



Invitation to Support Exchanges for Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL)

American Councils for International Education is seeking scholarship support for Lithuanian high school students participating in Exchanges for Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL). The program relies primarily on contributions by donors like you. We invite the American Chamber of Commerce to renew commitment to strengthening ties between the U.S. and Lithuania and facilitating cross-cultural communication between the countries' young leaders with a contribution in 2015.

American Councils believes education is a foundational component of success in the 21st century. Our goal is to prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in our interconnected world through transformational learning experiences for a lasting impact worldwide. Our programs provide over 250 unique opportunities for academic exchange, language immersion, testing and assessment, professional training, community development, and scholarly research to more than 5,000 participants each year.

The 2015 calendar year marks the 5th Anniversary of ExCEL. The program has enabled 26 Lithuanian participants and countless U.S. residents in 15 states to become better acquainted with one another's backgrounds and develop new cultural perspectives. This year an additional five students from Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Trakai, and Vilnius are living and studying in Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas host communities. While their exchange stories are being written now, an alumna from the 2013-14 class has said,

"Teaching others about my country is something I first saw as a duty, but later as an honor. Giving presentations taught me a lot about my own country. They taught me to be proud of where I come from. To appreciate and love the differences, to enjoy bringing the world just that little bit closer to others. Answering questions, teaching peers, and maybe inspiring them to experience the joy of travel themselves made me feel amazing. That spot in the front of the class – that's where I, an ambassador of Lithuania, belonged."

Supporters who helped this student and others grow in confidence as grassroots diplomats over the years include you; Bajorunas/Sarnoff Foundation, Inc.; Chicago Lithuanian Professionals Group; CSC Baltic UAB; The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania; Fermentas UAB; Global Strategy, Inc.; Janina Marks Charitable Foundation; Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Foundation; Kazickas Family Foundation; Lithuanian American Community, Inc.; The Lithuanian Foundation; Omnitel Lithuania; Strategic Staffing Solutions International (S3); TEO; Thermo Fisher Scientific; UPS Lithuania; U.S. Department of State; and Western Union Foundation. Individual donors include Former President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus and Alma Adamkiene; Dr. John Prunskis; Jeffrey Nelson; and many others. We hope you will choose to continue to lend your valuable support to this worthwhile cause!

I would be happy to discuss with you in greater detail the possibilities for future collaboration, including employee-volunteer involvement in ExCEL and in ExCEL Abroad. Thank you in advance for considering supporting international exchanges between the U.S. and Lithuania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Parel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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