

Andrew Clifton - Secondary Student Host Dad

Jessica Lora - Project Management, F-35 International Industrial Participation, Lockheed Martin

John Lynch - Board President, Lunch with Lynch Foundation

Bastian Weinberger - Board Chair, Smaller Earth Group

Moderator: Jamie Fisher - Senior Director, Seasonal Exchanges, CIEE

11:30-11:45am Introduction to the Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership (CAPDL)
Location: Grand Ballroom

Hear from CAPDL Executive Director, Carmen Iezzi Mezzera, about plans for the relaunch of the Coalition. Learn how CAPDL will work to strengthen and expand BridgeUSA programs through education, storytelling, and best practices sharing.

Speaker: Carmen Iezzi Mezzera - Executive Director, CAPDL

11:45-1:00pm Buffet Lunch and BridgeUSA Participant Spotlight
Location: Buffet set up outside Grand Ballroom

A moderated discussion with current participants, as well as alumni of the BridgeUSA program where they will share more about their transformative experiences.

Panelists:

Elijah Okoh - Current Summer Work Travel Participant from Nigeria, Cedar Point - OH

Shadi Madieh - Secondary School Alumnus from Palestine, Engineer at Amazon, London - UK

Mariliis Toitoja - Current Trainee Participant from Estonia, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, Washington D.C.

Lara Turnbull - Current 12 Month Work Travel Participant from New Zealand, Sea Island - GA

Moderator: Stacy Benjamin - Director, Special Programs, CIEE

Wednesday - October 2 - Continued**1:00-2:00pm****Impact 2024: November Elections and BridgeUSA****Location: Grand Ballroom**

A moderated panel will discuss the potential shifts in the balance of power and how those changes may affect international exchange and the BridgeUSA program.

Panelists:

Sonnet Frisbie - Deputy Head of Political Intelligence, Morning Consult

Julia Manchester - National Political Reporter, The Hill

Ashlee Rich Stephenson - Senior Political Strategist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Moderator: *Asenith Dixon Bell - Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE*

2:00-3:15pm**The Gold Standard - Improvement of the BridgeUSA Process with CIEE****Location: Grand Ballroom****Breakout Sessions: Conservatory Rooms A, B, C**

Discussion session led by CIEE staff to share best practices and process improvements in the BridgeUSA Programs that will elevate the participant experience, host engagement, employer benefits, and international representatives' success.

Speaker: *Martine Mangion - Senior Vice President, International Exchange Programs, CIEE*

Facilitators:

Jentzel Boitel - Senior Director, Industry Partnerships, CIEE

Louisa Creighton Smith - Director, Host Relations, CIEE

Casey Hartnett - Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE

Brandon McGuiggan - Senior Director of Placement Operations, CIEE

3:15-3:30pm**Networking Break**

Wednesday - October 2 - Continued

3:30-4:15pm **Advocacy Training for Federal and State Engagement**
Location: Grand Ballroom

Join us in learning more about the importance of BridgeUSA advocacy, how to best engage federal and state leaders, and what to expect from our engagement.

Speaker: *Laura Brigandi - Manager, Digital and Advocacy Practice, Public Affairs Council*

6:00-7:00pm **Reception - Cocktail Hour, Appetizers**
Location: Falling Flowers

7:00-9:00pm **Closing Dinner and Awards Ceremony**
Location: Grand Ballroom

Thursday - October 3

7:30-8:30am **Breakfast**
Location: Grand Ballroom

8:00am-Noon **Democracy in Action: Capitol Hill Visits**
Location: Motif Boardroom – CIEE staff will be available to answer questions on Hill visits

On-site (Capitol Hill Senate/House cafeterias) headquarters (CIEE staff volunteers)

8:30am-Noon **Individual International Representative Meetings with CIEE Staff**

Please refer to packet for individual meetings and locations.

CIEE STAFF

CIEE Senior Leadership

- James (Jim) Pellow, President and CEO
- Stacy Benjamin, Director, Special Programs
- Asenith Dixon Bell, VP, Government Affairs and Advocacy
- Carye Duffin, Senior VP, External Affairs
- Aida Gevorgyan, VP, Human Resources
- Jennifer Higgins Pitre, VP, Philanthropy
- Martine Mangion, Senior VP, International Exchange Programs
- Mark Ward, Chief Operating Officer
- Alexandra Wood, VP, Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment

CIEE BridgeUSA Programs Division

- **Seasonal Exchanges (Summer Work Travel & Camp Counselor Programs)**
 - Jamie Fisher, Senior Director, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Alejandra Aguero, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Annelise Benschop, Senior Coordinator, Hiring Events Team
 - Abby Bouchard, Manager, Hiring Events Team, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Turo Boyiri, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Patrick Bush, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Brian Compagna, Director, Hiring Events Team, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Louisa Creighton Smith, Director, Host Relations, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Angela Dixon, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Alexa Incorvaia, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Brenda Jolicoeur, Host Sales Manager, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Cady Koenigs, Host Sales Manager, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Sarah Ladipo, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Molly McCarthy, Senior Manager, Host & Participant Engagement
 - James Rich, Manager, Hiring Events Team, Seasonal Exchanges
 - Danton Rogers, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Taryn Taylor, International Recruitment Specialist
 - Rebecca Wagner, Host Sales Manager
 - Marina Zasorina, Senior Coordinator, Seasonal Exchanges, Hiring Events Team
- **Professional Exchanges (Intern, Trainee, Research Scholar, Specialist)**
 - Imane Benchekroun, Account Manager, Industry Partnerships, USA
 - Jentzel U. Boitel, Senior Director, Industry Partnerships
 - Alisha Cole, Manager, Industry Partnerships, USA
 - Moriah Davis, Senior Manager, Internships and Professional Exchanges Operations
 - Angela Gorny, Senior Director of Industry Partnerships and Placements
 - Brandon McGuiggan, Senior Director, Placement Operations
 - Martha Rost, Director, Product Management & Marketing
- **High School (Secondary School Student)**
 - Stephanie Smart, Director, High School USA
 - Blake Barrett, HS Program Support Specialist
 - Diana Browne, HS Senior Regional Placement Manager
 - Andrew Clifton, HS Senior Manager, National Placements
 - Heather Haapapuro, HS Regional Placement Manager
 - Courtney Kobos Smith, HS Regional Placement Manager
 - Laura Petrower, Senior Manager, Operations and Compliance

CIEE STAFF CONTINUED...

International Sales, Marketing and Operations

- Antonio Aragon, VP Sales and Marketing
- **International Sales**
 - Whitney Rosenberg, Manager
 - Elizabeta Parekh, Account Manager
 - Pierpont Pennoyer, Account Manager
- **International Operations**
 - Rachel Greene, Senior Manager
 - Aregsun Ahmed, Senior Coordinator, International Operations
 - Diana D'Amico-Clarabut, Lead Specialist
 - Elise Graveley, Senior Coordinator, International Operations
 - Micole Partee, Senior Coordinator
- **CIEE Taiwan**
 - Rei Ma, Director, Greater China
- **Marketing**
 - Courtney Chorba, Manager, Events and Travel, Inbound Exchanges
 - Shatoyia Davenport, Events Coordinator, Inbound Exchanges
 - Annissa Durar, Corrdinator, Marketing and Communications
 - Matt James, Marketing Coordinator, Inbound Exchanges

Participant Services Division

- Keith Stone VP, Participant Services
- Griffin Malloy, Director, Global Operations
- Aaron Schuit, Director, Participant Support

External Affairs Division

- **Funded Programs**
 - Juliette Van de Geer, Senior Director, Funded Programs
 - Lori James, Director, Foundation Programs
 - Ingrida Laurinaviciene, Program Manager, Baltic-American Freedom Foundation
 - Lisa Long, Manager, Funded Programs
- **Government Affairs and Advocacy**
 - Casey Hartnett, Advocacy Manager

CIEE Board of Directors

- David O. King, Senior VP, Commercial, SEKO Logistics
- Punam Rogers, Partner, Constangy Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP
- Marcelle Wahba, Former U.S. Ambassador, President Emeritus & Distinguished Fellow The Arab Gulf States Institute (Retired)

EXTERNAL BRIDGEUSA STAKEHOLDERS

Department of State (Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs)

- Rebecca Pasini, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, Washington, DC
- Karen Ward, Director of the Office of Private Sector Exchange, Designation, Washington, DC
- Kathryn Brody, Program Analyst, OPA, Washington, DC
- Ethan Bursofsky, Branch Chief, OPA, Washington, DC
- Diane Culkun, Division Chief, Designation, Washington, DC
- Brooke Finnicum, Junior Analyst, OPA, Washington, DC
- Stacey Gomelsky, Division Chief, Designation, Washington, DC
- Lauren Grimes, Program Analyst, OPA, Washington, DC
- Casey Nealy, Program Analyst, OPA, Washington, DC
- Amy Newman, SEVIS Chief, Designation, Washington, DC
- Joy Proctor, Program Analyst, OPA, Washington, DC
- Sidiki Savado, Junior Officer, OPA, Washington, DC

CIEE BridgeUSA Hosts

• **Seasonal Exchanges Hosts (Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor)**

- KC Aberilla, BridgeUSA Program Coordinator, Lafayette Hotels, Maine
- Denise Beckson, Vice President, Morey's Piers, New Jersey
- Alden Burge, Talent Acquisition Supervisor, Xanterra Travel Collection, Wyoming
- Karen Cummins, Recruiter, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, North Dakota
- Meg Doran, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Xanterra Travel Collection, Wyoming
- Marc Fairman, Vice President Human Resources, Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA, Virginia
- William Floyd, Talent Acquisition Manager, Alaska Collection by Pursuit, Alaska
- Lauren Ford, SR TA Manager, Westgate Resorts, Florida
- Yessmy Garrison, Manager of Training, Recruiting and DE&I, Harris Teeter, South Carolina
- Leah Gokey, Human Resources Recruiting Manager, Stratton Mountain Resort, Vermont
- Tania Hamaneyeva, Human Resources/Recruiting Manager, Morey's Piers, New Jersey
- Kristi Hanchett, Human Resources Director, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana
- Kel Harper, Talent Acquisition Business Partner, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, Virginia
- Renee Hengemuhle, Human Resources Director, Valleyfair- Six Flags Entertainment, Minnesota
- James Henry, Human Resources Manager, Worlds of Fun- Six Flags Entertainment, Missouri
- Kimberle Holmquist, Resorts Staffing and Recruiting Coordinator, Levy Compass Group, California
- Jeff Horowitz, Director, NJY Camps, New Jersey
- Crystal Jensen, Human Resources Manager, Xanterra Travel Collection, South Dakota
- Cat LaBelle, Employee Programs Manager, Xanterra Travel Collection, Wyoming
- Bob Lewis, Staffing Director, Camp Takajo, Maine
- Heather Lyon, Assistant Director of Human Resources, St. Regis Deer Valley, Utah
- Trish Lyons, Admissions & Human Resources Manager, Morey's Piers, New Jersey
- Rachael Mattioli, Director, HAP People Operations, Holland America Princess Alaska, Alaska
- Heather McElhinney, Area Manager, Operations, Kings Dominion- Six Flags Entertainment, Virginia
- Lindsey Metzger, Senior Human Resources Manager, Aramark Destinations, Nevada
- Sarah Middleton, Training and Recruiting Specialist, Harris Teeter, South Carolina
- Christina Mueller, Human Resources Supervisor, Six Flags Great America, Illinois
- Natalie Muma, International Recruiting Program Specialist, Deer Valley Resort, Utah
- Tatum Nelson, Director of Human Resources, Mt. Olympus Resort, Wisconsin
- Victoria Nix, Director of Human Resources, Xanterra Travel Collection, Montana
- Alexandra Nunez, Director, Westgate Resorts, Florida
- Josh Ouellette, Work and Travel Hiring Coordinator, Lafayette Hotels, Maine
- Panicha Papazides, Chef, Camp Takajo, Maine
- Joyce Portugal, Director of Human Resources, Xanterra Travel Collection, Arizona
- Matthew Poulin, Human Resources Supervisor, Six Flags Great Escape, New York
- Dawn Reidenbach, Director, Human Resources, Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom- Six Flags Entertainment, Pennsylvania

EXTERNAL BRIDGEUSA STAKEHOLDERS CONTINUED...

