



THE JOURNEY OF JOELLE L.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange
Vocational Alumna, 2013-2014
Student Services Coordinator, CET Academic Programs

Joelle's CBYX experience opened doors to scholarships and a career passion.

Joelle had exposure to German language and culture through friendships growing up in Wisconsin. She wanted an immersive experience that would help her set a career path.

Even with prior German language skills, the transition to a new culture and living situation was challenging, forcing Joelle to adapt.

During her CBYX program Joelle had two internships: one at a dance studio and one as a seamstress. She overcame shyness and gained project management skills.

After returning from Germany, Joelle applied for a Critical Language Scholarship in Russian. Her CBYX experience set her apart from other applicants and she was awarded the scholarship.

Joelle now supports students on exchange programs in several countries, including the Czech Republic. She also enjoys serving as an interviewer for potential CBYX participants and is active in the CBYX Alumni Association.

I developed a sense of resilience and flexibility. I have confidence in myself with any kind of challenges that life throws at me... That served me really well in college. I was able to change course as new things came up without stressing about it.

With my internship [as a seamstress], [it] impacted how I conduct myself in professional spaces. I make an effort to make sure that I'm being an active participant, which I don't think I was doing before."

I have no concept of where my life would've ended up if I hadn't done CBYX, but it's a direct through line to the things that I've [done] since.