



This was: Our Virtual Transatlantic Day of Networking

Title: How Do We Continue? Perspectives for German-American Exchanges

Monday, November 16th, 2020, 15:00 – 18:00 Uhr (CET) | 9 AM – 12 NOON (EST)

- ▶ **105 participants from all over Germany and the USA** took part - This shows our community is alive despite these challenging times!
- ▶ We heard **two moving speeches from the U.S. and from the German Consul General in Hamburg and Atlanta** emphasizing the importance and appreciating the work we all do.
- ▶ We exchanged knowledge and experiences in vocational education and skilled internship exchange programs in **7 breakout sessions**.
- ▶ The special commitment of the **Felix Fechenbach Berufskolleg was honored by the 2020 Cultural Vistas Award for Excellence in International Skills-Building**, which lead to a celebratory closing of the event.

Due to the virtual format, there was a strong increase in participants from the USA and overall. More than one third of the participants live in the USA (39%) Most of the participants were representatives of vocational schools (39%) and exchange organizations (21%).

We believe that the high participation rate is a strong signal to one shared goal: to build, to maintain and to extend transatlantic partnerships that contribute to bring together more and more young professionals from Germany and the USA.

As the U.S. Consul General in Hamburg Darion Akins mentioned in his Welcoming Remarks, only four days before our Networking Day, **a Joint Declaration of Intent concerning cooperation on apprenticeships, vocational education and training** was signed by the respective departments in the USA and Germany. In this agreement, the goal is defined to “facilitating bilateral exchanges of apprentices and trainers”. Find out more about the agreement in the News Release of the U.S. Department of Labor:
<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20201112>

According to our evaluation form, nearly 80% of the participants consider a **virtual networking day** as a **positive addition** and would attend such a format again. Nevertheless, the participants look forward to meeting in-person or through a hybrid format next time.

For the next Networking Day in 2021 the participants wish to get to know more about **good practices, guidelines** for their realizations and to **get in touch with more people** from schools and companies being active in the transatlantic network. This is what participants said about the event:



“Auch von meiner Seite einen ganz herzlichen Dank für die Organisation und Durchführung dieses virtuellen Netzwerktages. Sehr wichtig, dass die Beziehungen weitergeführt werden, gerade in diesen Corona-Zeiten.”

“Herzlichen Dank für diesen wunderbaren Nachmittag, der mich mal wieder sehr inspiriert hat. Ich habe schon eine Idee für einen Antrag. Auch der reibungslose Ablauf dieser digitalen Veranstaltung hat mich beeindruckt. Es macht Mut, so etwas dann auch einmal auszuprobieren.”

“Thank you so much for the networking event and all the good information. Congratulations to the award winners. Great job, very motivating!”

“I’m hoping we will go with the virtual internship ahead. A lot of work ahead of us, but I think it’ll be worth it”

“Thank you for the meticulous organization and this very informative and inspirational afternoon! Congrats to FFB!”

“Thank you very much for this high standard virtual meeting with interesting topics. I think to have a hybrid format would be great for both sides:-) Thank you also for the best practice example. Congrats!”

“Of course “meeting in person” is something different, but it was a well executed alternative! I would love to attend a hybrid model in the future!”

The impact and importance of such exchanges became very clear and motivated me even more to apply for funding to launch an exchange with the college I have contact with (Ogeechee Tech in Statesboro). It was great to see that there was a lot of interest from the US side as well!

“The event was very well organised because different aspects of students’ internships and views on students exchanges as well as best practice examples were presented.

Thank you for these regular exchanges for participants and potential international internship initiators like me! The Joachim-Herz-Stiftung helps form a closer friendship between Germany and the US that widens students’ horizons on both sides of the Atlantic!