- **Seasonal Exchanges Hosts (Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor) Continued**
 - Tracy Smith, General Manager, Holland America Princess Alaska, Alaska
 - Shaun Sprysl, Corporate Director of Human Resources, Wilderness Resorts, Wisconsin
 - Kimberly Sturch, Human Resources Manager, Xanterra Travel Collection, South Dakota
 - Boyce Swift, Human Resources Director, Kings Island- Six Flags Entertainment, Ohio
 - Jarontae Walker, Human Resources Supervisor, Carowinds- Six Flags Entertainment, North Carolina
 - Kaitlin Wattrick, Manager, Recruiting, Cedar Point- Six Flags Entertainment, Ohio
 - Jessie Wilkerson, People and Culture Business Partner, Pursuit- Glacier Park Collection, Montana
 - Laura Worcester, Human Resources Business Partner, Vail Resorts - Grand Teton Lodge Co., Wyoming
 - Christine Wright, Human Resources Manager, Xanterra Travel Collection, Montana
 - Maggie Zeman, International Recruiting Manager, Wilderness Resorts, Wisconsin
- **Professional Exchanges Hosts (Intern, Trainee, Research Scholar and Specialist)**
 - Jessica Lora, Project Manager, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Texas
 - Rick Scot, Senior VP, Information Security, Bank of New York, New York
- **Seasonal and Professional Exchanges Hosts**
 - Jackie Adragna, Vice President, Human Resources, Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley, Utah
 - Kylene Morita, Recruiting Manager, Sea Island Company, LLC, Georgia
 - Collin Tefft, Talent Partnerships Manager, Xanterra Travel Collection, Colorado
- **High School (Secondary Student) Hosts and Local Coordinators**
 - Deb Andolino, HS Local Coordinator, Wisconsin

BridgeUSA Alumni and Participants

- Shadi Medieh, Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange (YES) Program Alum, United Kingdom
- Elijah Okoh, Young Civic Leadership Summit Alum, Nigeria
- Mariliis Toitoja, CIEE Trainee, Baltic-American Freedom Foundation, Estonia
- Lara Turnbull, CIEE Program Participant, 12-Month Work and Travel, New Zealand

CAPDL (Board Members and Executive Director)

- Jon Baselice, Vice President, Immigration Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.
- Denise Beckson, Vice President, Morey's Piers, New Jersey
- Carye Duffin, Senior VP, External Affairs, CIEE, Texas
- Russ Hedge, CEO, Hostelling International USS (HI USA), Maryland
- Carmen Iezzi Mezzera, Executive Director, CAPDL, Washington, D.C.
- Rick Ruth, Retired Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Washington, D.C.
- Bastian Weinberger, Board Chair, Smaller Earth Group, United Kingdom

Alignment Government Strategies

- Tracy Taylor, Counsel, Washington D.C.

Lunch with Lynch Foundation

- John Lynch, New Jersey

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

International Representatives

- Olga Adamovich, Chief Product and Innovation Officer, JENZA Travel Group, United Kingdom and Ireland
- Mevlut Akbiyik, BridgeUSA Coordinator, Armada Grandee, Turkey
- Jacqueline Alvaranga, Manager, International Recruiting Staffing Solutions Inc. Ltd, Jamaica
- Metin Arslan, Director of Operations, Armada Grandee, Turkey
- Tope Bada, Director, Besor Associates, Nigeria
- Sakan Begalinov, Director, Opportunity Group, Kazakhstan
- Csilla Beke-Szabo, Managing Director, Student Travel Romania, Romania
- Manny Castillo, Director, ICE - International Cultural Exchange Mexico, Mexico
- Georgia Cobran, CEO, Global Insight International Exchange, Jamaica
- Glen Davidson, Managing Director, Awesome Work and Travel, South Africa
- Ruben Dominguez, Director, Ultrex, Mexico
- Oscar Fernandez, Director, Estudiar en USA, Spain
- Santiago Flores, Director, Vive APEX, Ecuador
- Santiago Garcia Iturralde, General Manager, WEUSA, Argentina
- Miodrag Gudovic, Founder, Work and Travel Group, Serbia
- Miroљub Gudovic, CEO, Work and Travel Group, Serbia
- Iza Gyuricza, CEO, Smaller Earth Group, United Kingdom
- Catalin Iova, Managing Director, GTS International Romania, Romania
- Agron Kamberi, Owner, Discover America, Kosovo
- Ivan Kristic, Director General, Foreign Study League, Spain
- Leo Laddaga, Managing Director, WEUSA, Chile
- Luca Lavezzo, Program Manager, WEUSA, Argentina
- Tongchit Lawvinitnun, Managing Director, OEG, Thailand
- Dean Maddocks, CMO, Smaller Earth Group, United Kingdom
- Fazil Mammadov, Deputy General Manager, StudyZONE International, Turkey
- Silvio Marengo, Owner, YouAbroad, Italy
- Darya Modestova, CEO, Global Friends, Uzbekistan
- Andrea Nunes, Director, SEI, Colombia
- Marlenny Pena Baez, International Programs Director, OFIT, Dominican Republic
- Oana Popescu, Programs Manager, GTS International Romania, Romania
- Percy Raygada, Director, INTEJ, Peru
- Modesto Reyes, President, OFIT, Dominican Republic
- Noel Salo, Executive Director, Experience Abroad, Philippines
- Boris Samaryanov, Managing Partner, Star Travel, Russia
- Marina Seet, Manager, Speedwing Training (Asia) Pte Ltd, Singapore
- Constanze Sietz, Managing Director, TravelWorks, Germany
- Shanique Sinclair, Director, Global Insight International Exchange Ltd, Jamaica
- Victoria Song, CEO, Raising Culture, China
- Rumi Sotirova, Director, USIT Colours Bulgaria
- Jaruaiporn Vee Srisureepaisarn, Work Exchange Program Director, OEG, Thailand
- Snje Strunje, Director, WEUSA, Argentina
- Katarzyna Szyporta, Program Specialist, The Best Way, Poland
- Enes Turgut, CEO, UTP Beyond Borders, Philippines
- Kadir Yoruk, Coordinator, Sales and Marketing, United Towers, Turkey
- Laura Zusinaite, Program Director, Jaunimo Keliones, Lithuania

IEC SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

IEC Speakers and Panelists

- Jon Baselice, Vice President, Immigration Policy, US Chamber of Commerce
- Denise Beckson, Vice President, Morey's Piers, New Jersey
- Asenith Dixon Bell, Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy
- Stacy Benjamin, Director, Special Programs, CIEE
- Jentzel U. Boitel, Senior Director of Industry Partnerships, IPEX Division, CIEE
- Laura Brigandi, Manager, Digital and Advocacy Practice, Public Affairs Council, Virginia
- Andrew Clifton, HS Senior Manager, National Placements, CIEE
- Carye Duffin, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE
- Jamie Fisher, Senior Director, Seasonal Exchanges, CIEE
- Sonnet Frisbie, Deputy Head, Political Intelligence, Morning Consult, Washington, DC
- Casey Hartnett, Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE
- Jessica Lora, Project Manager, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Texas
- John Lynch, Lunch With Lynch Foundation, New Jersey
- Shadi Madieh, Secondary School Alumni from Palestine, Engineer at Amazon, London - UK
- Julia Manchester, National Political Reporter, The Hill, Washington, DC
- Martine Mangion, Senior Vice President, Inbound Exchange Programs, CIEE
- Brandon McGuiggan, Senior Director of Placement Operations, CIEE
- Carmen Iezzi Mezzera, Executive Director, Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership
- Elijah Okoh, Current Summer Work Travel Participant from Nigeria, Cedar Point - OH
- Rebecca Pasini, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, US Department of State
- Jim Pellow, President and CEO, CIEE
- Louisa Creighton Smith, Director, Host Relations, CIEE
- Julia Prager-Hessel, Legislative Correspondent, Representative Suozzi (NY)
- Ashlee Rich Stephenson, Senior Political Strategist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Virginia
- Frank X. Taylor, President and CEO, FXTaylor Associates
- Mariliis Toitoja, Current Trainee Participant from Estonia, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, Washington D.C.
- Lara Turnbull, Current 12 Month Work Travel Participant from New Zealand, Sea Island - GA
- Bastian Weinberger, Board Chair, Smaller Earth Group, United Kingdom

Speakers & Panelists Bios...



Jon Baselice
Vice President, Immigration Policy, US Chamber of Commerce

Jon Baselice currently serves as the Vice President of Immigration Policy at the US Chamber of Commerce and joined the Chamber in June 2014. He works with member companies to form Chamber policy positions on various issues and advocates for sensible immigration policies before Congress and the executive branch agencies. Prior to joining the Chamber, Jon served as an advisor to Senator Rubio for three and a half years.

In that capacity, he held a very important position as one of the Senator's lead immigration advisors during the Senator's involvement with the Gang of 8 and his push for comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the 113th Congress. Jon is an attorney and he is licensed to practice in the states of New York and Florida.

He obtained his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law and he completed his undergraduate education at Syracuse University where he majored in Economics and Political Science and was a member of the Syracuse Orange football team.



Denise Beckson
Vice President, Human Resources and Government Affairs Divisions, Morey's Piers

For over three and a half decades, Denise Beckson has served Morey's Piers & Resorts, a family-owned business located in the Wildwoods on the Jersey Shore. She has worked in numerous capacities throughout her career there and currently serves as a senior executive officer, specifically overseeing the business's Human Resources and Government Affairs Divisions as Vice President.

Denise earned her bachelor's degree from Indiana University and her master's degree from American University. Denise joined the company in a management role thereafter. Today, driven by her core commitment to operational excellence, she currently serves as an executive-level member of the management team responsible for the operations of the business's three amusement piers, two beachfront water parks, four hotel properties, various restaurants, and other affiliated businesses owned and/or operated by the Morey family.

Denise is active and passionately involved in the industry at-large. Within New Jersey, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA) and the NJ Tourism Industry Association (NJTIA) and is the first vice chair on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association (NJRHA). Through an appointment by the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners, she also serves on the Workforce Development Board of Cumberland, Salem, and Cape May Counties.

Nationally and internationally, Denise is a Senior Associate for Jeff Ellis & Associates (E&A), an internationally recognized aquatic safety consultant, and serves as a director for their annual International Aquatic Safety School. She is also actively involved in the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), the amusement industry's international trade association, where she currently serves as a member of IAAPA's Board of Directors, as the chair of the North America Regional Advisory Board, and as the chair of the North America Government Relations Subcommittee. Denise is the Past Chair of IAAPA's Global Education Committee, Program Planning Committee, Global Government Relations Committee, and Global Waterpark Committee, as well as the Past Co-Chair of the Global Membership and Education Services Task Force; she is also a Past Member of the Executive Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Governance Committee.

Denise shares her expertise as a speaker at industry conferences and webinars throughout the country and internationally; she is frequently featured in and interviewed for publications and news stories with entities such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, NPR, CNBC, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Courier Post, the Atlantic City Press, and the Philadelphia and New York Area affiliates for ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, and PBS.

Denise is an IAAPA Certified Attractions Executive (ICAE) and was previously honored with IAAPA's Meritorious Service Award in recognition of her service to and for the association. She was further recognized as a Champion of International Exchange for her strong support for the Department of State's BridgeUSA (J-1 Visa) Program by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) as part of their Bridge Builders Awards. Denise was recently recognized as one of the 2022 Women of Achievement by the Garden State Council of the Boy Scouts of America and as the 2022 Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Golden Whelk award recipient.



Asenith Dixon Bell
Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy

Asenith joined CIEE in 2021 as VP for Government Affairs and Advocacy, responsible for CIEE's advocacy work on behalf of all CIEE study abroad and exchange programs. Prior to joining CIEE, Asenith served as Senior Director for Government Relations for the College Board's Global Policy and Government Relations Division. Before that, Asenith held various policy and analyst positions at the Southern Regional Education Board, the University of Georgia, and the Georgia General Assembly.

