

# Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Exchange programs connect, engage, and inspire people.

U.S. Department of State Exchange Programs directly contribute to both America's prosperity and security by building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Barriers that often divide us, like politics, language, ethnicity, religion, and geography, break down when people share ideas in person. Through exchanges, Americans and people of other countries develop new skills, explore ways to create positive change in our communities, and establish the trust we need to create a more secure, prosperous, and democratic world.

## TIMELINE/BY THE NUMBER



### 1940

Dr. Aurelio Espinosa Polit, S.J. Ecuadorian professor, visits the United States as the first official exchange participant

### 1961

Fulbright-Hays Act solidified the role of the U.S. government in implementing exchange programs

### 2018



ECA sponsors

**300,000 participants** on the Exchange Visitor Program



**40,000 international participants** visit communities in all 50 states, supporting the local economy during their stay



**15,000 Americans** travel to 170 countries



**2,500 American students** learn critical languages abroad on ECA programs

**1,500 U.S. private sector organizations** host exchange participants

## 450,000

**jobs for Americans** are supported through hosting international students on U.S. campuses

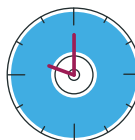
bringing \$42 billion to the U.S. economy

## 90+ percent

of the exchange programs budget goes to American organizations, businesses and individuals

## 125,000

**hours of community service** performed by youth exchange participants



## ALUMNI

There are more than

## 1,000,000

alumni of ECA exchange programs

of those alumni:



## 84

are Nobel Laureates

## 583

are **current or former heads of state** and government



**1 in 3 | current world leaders** are alumni of exchange programs