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Monday, November 16th, 2020, 15:00 – 18:00 Uhr (CET) | 9 AM – 12 NOON (EST)
Informal networking (optional): 18:00 – 19:00 Uhr (CET) | 12 NOON – 1 PM (EST)

- 8:45AM | 14:45 Uhr **Arrival**
- 9:00AM | 15:00 Uhr **Opening**
Dr. Nina Lemmens | Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation
- 9:05AM | 15:05 Uhr **Welcoming Remarks**
Darion Akins | U.S. Consul General in Hamburg
- 9:15AM | 15:15 Uhr **Agenda**
Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis | Project Manager, Joachim Herz Foundation
- 9:20AM | 15:20 Uhr **Exchange Despite Corona – Our Projects with and within the USA**
Dr. Nina Lemmens | Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation
- 9:45AM | 15:45 Uhr **Breakout Sessions I: The US Programs of the Joachim Herz Foundation**
1. Stipendienprogramme für Auszubildende (in German)
Cornélie Krehenbrink | Joachim Herz Foundation &
Sabine Smith | Kennesaw State University
 2. Information for Companies, Colleges & Partners in the USA
Dr. Alexandra Gerstner & Iris Schultz | Joachim Herz Foundation
 3. Fördermöglichkeiten für Berufsschulen – GATE (in German)
Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis & Isabel Dwinger | Joachim Herz Foundation
- 10:15AM | 16:15 Uhr **Break**
- 10:30AM | 16:30 Uhr **Breakout Sessions II: Good Practices in Transatlantic Exchange**
4. Design Thinking and Entrepreneurship Workshop Hamburg-Chicago-Taiwan
Heiko Meiwes & Sandra Meyer | ITECH Elbinsel Vocational School Hamburg
 5. German American Virtual Exchange (GAVE)
Molly Rowland | Goethe-Institut New York
 6. Virtual Internships: Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program for Fulbright Leaders
Anastasiia Futrell | Cultural Vistas Washington, DC & Alexandr Strelalov | Intern
 7. German-American Expert Exchange: German-style Apprenticeship Initiatives in the Southeast of the USA
Catherine Malone | German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S. (GACC South)
- 11:20AM | 17:20 Uhr **Forum – Insights from the Breakout Sessions (4-7)**
- 11:40AM | 17:40 Uhr **Award Presentation – Cultural Vistas Award**
Laudatio: Dr. Heike Fuller | German Consul General in Atlanta &
Jennifer Clinton | President Cultural Vistas
- 12:00PM | 18:00 Uhr **Closing Remarks and Beginning of the Networking Opportunity**



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Time	Title and description of the session	About the speaker
8:45AM 14:45 Uhr	Arrival Check your technical set-up and get to know ZOOM	not applicable
9:00AM 15:00Uhr	Opening	Dr. Nina Lemmens Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation see below
9:05AM 15:05 Uhr	Welcoming Remarks	Darion Akins U.S. Consul General in Hamburg  Consul General Darion Akins arrived in Hamburg in July 2019. He is a career Foreign Service Officer, and the Ambassador’s representative to the German states of Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Before his assignment to Germany, Darion was in the Executive Office for the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs and International Organization Affairs, where he oversaw the staffing of U.S. diplomatic missions in Europe and multilateral organizations, such as the U.S. Mission to the United Nations (USUN) in New York, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
9:15AM 15:15 Uhr	Agenda	Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis Project Manager at the Joachim Herz Foundation see below