As a young teen, Asenith spent many summers volunteering at a non-profit community health center in Atlanta, where she canvassed public housing neighborhoods to encourage residents to stay vigilant about their health. Not only did she learn the importance of advocacy, but more importantly the power of advocacy. Asenith has utilized that activism to improve educational opportunities across the South for 20 years, advancing campaigns to grow access to advanced coursework in every school, to decrease fees and costs associated with applying to and attending college, and to celebrate students and teachers with governors, legislators, and state board of education members.

Asenith earned her bachelor's in sociology from the University of Georgia and a master's in public policy from Georgia State University. Outside of work, Asenith volunteers as a Board Member for a growing food cooperative, Urban Recipe and she reads voraciously, travels with curiosity, and cheers for her alma mater, the University of Georgia. She is based in Atlanta, Georgia.



Stacy Benjamin
Director, Special Programs, CIEE

After participating in a CIEE Work Exchanges program, Stacy began her career at CIEE in 1994. She rejoined the organization in 2017, to lead a team supporting Minority Serving Institutions, and managed the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship, before transitioning to her role as Director of Professional Development. In her current role as Director of Special Programs, Stacy is the primary liaison for the Leading Change in Study Abroad \$1 million Matching Grant initiative.

In between those posts, Stacy worked in television production as a co-host of a talk show in Scotland, and an Associate Producer for the BBC, Bravo, MTV, and PBS. She returned to the field of international education over a decade ago, with roles at IES Abroad, CAPA the Global Education Network, and AFS. Stacy holds a master's from the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor's from Brown University. She's delivered sessions at the CIEE, Diversity Abroad, IES Abroad, NAFSA and WISE conferences, and her work has been published in *The Journal of Negro Education* and *What You Think You Know About Politics*. She is based in New York.



Jentzel U. Boitel
Senior Director of Industry Partnerships, IPEX Division, CIEE

Jentzel U. Boitel is the Senior Director of Industry Partnerships for the Internships and Professional Exchanges (IPEX) division at CIEE. In this role, she spearheads strategic host partnership initiatives to create diverse international internship opportunities for young people.

Leveraging her multilingual skills to help build her global partner network, Jentzel brings extensive experience from her previous roles, where she led B2B2C business development, marketing, and sales strategies for multinational companies, educational institutions, and technology communications organizations. Before joining CIEE, she played a pivotal role in expanding NYU Tandon School of Engineering's corporate partnerships by establishing key relationships with industry leaders and influential stakeholders.

A lifelong learner, Jentzel recently earned an M.S. in Management of Technology from NYU Tandon School of Engineering. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Spanish Literature and a Master of Science in International Affairs from Florida State University.



Laura Brigandi
Manager, Digital and Advocacy Practice, Public Affairs Council

Laura Brigandi has over fifteen years of experience in government affairs and advocacy and a long track record of grassroots program management. In her current role as Digital and Advocacy Practice Manager for the Public Affairs Council, she oversees all programs, resources, and member services related to grassroots and digital advocacy, including two of the Council's signature events, the Advocacy Conference and the Digital Media and Advocacy Summit.

Before joining the Council, Laura served as Associate Director of Advocacy & Campaigns for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), where she trained volunteers to engage in grassroots advocacy and outreach in their communities. Prior to that, Laura managed grassroots programs for the College of American Pathologists and the American Federation of Musicians.

A New Jersey native, Laura received her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Franklin & Marshall College, and a master's degree in legislative affairs from The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management. In 2017, she received her certificate in PAC and Grassroots Management from the Public Affairs Council.



Andrew Clifton
Secondary Student Host Dad

As a passionate advocate for cultural exchange, I have had the privilege of hosting 11 students from 8 different countries since my family's journey began in 2013 with a student from Madrid, Spain. What started as a spontaneous decision quickly blossomed into a rewarding experience that enriched our lives and broadened our horizons. My children, then aged 6, 3, and 5 months, embraced each new student, and their enthusiasm has inspired us to continue hosting.

Professionally, I bring over 15 years of experience in international youth development, having run a soccer program that spanned 36 states and 4 continents. In 2021, I joined CIEE as a Senior Placement Manager for the USA High School team, where I focus on facilitating meaningful exchanges for students and host families.

I am excited to share my experiences and insights as a panelist and look forward to learning from all of you at this conference!



Carye Duffin
Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE

Carye Duffin began her career at CIEE in 1999. In her current role, she is leading our newest division, External Affairs, and will lead CIEE's local, national, and international cultivation activity to promote the benefits and importance of international exchange and study abroad programs, as well as amplify CIEE's thought leadership in the promotion of BridgeUSA programs and the power of international exchange to promote American public diplomacy, national security, and economic prosperity.

As the Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Carye supervises the office of Government Affairs and Advocacy, as well as the office of Funded Initiatives and Fundraising. In addition, she will serve as the President of the Coalition of American Public Diplomacy and Leadership (CAPDL), a national association of advocates for international exchange and public diplomacy.

Over the past 25 years, Carye has held various management positions within CIEE involving crisis management, operations, human resources, and sales. Most recently, she was Senior Vice President of International Exchange Programs. Prior to that, as Interim Senior Vice President of International Exchange Programs, she led the Exchange team through a challenging period of transition and growth and helping shape the strategy and goals of the division as CIEE re-emerged after the pandemic.

Carye earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's in education from the University of Pennsylvania. She is based in Texas.



Jamie Fisher
Senior Director, Seasonal Exchanges, CIEE

Throughout her 13 years at CIEE, Jamie Fisher has assisted multiple host employers and camps plan recruitment strategy to supplement their seasonal team needs and add cultural diversity with BridgeUSA participants through CIEE Summer Work & Travel USA and CIEE Camp Counselor USA.

In her current role as Senior Director, Jamie is collaborating across teams within Seasonal Exchanges to provide the best customer support for all CIEE Stakeholders. Prior to CIEE, Jamie worked directly with BridgeUSA participants for 7 years in Human Resources at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH.

This experience has helped shape her approach to building successful exchange programs. In her free time, Jamie enjoys outdoor activities such as running and hiking. A former member of the CIEE House Band, Jamie is always looking for an excuse to pick up a microphone.



Sonnet Frisbie
Deputy Head of Political Intelligence, Morning Consult

Sonnet Frisbie is the Deputy Head of Political Intelligence for Morning Consult. With over a decade living and working overseas in markets ranging from Central Europe to the Middle East, Sonnet provides Morning Consult clients with real-time data and insights to inform their decision making. Her analysis and commentary have been featured in the New York Times, Axios, the Financial Times, Foreign Policy, Bloomberg, Politico, and more.

Before joining Morning Consult, Sonnet Frisbie was a career member of the Foreign Service in the U.S. Department of State, specializing in issues at the intersection of politics and economics. Sonnet's assignments included Mexico, the Czech Republic, Iraq, Poland, and Washington, D.C.

She has worked on a range of issues: formulating trade and investment policy, engaging in commercial advocacy, monitoring emerging market debt, and coordinating across the interagency on policy related to digital assets.

Originally from Lubbock, Texas, she holds a B.A. in International Studies with a specialization in economics from Pepperdine University and an M.P.P. from the University of Chicago with a focus in data analytics and development economics. She speaks Czech, Spanish, German, and Polish.

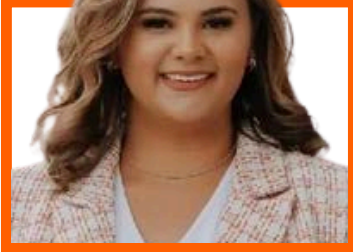


Casey Hartnett
Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE

Casey began working at CIEE as the Advocacy Manager on the Government Affairs and Advocacy team in May of 2023. Her work is focused on educating external stakeholders on the important impact international educational and cultural exchange has on U.S. and global interests.

With a BA in International Studies and German from American University in Washington D.C. and an MSc in International Public Policy and Diplomacy from University College Cork in Ireland, Casey has had a lifelong interest in working with people of different cultures and learning how to communicate and work across borders.

Prior to joining CIEE, Casey worked in a variety of internationally focused roles including international sales and events with the Washington Speakers Bureau in D.C., researching DEIA policy for the Cork Chamber of Commerce, and consulting on matters of Irish immigration with Corporate Care Relocation in Cork, Ireland.



Jessica Lora
***Project Management, F-35 International Industrial Participation,
Lockheed Martin***

Jessica Lora is a project manager in industrial participation at Lockheed Martin Corporation. She began her career as an intern in the international Australian Global Supply Chain department at the company. After earning a degree in Business, she worked for Exostar, a sister company of Lockheed Martin, where she was involved in Business Development, assisting with contracts and supply chain.

Following her tenure at Exostar, she returned to Lockheed's Space department to work in Business Development as a Capture Manager. Jessica's success in capture management led her to pursue opportunities working with international countries, which ultimately led to her relocation to Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in the F-35 department. In her current role, she oversees the intern program, which hosts Danish and Dutch graduate students specializing in Engineering degrees.

Jessica has successfully onboarded three sets of different interns and is preparing for her fourth. Her dedication to her role has been recognized and awarded by her company for improving intern processes. In her free time, Jessica loves to travel to new places, listen to podcasts, hike, and spend time with family and friends. Jessica was born in Georgia and raised in Syracuse, Utah. She graduated with high honors from Weber State University, with an undergraduate degree in business. Last year, Jessica graduated with her master's degree in international business from Colorado State University.



John Lynch
Board President, Lunch with Lynch Foundation

John Lynch has served as the Director of Sales and Entertainment for the Wildwoods Convention Center for the past 24 years. He is also the founder and president of the Lunch With Lynch Foundation, a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting at-risk families, local schools, children with life-threatening illnesses, and fostering community engagement.

For the last 14 years, John has been a passionate advocate for the BridgeUSA program, acting as both a mentor and friend to international students from around the world. He believes there is no better ambassador for the U.S. than the BridgeUSA students, who return home with positive experiences of their time in America.



Shadi Madieh
*Secondary School Alumni from Palestine, Engineer at Amazon,
London - UK*

Hello all! I'm Shadi, and I'm an Electronic Engineer based in London, currently working as an Engineering Manager.

I am from Palestine and have lived there majority of my life. My first time living outside of Palestine was when I had the amazing privilege of a Department of State funded exchange year in Kansas City Missouri. There, I was hosted by the wonderful Cliftons family, who welcomed me for the year. Happy to be part of this conference to share more on my exchange year, and how it shaped my future onwards.



Julia Manchester
National Reporter, The Hill

I am a national political reporter at The Hill based in Washington, focused on presidential and down ballot campaigns. In addition to covering national politics, I also host "What's America Thinking," a weekly public affairs show that airs on The Hill's YouTube and Fast channels.

I am a regular contributor on The Hill's sister cable network NewsNation and I frequently appear on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC to discuss the political news of the day. I also have a weekly segment on KTLA in Los Angeles, which is owned by The Hill's parent company Nexstar Media Group, called "Upfront with The Hill," where I detail the latest headlines out of Washington.

Prior to joining The Hill in 2017, I worked as a digital producer at CNN Politics in Washington. I received my undergraduate degree in broadcasting at Ithaca College and my graduate degree in political science at American University.



Martine Mangion
Senior Vice President, Inbound Exchange Programs, CIEE

Martine joined CIEE as Senior Vice President for Inbound Exchange Programs in 2023. Prior to working at CIEE, Martine held various leadership positions at EC English, most recently serving as Chief Revenue and Product Officer, leading the organization's sales, marketing, admissions, and product teams through post-pandemic recovery, helping restore the company to its leading position as an international English language learning provider servicing over 35,000 students annually.

Before joining EC, Martine had a 10-year career in public health working at the United Nations Population Fund advising on and implementing programs related to adolescent reproductive health. In addition, she spent several years advising the federal and provincial governments in Canada on income support programs for people living with complex chronic conditions.

A former professional ballerina in Malta, Martine currently serves at the vice chair of the Boston Ballet Board of Advisors. She is also a board member of the Literary Light Committee for the special collection at the Boston Public Library as well as on the Fundraising Committee for Weston Public Schools.

Martine holds a master's degree from Oxford University in International Development and Education, and a bachelor's degree in international relations and English from the University of Malta. She lives in Weston, Massachusetts with her husband, two daughters, and her cat Winston.



