



United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

2015

CELEBRATING SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) creates lasting connections between the United States and countries of the world through people-to-people exchange programs to advance U.S. foreign policy. ECA builds networks through academic, professional, youth, sports, cultural, and private exchanges.

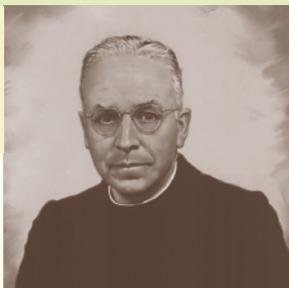
Exchange programs connect, engage, and inspire people. Barriers that often divide us, like politics, language, ethnicity, religion, and geography, break down. Participants develop new skills, explore ways to create positive change in their communities, and establish the trust needed for a more secure, prosperous, democratic and just world.

ECA advances twenty-first century priorities, including entrepreneurship, education, climate change, alternatives to violent extremism, and democratic values.

W: exchanges.state.gov T: @ECAatState I: @ExchangeOurWorld

**600,000+
HOURS**

VOLUNTEERED EACH YEAR BY AMERICANS FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

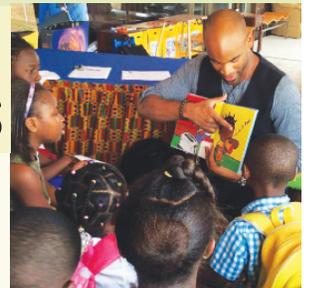


1940
Dr. Aurelio Espinosa Polit, S.J.

Ecuadorian writer, and professor was the first DoS-sponsored exchange participant

**55,000+
PARTICIPANTS**

ARE ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY



1961
Fulbright-Hays Act

solidified the role of the U.S. government in implementing exchange programs

**NOTABLE
ECA ALUMNI**
CURRENT OR FORMER

395
HEADS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

88
PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS

77
NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

74
MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

31
HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

12
AMBASSADORS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**50
STATES**

HOST ECA PARTICIPANTS, ALL OF WHOM SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY DURING THEIR STAY



**10,000+
AMERICAN**

EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS TRAVEL ABROAD EACH YEAR

