



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 30, 2015

It is my pleasure to join in celebrating 75 years of Department of State International Exchange Programs.

Since 1940, State Department programs have provided generations of Americans opportunities to make lasting connections with people across the globe. These initiatives reflect the extraordinary potential public diplomacy, not only to cultivate personal relationships across borders, but also to help shape a more peaceful and prosperous future—one in which we, as citizens of the world, see ourselves through the lens of what unites us rather than what divides us.

Working with dedicated citizen diplomats across the United States, the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs provides opportunities that foster cooperation with and a deeper understanding of countries in every region of the world. By focusing on issues that affect us all—such as the importance of the democratic process and civil society, equal rights for women and girls, and global entrepreneurship—and by cultivating a pluralistic and inclusive approach to the rights and dignity of all people, these exchanges speak to and underscore our common hopes and dreams.

Congratulations on 75 years of progress and partnership. You have my best wishes for the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.