Brandon McGuiggan
Senior Director of Placement Operations, CIEE

Brandon McGuiggan joined CIEE in August of 2023 as the Sr. Director of Placement Operations within the Internships and Professional exchanges division, focusing on building CIEE's first inbound internship placement service offering. He also leads the Internship and Professional Career Trainee programs team, and the Research Scholar professional exchange product.

Over the past 20+ years, Brandon has led various operations teams within the HR, Benefits, and Insurance space. Prior to joining CIEE, Brandon led a consulting practice that focused on helping organizations grow and improve efficiencies utilizing technology and process improvement methodologies. Brandon holds a master's in business administration from Columbia College, and currently resides in Chicago, Illinois.



Carmen Iezzi Mezzera
Executive Director, Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership

Carmen Iezzi Mezzera became the Executive Director of the Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership in May 2024. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs; Director of Programs and Operations at the Bretton Woods Committee; Executive Director of the Fair Trade Federation; Assistant Director for Education and Outreach at the Atlantic Council of the United States; and Director of Alumni Relations for the School of International Service (SIS) at American University. Ms. Mezzera earned her bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in international politics from SIS.

Among her volunteer work, Ms. Mezzera has served with the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area, St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington DC, the Canadian Coalition for Fair Trade, and the Abyssinian Fund. She has written and/or provided interviews for CNN, CBS, Forbes, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, the Wall Street Journal, Martha Stewart Living, Vogue, US News and World Report, and Cooperative Grocer Magazine – among other outlets. She speaks at numerous national and international conferences. She received the 2008 Rising Star Alumni Award from American University.



Elijah Okoh
Current Summer Work Travel Participant from Nigeria, Cedar Point - OH

My name is Elijah Eromosele Ayomikun Okoh. I am a recent graduate in Mechatronics Engineering from Afe Babalola University, the best and most prestigious university in Nigeria, where I maintained a perfect cumulative GPA and received the First Class Honorary Financial Award throughout my studies. I am an associate of the Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators and a Fellow of the Bridge Program by Afara Initiative.

My leadership roles include serving as Chief of Staff to the Engineering President in 2022 and as Secretary General of the University's leading student union in 2023. I have been actively involved in organizing TEDx ABUAD, public speaking, debates, and creative writing, earning various awards. I also hosted significant events such as Campus to Career and the Engineering Project Innovations Competition (EPIC) within my university.

Recently, I became an alumnus of the Young Civic Leadership Summit, marking a notable milestone in my personal and professional journey. I am dedicated to building strong relationships and leaving a positive impact wherever I go.



Rebecca Pasini
***Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange,
US Department of State***

Rebecca A. Pasini joined the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchanges in July 2023.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, Ms. Pasini has been an American diplomat since 1997.

Ms. Pasini previously served as the Director of Public and Congressional Affairs in the Bureau of Consular Affairs from 2021-2023. Other Washington assignments have included positions in the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, the Office of Foreign Missions, and as a liaison to the Department of Homeland Security. She has also completed multiple overseas tours, including as Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs in Islamabad, Pakistan, and as the Consular Chief in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Belfast, Northern Ireland. Other tours included Mexico City and Kuwait.

A Maryland native, Ms. Pasini has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University, a master's degree in National Security and Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School, National Defense University, and an undergraduate degree from Mary Washington College.



Jim Pellow
President and CEO, CIEE

James Pellow has led The Council on International Educational Exchange since 2011. CIEE's mission is to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world by bringing the world together through the most meaningful exchange programs available.

Dr. Pellow has guided CIEE to increase access to international education for students from all socioeconomic, ethnic, and academic backgrounds by breaking down the barriers of cost, curriculum, and culture. In 2015, CIEE partnered with the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions to establish a series of programs to increase access to study abroad for students of color, including the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship, a student leadership and intercultural study abroad program; and Project Passport, a training and development program for college presidents, faculty, and students from Minority Serving Institutions. Under Pellow's leadership, CIEE increased annual grants to \$8 million, funded airfare for Pell-eligible students, and provided students with 10,000 free passports, resulting in an 85% increase in nontraditional students studying abroad.

Dr. Pellow encourages innovation to overcome barriers to international exchange, leading to the establishment of CIEE's Global Institute Network, Open Campus Block Program, Global Navigator High School Program, BridgeUSA Young Civic Leadership Summit, and BridgeUSA Exchange Visitor Access Scholarship.

Previously, Dr. Pellow served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for St. John's University, a private university in New York City with 20,000 students and an annual operating budget of \$565 million. He played a leading role in the transformation of the university from a commuter school to an international university. This transformation included a \$700 million capital expansion, the construction of 18 buildings, the acquisition of two campuses in New York, the establishment of two international campuses in Rome and Paris, and significant expansion of the university's academic, student services, marketing, and information systems.

Dr. Pellow served on the St. John's faculty, teaching classes on strategy and management. An advocate for service-learning programs that impact lives, Pellow led a series of public/private service programs to alleviate poverty, including programs to reduce food insecurity, close literacy gaps for youth in NYC public housing, and education programs for homeless single mothers.

Dr. Pellow earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, his MBA and BBA from Niagara University, and an honorary doctorate from Kokushikan University in Japan. He is the recipient of the Global Citizen Award (2019), the St. John's University Spirit of Service Award (2011), the LSA Family Health Service Spirit of Community Award (2011) and the St. John's Bread and Life Johnny's Angel Award (2006). He splits his time between Massachusetts and Florida.



Louisa Creighton Smith
Director, Host Relations, CIEE

Louisa is approaching her tenth year with CIEE and has recently been promoted to Director of Host Relations, overseeing both the Work and Travel and Camp Exchange teams. Before joining CIEE, Louisa was a teacher in San Francisco and at the Carroll School outside of Boston. She holds a master's degree in Education from Lesley University.

Always on the lookout for her next marathon, Louisa is currently training for her sixth marathon at the end of October, as well as the Boston Marathon in April. Meanwhile, she balances the fun and challenges of raising her two young daughters, Loie (4) and Wren (1), with her husband, Brigham.



Ashlee Rich Stephenson
Senior Political Strategist, Political Affairs and Issue Advocacy,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Ashlee Rich Stephenson, is a senior political strategist and consultant for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Stephenson advises the Chamber's political programming, which includes voter education and advocacy, candidate endorsements, and the U.S. Chamber PAC. She also helps develop and execute external issue advocacy campaigns to support the Chamber's policy and legislative priorities.

Stephenson is a nationally respected and highly experienced political strategist and pollster, with over 15 years of experience working on high-level candidate campaigns, independent expenditures, and on behalf of public affairs and corporate interests across the U.S.

She has worked on several U.S. presidential campaigns, including serving as the polling director for then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani's 2008 campaign and as an adviser for then-Gov. Scott Walker's 2016 effort. Stephenson was president of Just Win Strategies, a national political strategy firm, and principal and chief strategy officer at the polling and analytics company WPA Intelligence. She started her career in the Strategy Department at the Republican National Committee.

Named a Rising Star in 2014 by Campaigns & Elections magazine and inducted into the inaugural American Association of Political Consultants 40 under 40 class of 2015, Stephenson is a regularly requested panelist and commentator at political industry events to discuss evolving trends in the political tactics of public opinion research, data, digital, message development, and marketing. She serves on the boards of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions and The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management.

A graduate of Allegheny College and native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Stephenson resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband and their two children.



Frank X. Taylor
President and CEO, FXTaylor Associates

Frank Taylor was the undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from 2014 until his retirement from DHS in 2017.

As the DHS counterterrorism coordinator, he worked to integrate counterterrorism operations and initiatives within DHS and with the US National Security apparatus. As vice president and chief security officer for the General Electric Company from 2005 to 2013, Frank developed policies and processes that ensured effective security for GE operations, facilities, and employees globally.

Among other senior positions Frank held during his distinguished career in government service, Frank served as the assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security, and director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with a rank of ambassador from 2002-2005. Frank was the US Department of State ambassador-at-large and coordinator for counterterrorism from 2001 to 2002. In this role he was responsible for implementing US counterterrorism policy overseas and coordinating the US government response in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

During his 31 years of military service, Frank served with distinction in numerous command and staff positions, rising to the rank of brigadier general in September 1996. In his final active-duty assignment, Frank served as the commander, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Andrews Air Force Base. Frank holds a bachelor's and master's degree in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame. He is a distinguished graduate of the Notre Dame Air Force ROTC program.



Mariliis Toitoja

Current Trainee Participant from Estonia, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, Washington D.C.

Mariliis Tõitoja is a Baltic American Research Fellow at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. At VOC, she works with the foundation's Fellowships & Coalitions, Communications, and Development departments. Mariliis' fellowship program at VOC was made possible by the Professional Internship Program Scholarship awarded by the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation (BAFF).

Previously, Mariliis worked as the Head of the Educational Department at the Estonian Open-Air Museum, where she managed strategic development and communications with interest groups. Mariliis holds a bachelor's degree in history with a Minor in Social Sciences and a master's degree in history from Tallinn University in Estonia.



Lara Turnbull

Current 12 Month Work Travel Participant from New Zealand, Sea Island - GA

Kia ora! My name is Lara Turnbull I am 21 years old and a current participant of the CIEE Bridge Gap USA program. I am an alumnus of Victoria University of Wellington with a degree in political science and international relations. During my studies, I went on an exchange abroad to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo through the Wellington International Leadership Programme.

It was through this exchange that I achieved the dean's list award, and my interest in film and editing was sparked through my involvement with the video production team. My experience in Hawai'i was the main catalyst for continuing in an abroad program after graduation. My participation and completion of this program also helped me to develop my understanding of global issues, cultural diversity, and social change further.

My goals and aspirations heading into the future are to create a career within the political sphere that focuses on creating positive change globally. That also allows me to travel abroad to further my passion for creating new and diverse cultural experiences. It is through these experiences that I hope to build connections as well as advance my skills when it comes to communication, leadership, and creativity.

Coming to the completion of my journey at Sea Island, Georgia, I can now say that I have been able to build on the skills mentioned above. And I now hope to continue to grow them in my future endeavors.



Bastian Weinberger
Board Chair, Smaller Earth Group

Bastian Weinberger has over 20 years experience in the cultural exchange industry. He is the Chair of the Smaller Earth Group; a growing international body of companies guided by a shared set of values, purpose and vision, with 14 subsidiaries around the world providing meaningful travel programs.

Born in Germany and having lived and worked in the US and the UK, Bastian is dedicated to promoting life-changing experiences abroad. He wants to give back and facilitate for others what he was able to experience as a participant himself of several Bridge USA programs – which provided positive life changing experiences.

Bastian Weinberger has been an elected member of the Cultural Exchange Panel of the WYSE Travel Confederation between 2014 and 2023, and in 2024 joined the Board of CAPTDL in their commitment to strengthening the voice piece and community aspect of the cultural exchange industry.

Bastian has an interest in endurance sports, especially long distance triathlons, and also enjoys spending time with his family and mischievous pet Labrador.

About CIEE



College Study Abroad students in Berlin

FOR 75+ YEARS, CIEE HAS BEEN CONNECTING DIFFERENT PEOPLE, NATIONS, AND CULTURES TO NURTURE A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

For more than 75 years, in the face of ever-changing global dynamics and shifting areas of political conflict, we at CIEE have been dedicated to *advancing peace through international educational exchange programs.*

We have set ambitious goals to not just increase participation in international experiences, but to diversify it. Increasing access to the world for students from all countries, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds is the best way of *preparing the next generation of American and world leaders* with the global perspective needed to affect positive change in our world.

Our global network consists of international education professionals, volunteers, host families, globally-minded employers, international partners, government leaders, faculty, and administrators at thousands of colleges and high schools around the world. Together, we are *changing the world, one life at a time.*

Join us.



James P. Pellow, Ed.D.
President & CEO,
Council on International
Educational Exchange



Study Abroad students in Ghana

CIEE HAS HELPED OVER 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH SKILLS TO THRIVE IN A MULTICULTURAL AND GLOBALLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD

For 75 years, CIEE has helped young people enhance their global perspective by participating in high-quality international exchange and study abroad programs.

Each year, we help *50,000+* young people experience a new culture, including foreign students and professionals who come to the United States and American students and professionals who explore the world.

Since 1969, CIEE has been the U.S. Department of State's leading sponsor for BridgeUSA programs that advance public diplomacy through academic, cultural, and professional exchange programs in the U.S.



