

Press Release:

“On the Road! Exploring the U.S.-American Heartland”, May 11 - 17, 2019

May 8, 2019

Staying in touch

Fulbright grantees and alumni travel across the USA in minivans on the occasion of *Deutschlandjahr 2019*, the “Year of German-American Friendship.”

Berlin / Fayetteville, Arkansas. What do Americans beyond the coastal metropolises think about Germany? What is it that makes Americans tick in their everyday lives? And how do people from both sides of the Atlantic encounter one another? Seventeen German and US Fulbright grantees and alumni will pose these and other questions during their "On the Road" trip across the USA from May 11 to 17, 2019.

The German-American Fulbright Commission sends Fulbrighters in three minivans on different routes across the USA on the occasion of the "Year of German-American Friendship." As Dr. Oliver Schmidt, Executive Director of Fulbright Germany, explains: "This trip focuses on personal encounters on site, in the American heartland. Commonalities quickly become clear."

A launching point for the journey is the search for German roots. The road trip participants will also talk to Americans in the heartland about their daily grind, their own origins, and current political and cultural developments on both sides of the Atlantic. Be it a meeting with the mayor and citizens of Germantown in Memphis, Tennessee; a conversation with soldiers at the US Army base in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; or a specially organized German-American country music concert in Austin, Texas: the goal is to get to know each other and exchange ideas on an equal footing – living transatlantic relations at the highway's edge.

The trip will conclude with a two-day public conference entitled "Building Bridges" at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, the center of Senator Fulbright's activity. Grantees, alumni and members of the University of Arkansas community will gather here to discuss with experts and the general public how global exchange can be designed to build bridges within society and on foreign shores.

Under the motto "Wunderbar Together," the “Year of German-American Friendship” will run in the US until November 2019. Numerous projects in business, politics and culture, among others, underscore the established and unique importance of transatlantic relations. The “Year of German-American Friendship,” an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office, is coordinated by the Goethe-Institut and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI). Further information can be found at www.wunderbartogether.org.

The German-American Fulbright Commission (Fulbright Germany) facilitates international understanding through academic exchange. As the only binational exchange organization in Germany focusing on the US, it awards about 700 scholarships each year for study, research, teaching and continuing education in the US and Germany, thus actively promoting transatlantic dialogue. The Fulbright Commission is participating in the “Year of German-American Friendship” with a total of six projects. Further information can be found on the website www.fulbright.de.

You can accompany the road trip across the USA online at our [website](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). The official hashtags are: #FulbrightGermany, #FulbrightRoadtrip, #FulbrightOntheRoad, #BuildingBridges

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