Meet-a-German – “Citizen Ambassadors” at over 150 schools in the US

Fulbright Germany seeks transatlantic dialogue under the umbrella of the Year of American-German Friendship (Deutschlandjahr USA)

Is the pretzel the German national dish? Do Germans really only listen to classical music? Do they speed on the Autobahn? On October 3, as part of the Deutschlandjahr project “Meet-a-German,” initiated by the German-American Fulbright Commission (Fulbright Germany), American elementary, middle-, and high-school students can ask these and many other questions.

On the occasion of the official launch of the Deutschlandjahr in the United States, on the Day of German Unity (Oct. 3), approximately 170 Germans and Americans who have lived in Germany will visit more than 150 US schools as “citizen ambassadors.” Using interactive formats — from class quizzes to karaoke and soccer camp — they aim to interest young Americans in Germany.

For Fulbright Germany, the “Meet-a-German” initiative is just the beginning Deutschlandjahr. The bi-national organization, boasting decades of experience in transatlantic exchange, is involved in six projects, including a road trip through the American Midwest, a science slam, and a summer academy for museum curators. The programs are designed to spur curiosity about contemporary Germany, emphasize similarities, promote one-on-one dialogue, and expand partnerships to solve issues of the global future. Another focus is on programs that initiate an exchange among professionals, multipliers, and young scientists, while also fostering a dialogue with the broader public. For further information, please visit www.fulbright.de.

The Deutschlandjahr will take place in the USA from October 2018 to the end of 2019. Under the motto “Wunderbar Together,” a variety of projects in the fields of economics, politics, education, culture, and science will highlight the unique significance of this transatlantic relationship. The Deutschlandjahr USA is based on an initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institute, and supported by the Federation of German Industries. For more information, please visit www.wunderbartogether.org.

The German-American Fulbright Commission facilitates cross-border international understanding through academic exchange. It is the only binational exchange organization in Germany with a focus on the United States, and it annually awards approximately 700 scholarships for study, research, teaching and continuing education in the USA and Germany, thereby actively promoting transatlantic dialogue. Fulbright Germany is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the US Department of State.

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