CIEE BridgeUSA Programs At A Glance



BridgeUSA High School student in Washington D.C., USA

BRIDGEUSA SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT

BRINGING THE WORLD TO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES WITH THE HELP OF 1,700 VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES EACH YEAR

CIEE places foreign students with U.S. host families so they can attend an American high school, live like an American teen, and embrace American culture.

BUILDING POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICAN CULTURE

Students:

- Learn more about American culture,
- Improve their English language skills
- Create lifelong bonds with American friends and host family

BUILDING BRIDGES OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Host families and communities who welcome exchange students:

- Learn about another culture
- Gain a greater global perspective



A CIEE Host Family welcoming their high school exchange student

CIEE HIGH SCHOOL USA HOST FAMILY PLACEMENT

CONNECTING U.S. FAMILIES WITH THE WORLD

CIEE finds students from 55+ countries their home away from home while they attend high school in the United States. Our volunteer host families tell us over and over that their lives have been touched and changed by opening their homes to a student from another culture. The experience is as transformative for the host family as for their exchange student.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CIEE HOST PARENT

CIEE host parents are volunteers who must be at least 25 years old, and able to provide:

- A welcoming home for one or two high school semesters
- Family support
- A bedroom and a bed
- An appropriate place to study
- Meals at home and school
- Assistance coordinating appropriate transportation



So many memories have been created with each of the students we have hosted. Sharing different holidays and customs from our country is only a part of the experience. There is so much to be learned by opening your home to these students.

— Sheila Gibbs, CIEE Volunteer Host Mother



BridgeUSA High School participants

BRIDGEUSA HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORED PROGRAMS

PARTNERING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

CIEE manages several prestigious high school scholarship on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG EXCHANGE (CBYX) PROGRAM

Scholarships for both German and American students to go abroad for an academic year school and homestay experience.

KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM

Scholarships for high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to live and study in the United States for an academic year.

THE FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE (FLEX) PROGRAM

Scholarships for students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to live and study in the U.S. for an academic year.

I think the CBYX, but also exchange in general, has a big impact on German-U.S. relations. It is not just about the participants. All the people in the community are involved in the program and learn about each other's culture.

- Congress-Bundestag Exchange (CBYX) Program Alum



CIEE PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

CIEE PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

CIEE supports international college students, recent graduates, and professionals who are pursuing internship or training opportunities in the United States.

COMPREHENSIVE J-1 VISA SPONSORSHIP

CIEE brings the working world together by sponsoring the following J-1 visa types:

- Short-Term Scholar
- Researcher
- Professor
- Specialist

INDUSTRY LEADING SUPPORT

CIEE is the oldest and largest J-1 sponsor. With CIEE, participants get more than just a visa sponsor, they get 24-hour multilingual support.



CIEE INTERNSHIP USA PLACEMENT PROGRAM

BRINGING THE WORLD TO AMERICAN WORKPLACES

CIEE helps businesses unlock global talent, access diverse skill sets, and bring a global perspective to the workplace by hosting international interns in the United States.

TALENT KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

CIEE partners with businesses to help them secure talent from around the world. CIEE provides:

- Recruiting, hiring, and onboarding
- Visa sponsorship
- Program support

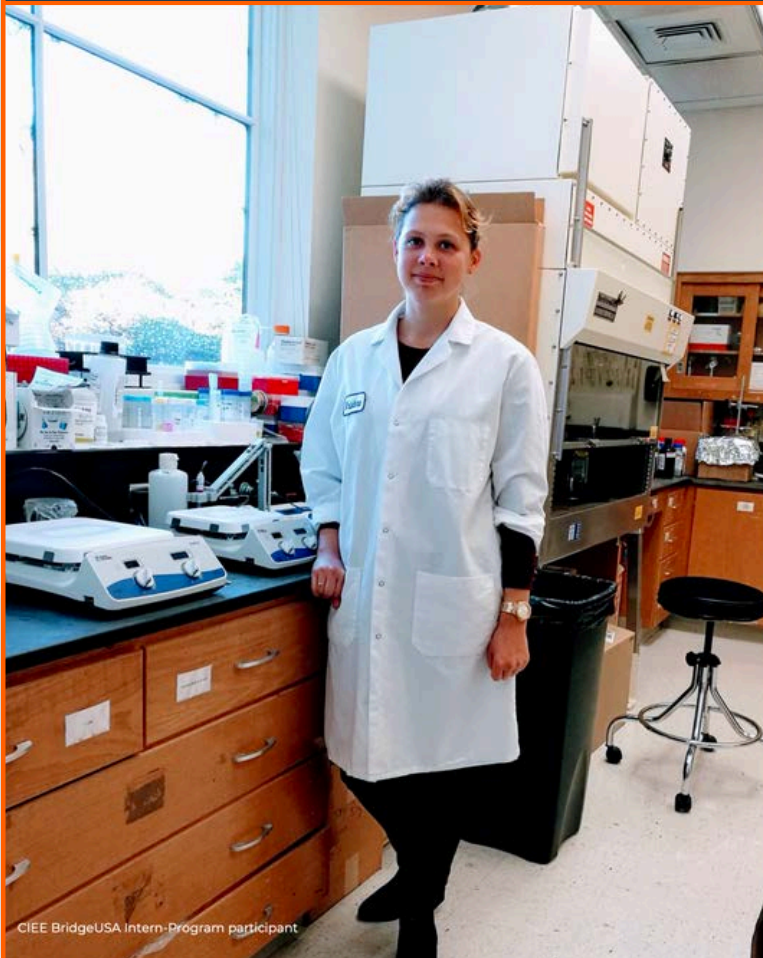
TRUSTED BY THE WORLD'S TOP ORGANIZATIONS



ciee.org/host-interns

The mentor/mentee relationship is mutual. We have benefitted by the energy, intelligence, drive and curiosity of the interns, and in turn they have learned about new technology and ways of working in the USA.

– Albert Zulps, Skanska



CIEE BridgeUSA Intern-Program participant

BRIDGEUSA INTERN-PROGRAM

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS INTERNING OR TRAINING IN THE U.S.

CIEE supports international college students, recent graduates, and professionals who are pursuing internship or training opportunities in the United States.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Participants:

- Experience American business culture and practices
- Gain practical insights and understanding
- Develop skills to enhance career opportunities

GLOBALIZING THE WORKFORCE

Host families and communities who welcome exchange students:

- Learn about another culture
- Gain a greater global perspective





CIEE BridgeUSA Summer Work & Travel USA participant

BRIDGEUSA SUMMER WORK TRAVEL

HELPING COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD LEARN ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND VALUES

CIEE connects university students from around the world with seasonal jobs, allowing them to live, work, and travel in the U.S. during their home university summer breaks. Participants are self-funded so there is no cost to the tax payer and they provide a positive economic impact to small businesses across America.

BENEFITS TO THE UNITED STATES

This public diplomacy program:

- Advances U.S. diplomatic relations
- Improves the perception of the U.S. in the eyes of future leaders.
- Enhances national security and economic prosperity

IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

91% of Summer Work Travel alums agreed that they had a better understanding of American culture after the program*

76% of Summer Work Travel alums reported a positive change in views regarding the United States*

*EurekaFacts. (2018). *Summer Work Travel Impact Evaluation Final Report.



CIEE BridgeUSA Camp Counselor Exchange participant

BRIDGEUSA CAMP COUNSELOR

HELPING AMERICAN SUMMER CAMPS RECRUIT INTERNATIONAL COUNSELORS

CIEE places foreign students with U.S. host families so they can attend an American high school, live like an American teen, and embrace American culture.

CIEE:

- Recruits international participants that have the skills and experience camps need
- Provides visa sponsorship and in-country support for participants
- Prepares participants for their roles as experiential educators, role models, and leaders through orientations in their home countries, in-depth self assessments, and full staff training

Counselors work alongside American counselors and return home with a deeper knowledge of American culture and values.



My experience in camp not only gave me wonderful memories that would last me a lifetime but it also helped me develop my confidence and interpersonal skills, such as providing conflict resolution and applying cultural sensitivity skills.

— CIEE BridgeUSA Camp Counselor Exchange Alum



BridgeUSA = Democracy at Work

The BridgeUSA program, also known as the J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program, was established by Congress in 1961, and is administered by the U.S. Department of State. It has been a powerful diplomatic tool for 60 years, helping 300,000 international students and professionals from 200 countries visit the U.S. each year through educational and cultural exchange programs.

BridgeUSA helps keep America safe and prospering through people-to-people exchanges, that advance U.S. public diplomacy initiatives, enhance U.S. national security, and help increase economic prosperity for American communities, businesses, and families.

To participate, BridgeUSA participants must apply for an Exchange Visitor J-1 nonimmigrant visa in their home country from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, demonstrate English language proficiency, confirm placement with an American family or host employer, and confirm an understanding that the BridgeUSA program is a short-term, public diplomacy exchange program intended to build bridges between the U.S. and other nations.



BridgeUSA Strengthens U.S. Public Diplomacy, U.S. National Security, and U.S. Economic Prosperity

FACT: More than three-quarters of BridgeUSA participants return home with a higher overall regard for the United States and its people.

FACT: BridgeUSA participants come to the U.S. from countries critically important to U.S. foreign policy, like China, Taiwan, Turkey, South Korea, and Ukraine.

FACT: BridgeUSA programs are entirely self-funded and contribute more than \$500 million to the U.S. economy each year.

BridgeUSA by the Numbers: Colorado

Designations	Total ECA Participation	Designation Description
Summer Work Travel	6,095	Enrolled full-time international college/university students share their culture and ideas through temporary work and travel.
Intern & Trainee	1,110	International college/university students and professionals receive hands-on experience or training in select fields in U.S. businesses..
High School	577	Secondary school students study at a public or private U.S. high school and live with an American family or at a boarding school.
Professor & Research Scholar	303	Participants exchange ideas, research, and linkages between research and academic institutions in the U.S. and other countries.
Camp Counselor	247	Postsecondary students, youth workers, and teachers share their culture with U.S. citizens in camp settings.
Remaining 6 Designations	1,904	Included: Alien Physician, Au Pair, College and University Student, Short Term Scholar, Specialist, and Teacher.
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	10,236	<i>Note: All data is from 2023 and 2022-2023 school year. For more BridgeUSA data, go to: WWW.ECA.STATE.GOV/IMPACT.</i>

Top Sending Countries?

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Jamaica, S. Korea, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Turkey, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.



3,222
Exchange Alumni from
Colorado, 2023

Which Regulations Govern the Program?

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, formally the Fulbright-Hays Act, provides for the improvement and strengthening of U.S. international relations by promoting better mutual understanding among the peoples of the world through educational and cultural exchanges.

See Code of Federal Regulations, Title 22: Foreign Relations, Part 62.

Funding and Policy Recommendations

- Maintain funding at either FY24 levels (\$741 million) or at proposed Senate FY25 levels (\$761.05 million, S.4797) for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to administer educational and cultural exchange programs.
- Maintain current visa application fee rates, after rate increase to \$185 from \$160 in 2023, to sustain participation and interest in BridgeUSA and other J-1 educational and cultural exchange programs.
- Reduce visa processing wait times by adopting universal visa interview waiver guidelines for all locations, prohibiting additional restrictions to interview waiver eligibility. Nonimmigrant visa (NIV) applicants who were previously issued a NIV may apply for a visa interview waiver within 48 months of their most recent NIV's expiration if the applicant is applying for participation in the same or another NIV category.

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International Exchange Conference

Congressional Cheat Sheet

Thank you for attending the inaugural Annual International Exchange Conference (IEC) hosted by CIEE in exploration of “Democracy at Work” through BridgeUSA in celebration of the power of cultural exchange. We are excited to share Advocacy tips and opportunities to meet with your Congressional delegation while you are in D.C.

In this packet, you will find fundamental details about Congress, leadership, committees, and the committee and legislative process. As importantly, we have included a summary of both the House’s and the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Fiscal Year 2025 funding (appropriations) bills for State and Foreign Operations, and Relations Programs.

Lastly, you will find a Glossary of Terms and a list of Congressional members who represent only those states participating in the IECs Capitol Hill Meetings and who are members of priority congressional committees relevant to funding and policy directives for BridgeUSA.