<p>9:20AM 15:20 Uhr</p>	<p>Exchange Despite Corona – our Projects with and within the USA</p>	<p>Dr. Nina Lemmens Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Dr. Nina Lemmens held various positions at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) starting in 1997 and was most recently Director of the North America Office in New York. She holds a doctorate in art history and has many years of experience in the field of academic leadership, developing and managing numerous transatlantic and international scholarship programs. She was appointed Member of the Executive Board of the Joachim Herz Stiftung as of October 1st., 2018. In this role, she is responsible for the three central program areas – Science, Economics, and Personal Development – in which the Foundation performs its operational project work.</p>
<p>Breakout Sessions I: The US programs of the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>		
<p>9:45AM 15:45 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 1: Stipendienprogramme für Auszubildende (in German) Seit 2014 organisiert die Joachim Herz Stiftung für deutsche Auszubildende Praktikums- und Collegeaufenthalte in den USA. In dieser Session teilen wir die Informationen rund um die Programmgestaltung und Teilnahme und beantworten entstehende Fragen zu den Programmen. Von Seiten des Kooperationspartners, der Kennesaw State University, wird Dr. Sabine Smith Einblicke in den die Programmgestaltung an der KSU geben. Zudem wird unser ehemaliger Teilnehmer Martin Auer über seine Erfahrungen aus dem Praktikum im Frühjahr 2019 berichten.</p>	<p>Cornélie Krehenbrink Project Manager at the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Cornélie Krehenbrink joined the “Azubis Go USA” team at the Joachim Herz Foundation in 2017. Prior to that, she lived 3 years in Vancouver, where she worked for an Association Management Company that organizes conferences. Before her Studies of European Business, she completed an apprenticeship in Germany and an internship in Spain.</p> <p>Dr. Sabine Smith Professor & German Studies Program Coordinator at the Kennesaw State University</p>  <p>Dr. Sabine Smith is Professor of German at KSU, a university of approx. 41,000 students in Metro Atlanta, GA, and supports the annual “Azubis go USA” initiative since 2014 by guiding a rigorous 6-week program focused on academics, company visits, and cultural field trips. Sabine earned her M.A. in American Studies, German and Latin American Studies at the University of Mainz, and her PhD at the University of California, Davis. Most recently her research is focused on learners’ development of intercultural competence through experiential learning.</p>



<p>9:45AM 15:45 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 2: Information for Companies, Colleges and Partners in the USA</p> <p>Since 2014 the Joachim Herz Foundation has been organizing internships for German vocational students in the Southern USA. In addition, the Foundation provides funding for exchanges between vocational schools in Germany and colleges. This session presents information on these programs and how companies and colleges in the USA can participate.</p>	<p>Dr. Alexandra Gerstner Director at the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Dr. Alexandra Gerstner joined the Joachim Herz Foundation in 2019 as Director of the Program Area “Personal Development”. Prior to that, she worked at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in various positions in Yerevan, Toronto, and Bonn, most recently as head of section “Cooperation Projects in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America”. From 2014-2018, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor of German and History at the University of Toronto. She holds a PhD in history from the Freie Universität Berlin.</p> <p>Iris Schultz Program Director USA at the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Since 2017, Iris Schultz has been responsible for all U.S. based programs of the Joachim Herz Foundation, based in Atlanta. Prior to that she facilitated climate and energy programs as an Advisor of Public Affairs for the German Consulate General in Atlanta. Before moving to Atlanta, she founded a company in Nashville and has more than 20 years of experience in retail management, leading teams of 30+. She graduated in Germany as an assistant in tax and economic services.</p>
<p>9:45AM 15:45 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 3: Fördermöglichkeiten für Berufsschulen – GATE (in German)</p> <p>In dieser Session präsentieren wir die Informationen zu unserer laufenden Förderausschreibung GATE, im Rahmen derer die Joachim Herz Stiftung Fördermittel zur Anbahnung und Fortführung von deutsch-amerikanischen Partnerschaften in beruflicher Bildung vergibt. Es werden Details zum Antragsverfahren, förderwürdigen Kosten und erforderlichen Unterlagen besprochen. Zudem beraten wir die Schulen bei der Suche nach einer geeigneten Partnerschule in den</p>	<p>Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis Project Manager at the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis joined the Joachim Herz Foundation in 2014 and has been responsible for the program “Azubis Go USA” since 2016. She holds a PhD in North American Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin where she studied at the John F. Kennedy Institute. Before she came to the Foundation, Yulia managed EU and federally funded research projects at universities and research institutes in Hannover and Berlin, organized conferences, and taught courses in American Studies.</p>



USA, den ersten Schritten der Anbahnung einer Partnerschaft mit einem College und zur möglichen Gestaltung der Azubi-Austausche vor Ort.

Isabel Dwinger | Project Manager at the Joachim Herz Foundation



Isabel Dwinger joined the Joachim Herz Foundation in October 2020 and is mainly in charge of the program GATE and the Networking Day „Azubis go USA “. Prior to that, she organized several EU or federally funded exchange programs in the European Union, Latin America and Russia. Isabel holds a M.Sc. in Geography from the Universität Hamburg and she completed an apprenticeship in wholesale and foreign trade at the Otto Group in Hamburg.

