Join the Congressional International Exchange and Study Caucus

International education and exchange is one of our most powerful diplomacy and security tools. Since World War II, U.S. institutions of higher education have welcomed and educated millions of students from all over the world, with many going on to become world leaders and some of our closest friends and allies. And for Americans who study and travel abroad, they return with a deeper understanding of other countries and cultures, while also helping to dispel American stereotypes and misconceptions held abroad. Ultimately, it is this kind of cross-cultural understanding that makes us better able to persuade, negotiate and partner with others in the pursuit of a more secure world. That is why we write to invite you to join us in the Congressional International Exchange and Study Caucus.

International education and exchange also generate significant economic benefits. Ninety-five percent of the world’s consumers are located outside the United States. U.S. employers need a workforce with critical cross-cultural and foreign language skills to remain competitive in this global marketplace and reach these consumers.

According to the Institute of International Education, over 1 million international students studied at approximately 3,000 colleges and universities across the United States in the 2017-2018 academic year. These students and their families contributed $39 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 455,000 jobs, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

You can access a state or congressional district analysis of the economic contributions of international students and their families here. These students can have positive effects on the U.S. economy long after their studies have ended. Of the founders of $1 billion U.S. startups, almost one-quarter first came to the United States as international students.

Please join us in promoting international education and exchange programs as essential to our nation’s security and prosperity. If you have any questions or would like to join the caucus, please contact Sean Higgins (Sean.Higgins@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Himes or Paul Johnson (Paul.Johnson@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Rob Bishop.