We hope this guide is helpful and useful for your general reference and for your 2024 IEC meetings with Congressional staff.



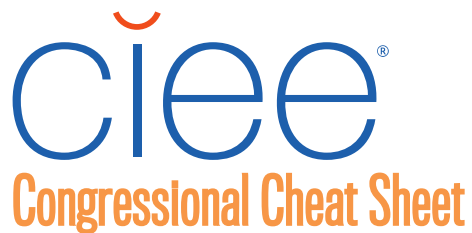


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I. Congress At a Glance

Welcome to Congress where your opinion is valued. As a citizen and constituent, you have a route, a mechanism, and a process for making the difference you seek. To do that, you work through the U.S. Congress. Your participation can determine the government's direction.

United States House of Representatives. The U.S. House consists of 435 representatives with each representing a congressional district. Four delegates represent the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico, also a territory, is represented by a Resident Commissioner. The delegates and resident commissioner vote in committees but not on the House floor, nor when the House forms a committee of the whole.

House seats are up for reelection every two years, so as to reflect their constituency's changing concerns. Although the House deals with national and policy issues, their emphasis is on individual constituents and their district. In addition, the Constitution gives the House one extremely important job, which is, "All bills for raising revenue [must] originate in the House of Representatives."

- To find or learn more about a U.S. House Representative, a House Committee, or the House calendar, or to watch House floor proceedings, go to www.House.gov.
- You also can find additional information and helpful links at the Clerk of the House's website, www.clerkweb.house.gov.

United States Senate. The U.S. Senate as an institution tends to deal with issues that affect entire states and the nation as a whole, rather than individuals. Each state is represented by two senators who speak for the interests of their states. The Senate also serves as a brake on the president, the executive branch, and executive power.

Senators serve six-year terms, with only a third facing reelection every two years. Thereby, a certain degree of change keeps the body in touch with popular sentiments while the body maintains continuity.

- To find or learn more about a U.S. Senator, a Senate Committee, or the Senate calendar, or to watch Senate floor proceedings, go to www.Senate.gov.



II. House and Senate Leadership

Congress is a hierarchical institution, and great deference is paid to senior members and party and chamber leaders.

House Leadership – The House’s majority party determines the legislative agenda. The leaders, in order of seniority, are:

- Speaker of the House (Mike Johnson, LA-R)
- Majority Leader (Steve Scalise, LA-R)
- Majority Whip (Tom Emmer, MN-R)
- Minority Leader (Hakeem Jeffries, NY-D)
- Minority Whip (Katherine Clark, MA-D)
- Republican Conference Chair (Elise Stefanik, NY-R)
- Democratic Caucus Chair (Pete Aguilar, CA-D)

Senate Leadership – Senate rules prevent the kind of majority dominance that exists in the House. One of the most important aspects of Senate leadership is the national platform it provides for its holder. Senate leaders, in order of seniority, are:

- President of the Senate (Vice President Kamala Harris, CA-D)
- President Pro Tempore (Patty Murray, WA-D)
- Democratic Leader, Conference Chair (Chuck Schumer, NY-D)
- Majority Whip (Richard Durbin, IL-D)
- Republican Leader (Mitch McConnell, KY-R)
- Minority Whip (John Thune, SD-R)
- Republican Conference Chair (John Barrasso, WY-R)
- Democratic Policy Committee Chair (Debbie Stabenow, MI-D)
- Republican Policy Committee Chair (Joni Ernst, IA-R)



III. Congressional Committees

There are several types of committees: Standing, Joint, Special or Select. For our purposes, we will focus on standing committees which are relatively permanent and deal with passing legislation.

After a bill is introduced, it then goes through the committee process. The bill is referred to, assigned to, a standing committee by the Speaker of the House or the Vice President (as the presiding officer) in the Senate. Once the bill reaches its respective committee, the Committee Chair may refer the bill to a subcommittee.

When considering a bill, the committee or subcommittee may hold hearings to gather information. After hearings are conducted, the committee may markup a bill – go through the bill line by line, altering words, and making changes that the committee believes are necessary. After markup, the committee votes on the bill then determines if it should be reported out (favorably or without a recommendation) and voted on by the full chamber or not be reported out of committee (referred to as “killing the bill”).

Once the committee is done with the bill, it may issue a report to explain the legislative intent of the committee. Legislative intent is the purpose behind a law and is determined by analyzing the documents and debate surrounding a bill’s passage.

Priority Standing Committees for BridgeUSA Advocacy – House

- House Appropriations Committee
 - o Chair Rep. Tom Cole, OK-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Rosa DeLauro, CT-D
- House Appropriations – Homeland Security Subcommittee
 - o Chair Rep. Mark Amodei, NY-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Lauren Underwood, IL-D
- House Appropriations – SFOPS Subcommittee
 - o Chair Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, FL-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Barbara Lee, CA-D
- House Foreign Affairs Committee
 - o Chair Rep. Michael McCaul, TX-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Gregory Meeks, NY-D
- House Homeland Security Committee
 - o Chair Rep. Mark Green, TN-R
 - o Ranking Member, Rep. Bennie Thompson, MS-D
- House Homeland Security, Border Security, and Enforcement Subcommittee
 - o Chair Rep. Morgan Luttrell, TX-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Lou Correa, CA-D
- House Judiciary Committee
 - o Chair Rep. Jim Jordan, OH-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Jerry Nadler, NY-D
- House Judiciary – Immigration Integrity, Security and Enforcement Subcommittee
 - o Chair Rep. Tom McClintock, CA-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Pramila Jayapal, WA-D
- House Small Business Committee
 - o Chair Rep. Roger Williams, TX-R
 - o Ranking Member Rep. Nydia Velazquez, NY-D
- House Small Business, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development
 - o Chair Rep. Marc Molinaro, NY- R
 - o Ranking Member, Rep. Morgan McGarvey, KY-D



Priority Standing Committees for BridgeUSA Advocacy – Senate

- Senate Appropriations Committee
 - o Chair Sen. Patty Murray, WA-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Susan Collins, ME-R
- Senate Appropriations – Homeland Security Subcommittee
 - o Chair Sen. Chris Murphy, CT-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Katie Britt, AL-R
- Senate Appropriations – SFOPS Subcommittee
 - o Chair Sen. Chris Coons, DE-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Lindsey Graham, SC-R
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - o Chair Sen. Benjamin Cardin, MD-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. James Risch, ID-R
- Senate Foreign Relations – State Department and USAID Management Subcommittee
 - o Chair Sen. Benjamin Cardin, MD-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Bill Hagerty, TN-R
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
 - o Chair Sen. Gary Peters, MI-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Rand Paul, KY-R
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs – Government Operations and Border Management Subcommittee
 - o Chair Sen. Krysten Sinema, AZ-I
 - o Ranking Member Sen. James Lankford, OK-R
- Senate Judiciary Committee
 - o Chair Sen. Dick Durbin, IL-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Lindsey Graham, SC-R
- Senate Judiciary – Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Security Subcommittee
 - o Chair Sen. Alex Padilla
 - o Ranking Member Sen. John Cornyn, TX-R
- Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee
 - o Chair Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, NH-D
 - o Ranking Member Sen. Joni Ernst, LA-R
- Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship – Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development
 - o Chair Sen. Marc Molinaro, NY-R
 - o Ranking Member Morgan McGarvey, KY-D



"I see we're split between those who like my new tie, and those who welcome unemployment."



IV. An Abbreviated Look at the Appropriations Process

Essentially, the budgeting, authorizing, and appropriating process is one of slicing the budget pie into smaller, finer pieces. Every year, Congress must approve a budget and then provide the means for government agencies to operate, or appropriate, the money to meet the budget. Congress makes these provisions in 13 different appropriations bills. Of all the bills that Congress considers and passes, the appropriations bills are the only ones that absolutely must be passed each year without fail.

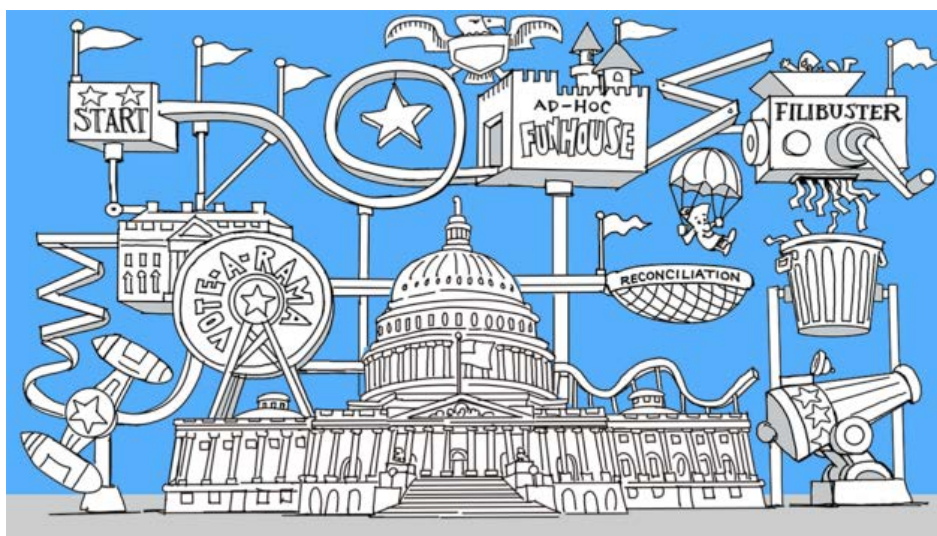
When the appropriations committees receive their allocations from the budget committee, the allocations are divided among the subcommittees. The subcommittees then begin conducting hearings to examine the different government programs under their jurisdiction. Cabinet secretaries and high-level officials frequently testify at hearings.

When hearings are finished, the subcommittees prepare a draft bill for members of the subcommittee to mark up or revise. Committees that deal with defense and foreign affairs usually close markup hearings on the basis of concern for national security. When the markup is complete, the bill is sent to the entire committee, where the chairman puts all subcommittee bills together and sends the entire bill to the full chamber.

When the House and Senate are unable to pass a budget by October 1, they can approve a continuing resolution (CR), to continue funding affected agencies at their existing levels. CRs can apply for however long Congress decides but keeping them short and then renewing them as needed is the preferred course of action. When numerous agencies otherwise will be left unfunded, all the outstanding appropriations are swept into one enormous bill called an omnibus continuing resolution.

When all the appropriations bills are finished, they are sent to the president for his signature. The president provides the final control on the bills. Ultimately, the bills need to reflect – however imperfectly – the full national consensus about how the nation’s money is spent.

- To find legislation, use www.congress.gov.





V. Appropriations Bills for Fiscal Year 2025

Congress is required to pass an annual budget. The fiscal year budget for the federal government covers all federal agencies and runs from October 1 to September 30. This summer, the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House passed versions of the FY25 budget.

However, the final FY25 budget is likely to not receive approval until the end of 2024 or in early 2025. In late September, a continuing resolution (CR), or temporary spending bill, was agreed upon by leadership to fund the government through mid-December 2024. Once the House and Senate approve the measure, the CR will take effect immediately.

S. 4797 – The Senate FY25 funding bill for the State and Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 25, 2024.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 24-5 to approve \$61.6 billion (up by 3% compared to FY 24) in total spending for SFOPS.
- Senate Appropriations Committee recommends, as of July 25:
 - \$761.05 million (up about 2.7% from FY24) for educational and cultural exchange programs under the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

H.R. 8771 – The full House of Representatives approved the FY25 SFOPS Appropriations budget on June 28, 2024.

- The House approved the House SFOPS budget for FY25 at \$51.7 billion (down 11% from FY24) in total spending for SFOPS.
- Total spending approved for ECA was down by 3% to \$720.9 million from FY24 levels.

