

Dear Colleague,

The U.S. Departments of State and Education released a [*Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education*](#) today. The statement was developed by the two agencies with support from the Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security.

The main objective of the *Statement* is to convey the U.S. government's commitment to international education, with an emphasis on a welcoming posture toward international students, the importance of global competency for U.S. students, and interagency collaboration to support these aims. It is the first such joint statement between the two agencies in more than 20 years.

The key audiences for the *Statement* include current and prospective international students, U.S. students, higher education institutions, schools, and educators.

The *Statement* will be announced on the first day of the [EducationUSA Forum 2021](#), which will be held virtually this year. As you may know, [EducationUSA](#) is an important State Department initiative/network that promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world.

Among the main points in the *Statement*:

- In today's interconnected world, many of our biggest challenges tend to be global in nature. To address them, we must work *together* – not just within the United States, but also with others around the world.
- International education is vital because it promotes mutual understanding among people from different nations, and because it helps ensure that Americans from all walks of life better understand the world and are prepared to effectively engage with those in other countries.

International Students in the U.S.

- The United States wholeheartedly welcomes the presence of international students, researchers, and scholars on U.S. campuses.
- Our colleges and universities showed incredible resourcefulness over the past year and half as they confronted the challenges posed by the covid pandemic, and they clearly demonstrated their strong commitment to U.S. and international students alike.

U.S. Students and Institutions / U.S. Global Competency

- International education also includes other activities, such as U.S. students studying abroad, international research collaboration, studying world languages, and ensuring that international topics and perspectives are part of U.S. education at all levels.
- Participating in international education activities of all kinds enhances Americans' global and cultural competency.
- Participation in international education and other experiences should reflect the incredible diversity of the United States that is one of our greatest strengths.