Regular Appropriations (Budget Authority)

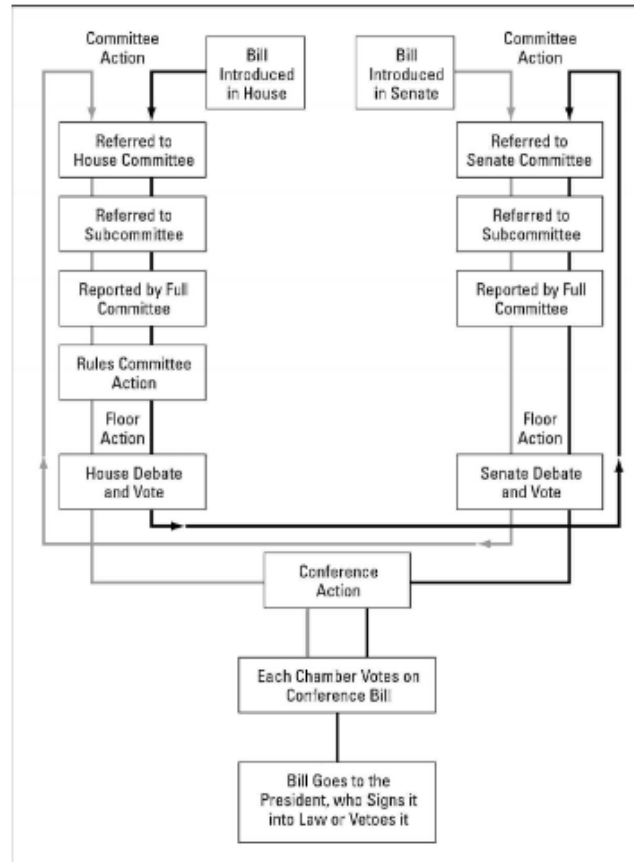
Subcommittee	FY2024 Approp riation	FY2025 President's Budget	FY2025 House Committee	FY 2025 Senate Committee
State, Foreign Operations	\$55.8 billion	N/A	\$51.7 billion	\$61.6 billion
TOTAL Base Funding	\$1.590 trillion	\$1.606 trillion*	\$1.606 trillion^	\$1.606 trillion^

Source: [House Appropriations Committee](#), [Senate Appropriations Committee](#), [CBO estimate for FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), [CBO estimate for FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), [Office of Management and Budget](#).

*The President's FY 2025 budget includes certain amounts designated as emergency requirements that are for based activities, described as nondefense "shifted base."

^The House and Senate totals are expected to adhere to the cap as enacted in the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

VI. Legislative Process – As Established by the Constitution and the Reality of the Process





VII. Advocacy Tips

To be effective, you have to be committed to your core issue, the basic goal you are working toward and on which you will not compromise. Your core issue is the essence of what you're trying to achieve.

Every piece of legislation or initiative in Congress has its champions. A champion is someone who understands the issue the same way you do and is committed to pursuing it. A committed champion lobbies fellow members, sells the legislation to the media, and genuinely works hard to get the legislation passed.

One of the first places to look for a champion is right in your own hometown – or at least your congressional district. When discussing your core issue with a hometown champion or any member of Congress, be prepared:

- Understand your cause and how Congress affects it – policy, regulations, or funding. Know the bill numbers, funding levels, and agency names.
- Have talking points in favor of your cause.
- Have your card and contact information available.
- Provide informational collateral or documents with background about your issue.
- Tailor your conversation to the member and the member's interests, review the committees the member belongs to and know if the member has voted for or against your core issue.

Important points to keep in mind when meeting with Congressional staff:

- Be prompt, courteous and calm
- Know the Goal of the Meeting
- Do your homework, be prepared
- Respect the Staff
- Be willing to say "I will get back to you" when you don't know an answer
- Gifts must be under \$10 in value, per federal law





VIII. Congressional Members by States of Capitol Hill Meeting Attendees

State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
AK	Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Appropriations - Senate Cultural Caucus - Vice, Chair, Senate Indian Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA, esp. Teacher designation - Commercial Attorney
	Sen. Dan Sullivan (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Cultural Caucus - Co-Chair, Senate Foreign Service Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business under Secretary of State Rice
	Rep. Mary Peltola (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels
CA	Sen. Alex Padilla (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Judiciary - Chair, Senate Judiciary – Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety Subc. - Senate Cultural Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - MIT graduate - Lifelong Public Servant
	Sen. Laphonza Butler (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Senate Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - 20-year Organizer and Labor Movement Leader - <i>Will Not Return; Resigned</i>
	Rep Kevin Kiley (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Promote fiscal responsibility and responsibly managed public lands - Former CA Prosecutor and Deputy Attorney General



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
CO	Sen. Michael Bennet (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Cultural Caucus - Senate Foreign Service Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Attorney; Investment Manager - Former Denver School Superintendent
	Sen. John Hickenlooper (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Entrepreneur - Former CO Governor
	Rep. Jason Crow (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Foreign Affairs - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus - House Baltic Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Army Airborne and Ranger, Captain - Attorney
FL	Sen. Rick Scott (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Homeland Security Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Navy veteran - Entrepreneur - Former FL Governor
	Sen. Marco Rubio (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vice Chair, Select Committee on Intelligence - Senate Appropriations - Senate Approps – SFOPS Subcommittee - Senate Foreign Relations - Senate Foreign Relations – State Department and USAID Subc. - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Attorney - Lifelong Public Servant
	Rep. Scott Franklin (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Appropriations - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Naval Aviator - Entrepreneur



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
IL	Sen. Dick Durbin (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Majority Whip - Chair, Senate Judiciary - Senate Appropriations - Senate Approps – SFOPS Subc. - Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus - Senate Cultural Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Attorney
	Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Foreign Relations - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Army National Guard, Black Hawk helicopter pilot - Former Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs
	Rep. Brad Schneider (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Foreign Affairs - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus - House Baltic Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Business Management Consultant - Industrial Engineer
ME	Sen. Susan Collins (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations - Ex-Officio, Senate Appropriations – SFOPS Subc. - Ex-Officio, Senate Approps Homeland Security Subc. - Co-Chair, Senate Cultural Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Voted in favor of FY25 SFOPS budget - Legislative Aide; Public Official
	Sen. Angus King, Jr. (I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Cultural Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Attorney - Former ME Governor
	Rep. Chellie Pingree (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Appropriations - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus - House Baltic Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Entrepreneur and farmer - Former ME House Speaker



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
	Rep. Jared Golden (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Small Business - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Marine Corps Officer
MO	Sen. Josh Hawley (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Senate Judiciary - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constitutional Attorney - Former MO Attorney General
	Sen Eric Schmitt (R)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attorney - Former MO Attorney General
	Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor - Former Kansas City Mayor
MT	Sen. Jon Tester (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair, Veterans' Affairs - Senate Appropriations - Senate Approps – Homeland Security Subc. - Senate Cultural Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Farmer and teacher
	Sen. Steve Daines (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business executive
	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Foreign Affairs - House Appropriations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Navy SEAL
NC	Sen. Ted Budd (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship - Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneur
	Sen. Thom Tillis (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Executive



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
	Rep. Jeff Jackson (D)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Army National Guard and Army veteran - Former Assistant District Attorney - <i>Will Not Return: Running for NC Attorney General</i>
ND	Sen. Kevin Cramer (R)	- Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lifelong public servant - Former ND Economic Development and Finance Director
	Sen. John Hoeven (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Appropriations - Senate Cultural Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banker - Former ND Governor
	Rep. (Mr.) Kelly Armstrong (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Judiciary - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Attorney
NV	Sen. Jacky Rosen (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship 	- Software Developer
	Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Vice Chair of Outreach - Senate Foreign Service Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	- Former Federal Criminal Prosecutor
	Rep. Mark Amodei (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Appropriations - House Approps. – Homeland Security Subc. - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Former Army Judge Advocate General's Corps officer



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
NY	Sen. Chuck Schumer (D)	- Senate Cultural Caucus	- Attorney - Lifelong Public Servant
	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)	- Senate Cultural Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus	- Attorney
	Rep. Dan Goldman (D)	- House Homeland Security - House Baltic Caucus	- Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Former NY Assistant U.S. Attorney
OH	Sen. JD Vance (R)		- Marine - Venture Capitalist and Author
	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D)	- Chair, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	- Supports BridgeUSA - Teacher
	Rep. Greg Landsman (D)	- House Small Business	- Teacher and non-profit professional
	Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D)	- House Appropriations - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus - House Baltic Caucus	- Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Urban Planner - Former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Carter
PA	Sen. John Fetterman (D)		- AmeriCorps teacher - Former Braddock Mayor - Former PA Lieutenant Governor
	Sen. Bob Casey (D)	- Chair, Special Committee on Aging	- Attorney
	Rep. Matt Cartwright (D)	- House Appropriations - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus - Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus	- Personal Injury Attorney



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
	Rep. Susan Wild (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Foreign Affairs - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Attorney
SD	Sen. John Thune (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Republican Minority Whip - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lifelong Public Servant - Appointed to U.S. Small Business Administration by President Reagan
	Sen. Mike Rounds (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneur - Former ND Governor
	Rep. Dusty Johnson (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Business executive
TX	Sen. Ted Cruz (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Foreign Relations - Senate Foreign Relations – State Department and USAID Subc. - Senate Judiciary - Senate Judiciary – Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety Subc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attorney - Former TX Solicitor General
	Sen. John Cornyn (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Judiciary - Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary – Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety Subc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attorney and Judge
	Rep. Marc Veasey (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Baltic Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Real Estate Broker



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
UT	Sen Mitt Romney (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Foreign Relations - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Senate Homeland Security – Government Operations and Border Management Subc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports BridgeUSA - Businessman - Former MA Governor - <i>Will Not Return; Retired</i>
	Sen. Mike Lee (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Alito - Former Salt Lake City Assistant U.S. Attorney
	Rep. John Curtis (R)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Businessman - Former Provo City Mayor
VA	Sen. Tim Kaine (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Foreign Relations - Seante Foreign Relations – State Department and USAID Subc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wife, Anne Holton, is VA Secretary of Education - Attorney and Teacher - Former Richmond Mayor - Former VA Governor
	Sen. Mark Warner (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence - Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telecommunications Executive - Former VA Governor
	Rep. Bob Good (R)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Athletics Director - <i>Will Not Return; Lost Primary</i>
WI	Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Secretary of the Conference - Senate Appropriations - Senate Approps – Homeland Security Subc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneur - Attorney



State	Member Title(s)	Priority BridgeUSA Related Committee Assignment(s) and Leadership Titles	Supports BridgeUSA or Other Sentiments
	Sen. Ron Johnson (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs – Government Operations and Border Management Subc. 	- Accountant
	Rep. Bryan Steil (R)	- Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attorney - Former Member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents
	Rep. Mark Pocan (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Appropriations - Congressional Small Business Caucus 	- Business Owner
WY	Sen. John Barrasso (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Republican Conference Chair - Senate Foreign Relations 	- Orthopedic Surgeon
	Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerked at WY Supreme Court - Attorney and Rancher - Former WY State Treasurer
	Rep. Harriett Hageman (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House Judiciary Committee - Congressional Apprenticeship Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Rep. Brecheen (OK-R) amendment to reduce FY25 educational and cultural exchange funding to FY19 levels - Attorney



IX. Glossary of Terms

A

- Act – Legislation enacted into law. A bill that has passed both the House and Senate, agreed to in identical form by both bodies of Congress, then approved by the President, not returned to Congress with objection by the President within 10 days, or by overriding a presidential veto by two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate.
- [Action Codes](#) – Actions listed to identify stages that condense details legislative action steps.
- Advocacy – The act of arguing in favor of a particular points of view or action.
- Advocate – Someone who argues in favor of a particular course of action or set of beliefs.
- Approps – Appropriations; appropriations are decisions made by Congress about how to allocate a portion of federal spending. In general, the appropriations process addresses the discretionary portion of the federal budget but excludes mandatory spending, such as Medicare and Social Security
- Appropriate – To spend money for a particular purpose.
- Appropriations – The funds designated for a particular purpose.
- Appropriations Committee – Both the Senate and the House have an Appropriations Committee. The Committee is responsible for passing appropriations bills that regulate expenditures of money by the U.S. government.

B

- Budget – A master spending plan.
- Budget Resolution – A measure that sets forth a congressional budget plan, which may be enforced during the subsequent consideration of spending and revenue legislation. It is in the form of a concurrent resolution, not a law-making vehicle.

C

- Cabinet – The executive branch department heads who advise the president and run the executive branch.
- Calendar – In the congressional context, a calendar is the schedule under which legislation will be considered.
- Caucus – An informal meeting of a group of the members; most commonly based on political party affiliation, but may have other bases, such as issue areas, common interests, etc.
- Chairman – The leader of a committee or subcommittee.
- Chamber – Official hall for the meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate as part of the legislative branch of the federal government.
- Code – A compilation of laws and their revisions according to subject matter (usually arranged by title, chapter, and section); The official publication of the statutes.
- Comm. – Committee



- Committee/Subcommittee – A panel (or subpanel) with members appointed by the presiding officer (or another authority specified by the chamber) tasked with conducting hearings, examining and developing legislation, conducting oversight, and/or helping manage chamber business or activities.
- Committee-related Activity – A committee or subcommittee may interact with a bill in a variety of ways. Bills may be referred to or discharged from a committee by the full chamber. Committees markup bill texts, hold hearings to learn more about a topic, or may express legislative interest. Committees report legislation out to the full chamber recommending or disapproving consideration or may report an original bill.
- Committee Hearing – A method by which committee members gather information to inform committee business. Business dealt with by hearings may be broadly classified into four types: legislative, oversight, investigative, and consideration of presidential nominations.
- Committee Report – Document accompanying a measure reported from a committee. It contains an explanation of the provisions of the measure, arguments for its approval, votes held in markup, individual committee members' opinions, cost estimates, and other information.
- Concurrent Resolution – A form of legislative measure used for the regulation of business within both chambers of Congress, not for proposing changes in law. Depending on the chamber of origin, they begin with the designation of H.Con.Res. or S.Con.Res.
- Conference Chair – The Democratic or Republican senators who hold this position oversee their parties' support organizations. The conferences provide communications services to the senators and get the party message out to the media and public.
- Conference Committee – Temporary joint committee created to resolve differences between House passed and Senate passed versions of a measure.
- Conference Report – The document presenting an agreement reached by a joint temporary committee (a conference committee) appointed to negotiate a compromise between the House and Senate.
- Congressional Record – The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the U.S. Congress. For every day Congress is in session, an issue of the Congressional Record is printed by the Government Publishing Office. Each issue summarizes the day's floor, and committee actions and records all remarks delivered in the House and Senate.
- Congressional Report – Congressional reports originate from congressional committees and deal with proposed legislation or issues under investigation. Congress issues different types of reports including committee reports, conference reports, and executive reports.
- Continuing Resolution – An appropriation act (typically in the form of a joint resolution) that provides stopgap (or full-year) funds for federal agencies and programs to continue operations when the regular (or annual) appropriations acts have not been enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Core issue – A matter of deep concern central to an individual, group, or organization.



D

- Debt ceiling – The congressionally established limit of debt the country can incur.
- Deficit – The amount by which spending exceeds income.
- Delegate – A representative of one of the U.S. territories or the District of Columbia. Delegates have votes in committees but not on the floor.
- Democratic Caucus Chair – Leader of the House Democrats, the caucus chair presides over caucus meetings, oversees the development of Democratic policy positions, and conducts a conference about political issues at least once a year.

E

- ECA – Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State
- Effective Date – A law generally becomes effective, or binding, either upon a date specified in law itself or, in the absence of such a date.
- Enacted – When a bill becomes a law; at this point, it ceases being called a bill and begins to be called an act.
- Engrossed (Measure) – Official copy of a measure as passed by one chamber, including the text as amended by floor action; Most commonly, the process by which a bill is updated – that is, how adopted amendments and other changes are incorporated into a bill – as it makes its way through the House or Senate.
- Enrolled (Measure) – Final official copy of a measure as passed in identical form by both chambers and then printed on parchment for presentation to the President; Most commonly, the process of changing a bill passed by both the House and Senate into its final format for transmission to the President.
- Ex Officio – Latin for “by virtue of one’s office.” Certain officials are ex officio members of all committees, or committee chairmen are ex officio members of all subcommittees, although ex officio members usually don’t cast votes on the committees or subcommittees.
- Executive Order – A presidential decision or order.
- Executive Report – A written committee report accompanying a matter of executive business reported by the committee.

F

- Filibuster – In the Senate the use of dilatory or obstructive tactics to delay or block passage of a measure by preventing it from coming to a vote.
- Final Passage – Adoption of a bill after all the amendments are incorporated.
- Fiscal – Pertaining to finances.
- Fiscal Year (FY) – an accounting period of 12 months; begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th of the following year for the federal government. All Appropriations bills are enacted by the beginning of each fiscal year. In the event this does not occur, Congress enacts a “Continuing Resolution” that maintains funding for government programs at status quo levels for a set period of time.



G

- Germaneness – The requirement that an amendment be closely related, in terms of precise subject or purpose, to the text it proposes to amend. House rules require amendments to be germane. Senate rules apply this restriction only in limited circumstances.

H

- Hearing – A formal meeting of a congressional committee (or subcommittee) to gather information from witnesses for use in its activities (that is, the development of legislation, oversight of executive agencies, investigations into matters of public policy, or Senate consideration of presidential

J

- Joint Explanatory Statement – Statement appended to a conference report explaining the conference agreement and the intent of the conferees. Sometimes called a statement of managers.
- Joint Resolution – A form of legislative measure used to propose changes in law, or to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Depending on the chamber of origin, they begin with the designation of either H.J.Res. or S.J.Res.
- Journal – The constitutionally mandated record of certain House and Senate actions, including motions offered, votes taken, and amendments agreed to. Unlike the Congressional Record it does not contain remarks delivered in the House and Senate.
- Jurisdiction – A set of policy issues that fall under the purview of a specific committee (or subcommittee) full committee jurisdiction is set by chamber standing rules and precedents.

L

- Lame Duck – Slang for an elected official who has lost an election or announced a retirement but is continuing to serve while waiting for a replacement to be sworn in. This term also applies to entire congressional sessions, which take place after elections but before a new Congress takes office.
- Language – In the congressional context, the text of a bill or other document.
- Legislative Action Steps – Each chamber produces details, chamber specific legislative action steps. Each step has a number code. [Bill Status System](#) for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.
- Legislative Intent – Purpose behind a law and it's determined by analyzing the documents and debate surrounding a bill's passage.
- Line Item – An individual item, or line, in the budget or other budget or appropriations document.
- Line Item Veto – The ability of an executive to veto individual items in a budget. Ruled unconstitutional on a federal level in 1998 but used by governors in some states.



M

- Majority Leader – The leader of the party that holds the majority of seats in the House who is elected by that party's representatives.
- Majority Whip – Elected by House members whose party is in the majority, the whip serves as the assistant leader of the majority party. The term whip is used to highlight the person's job which is to whip members into toeing the party line and voting the way leadership wants.
- Markup – A bill that's been edited by a committee; the session at which a bill is edited. Going through a bill line by line.
- Measure – A legislative vehicle: a bill, joint resolution, concurrent resolution, or simple resolution.
- Minority Leader – Head of and elected by members of the minority party, the Minority Leader leads the minority.
- Minority Whip – Keeps minority members in line, elected by the members of his party.
- Motion to Table – A non-debatable motion in the House and Senate (and in their committees) by which a simple majority may agree to negatively and permanently dispose of a question (e.g. an amendment).

N

- NGO – Nongovernment organization; usually a charitable or humanitarian organization working overseas in disaster areas.
- Nonpartisan – Not having a party loyalty or point of view; neutral, objective.

O

- Omnibus Bill/Legislation – A single piece of legislation that combines many disparate elements.
- Override – To overturn a presidential veto. Overrides require two-thirds of votes in each chamber.
- Oversight/Oversee – To monitor a federal agency or program usually by a committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction.



P

- Partisan – Committed to a single party, an advocate.
- Party Caucus/Conference – The official organization comprised of all members of a political party serving within a congressional chamber (e.g., the Senate Republican Conference, the House Democratic Caucus, etc.).
- Passage – The process of moving legislation through the legislative process and getting it approved.
- Pocket Veto – A presidential means of vetoing a bill without taking action. If the president fails to sign legislation within ten days, it becomes law; however, if Congress adjourns during those ten days, the bill dies if it isn't signed.
- Point of Order – A member's statement to the presiding officer that the chamber (or committee) is taking action contrary to the rules or precedents, and a demand that they be enforced.
- Policy Committee Chair – The Democratic or Republican senators in this position are in charge of formulating their parties' approach to national policy issues.
- Policy – A direction for government; a master plan.
- President of the Senate – A constitutionally mandated position, the presiding officer keeps order, recognizes senators who wish to speak, and enforces parliamentary procedure. The Vice President of the United States also serves as the president of the Senate.
- President Pro Tempore – Elected by the entire Senate, this person is the official presiding officer of the Senate when the vice president is absent. The Pro Tempore also designates senators to stand in during the presiding officer's absence and is usually the most senior senator in the chamber.
- Proxy – A vote on behalf of someone else.
- Public Law – A law applying to the entire country (as opposed to a private bill), numbered by the Congress and a sequential number, for example PL 107-1.

Q

- Quorum – The minimum number of members required to conduct a vote.



R

- Ranking Member – The most senior (though not necessarily the longest-serving) member of the minority party on a committee (or subcommittee). The ranking member typically oversees minority committee staff and may coordinate involvement of the minority party committee members in committee activities.
- Reconciliation – The process of working out the differences between House and Senate bills.
- Recuse/Recusal – To withdraw oneself from considering an official matter because of a personal interest or involvement.
- Referral – Assignment of a measure to a committee or committees (or subcommittee) for potential consideration.
- Registered Lobbyist – A professional lobbyist who's registered as such with Congress.
- Regulation – A rule issued by an executive branch agency, as opposed to a law, passed by Congress and signed by the president.
- Reported – Formal submission of a measure by a committee to its parent chamber or by a subcommittee to its parent committee.
- Republican Conference Chair – This person leads the House Republicans and is more concerned with party politics, developing party positions, and getting the party's message out to the public.
- Rescission – To remove or rescind; in a budget context, to cancel or remove budget authority; to stop spending on a specific item or program.
- Resolution – A bill dealing with the position of the House or Senate that doesn't have the force of law, usually deals with a chamber's internal affairs.
- Roll Call Vote – A vote that records the individual position of each Member who voted. Such votes occurring on the House floor (by the yeas and nays" or by "recorded vote") are taken by electronic device. The Senate has no electronic voting system. Senators perform voice votes of "yea" or "nay" as the clerk calls each name aloud. Each vote is compiled by clerks and received a roll call number.
- Rule – In a legislative context, the terms of debate as determined by the House Rules Committee. A bill awaiting a decision by the committee is said to be subject to rule.



S

- SFOPS – State, Foreign Operations, and Relations Programs
- Simple Resolution – A form of legislative measure introduced and potentially acted upon by only one congressional chamber and used for the regulation of business only within the chamber of origin. Depending on the chamber of origin, they begin with a designation of either H.Res. or S.Res.
- Speaker of the House – The presiding officer who is elected by a majority of the entire membership of the House. The Speaker is able to set the legislative calendar and assign bills to different committees.
- Sponsor – A Representative or Senator who introduces or submits a bill or other measure.
- Statute – A law that is written and enacted by a legislative body, such as the U.S. Congress.
- Statutes At Large – The Statutes at Large is the permanent collection of all laws and resolutions enacted during each session of Congress.
- Subc. – Subcommittee; a subunit of a committee, usually specializing in a particular area of the committee's jurisdiction.
- Supplemental – An appropriation requested outside the regular appropriations process; usually when the government faces an emergency need or discovers that it didn't request sufficient funds in its initial budget.
- Suspension of the Rules – In the House, a procedure that streamlines consideration of a measure with wide support by prohibiting floor amendments, limiting debate to 40 minutes, and requiring a two-thirds majority for passage. Although rarely used, the Senate also may suspend various rules by a vote of two-thirds following one day's written notice.

V

- Vehicle – A piece of legislation moving through the legislative process.
- Veto – Presidential disapproval of a bill or joint resolution presented to him for enactment into law. If a president vetoes a bill, it can become law only if the House and Senate separately vote (by two-thirds) to override the veto. A less common form of presidential veto – a pocket veto – occurs if Congress has adjourned without the possibility of returning and the president does not sign the measure within the required 10-day (excluding Sundays) period.

W

- Whip – The person in both parties and both chambers who ensures that members toe the party line and vote the way the leadership requires.
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