Breakout Sessions II: Good Practices in Transatlantic Exchange

10:30AM |
16:30 Uhr

Breakout Session 4: Design Thinking and Entrepreneurship Workshop Hamburg-Chicago-Taiwan

Design Thinking and Entrepreneurship Workshops are regularly held in the context of the international cooperation of MCUT (Taiwan), Roosevelt University (Chicago) and ITECH (Hamburg). This year the workshop has been conducted virtually. All participants came together in international and interdisciplinary teams to develop new ideas and solutions. By creating sustainable concepts and producing prototypes the participants proved themselves in a field of tension between design thinking, agile project management and intercultural challenges. The lectures by professors from Roosevelt University and MCUT as well as business experts complemented the workshop. Join this session to learn more about how international exchange and cooperation can take place virtually within educational settings.

Heiko Meiwes | Vocational School ITECH Elbinsel Hamburg



Heiko Meiwes is a coordinator of the international exchange programs and teacher at ITECH with the subjects software development and economics. Besides school, Heiko works as a consultant for blended learning concepts and in IT. He has 10 years of experience in project-based learning arrangements with agile and design thinking methods. He is currently working on projects to provide teacher training for blended learning environments.

Sandra Meyer | Vocational School ITECH Elbinsel Hamburg



Sandra Meyer is a teacher at ITECH with the subjects economics and English and member of the exchange programs team. ITECH is a vocational school for information technology, chemical and electrical engineering with approx. 2,000 apprentices and a variety of exchange programs in Europe, the USA and Taiwan. Sandra is currently working on the enhancement of the school's international cooperations and on integrating the programs even further into the school's curriculum to become an international school.

Session Facilitator: Cornélie Krehenbrink see above



<p>10:30AM 16:30 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 5: German American Virtual Exchange (GAVE)</p> <p>Since 1972, the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) has facilitated enriching bilateral cultural exchanges between schools in the U.S. and Germany. This year, the program expanded with an online offering, GAVE (German American Virtual Exchange). It enables teachers to offer their students an intercultural experience digitally with a partner school in Germany. Complete program, guidelines, as well as introductory webinars are provided by GAPP to ensure that teachers and administrators have the tools they need to run GAVE successfully at their school. Additionally, professional development opportunities for teachers on intercultural competency and German language are offered in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute.</p>	<p>Molly Rowland Executive Director of GAPP at the Goethe-Institute New York</p>  <p>Molly Rowland received her BA in Spanish, German, and Translation, and her MA in German Studies. During her studies she spent several years living and working in Germany and Austria. After earning her degree, she taught German at a high school in North Carolina, where she was also a study advisor for CIEE as well as a GAPP coordinator. She has been the Executive Director of GAPP, Inc. since February of 2019.</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Miriam Tidow Director at the Joachim Herz Foundation</p>  <p>Miriam Tidow joined the Joachim Herz Foundation in 2010. She is currently Director of the Funding Department and in this position also in charge of US-related third-party projects. Prior to that, she worked at the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart (2006 – 2010). She holds a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies from the University of Lüneburg and has worked for a student exchange organization as a student job for many years.</p>
<p>10:30AM 16:30 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 6: Virtual Internships: Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program for Fulbright Leaders</p> <p>The Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program is a summer internship program funded by the U.S. Department of State, that provides emerging leaders of the Fulbright Program from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia with the opportunity to gain real-world experience, complementing and enriching their graduate studies in the United States.</p>	<p>Anastasiia Futrell Senior Program Officer, Exchange Visitor and Grant Programs at Cultural Vistas, Washington D.C.</p>  <p>In her current role, Anastasiia oversees all aspects of the Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program, including communication with key stakeholders, summer internship search and placements for 50-55 participants, in-person and virtual event planning and logistics, and alumni engagement efforts. In addition, she manages small grant programs. Anastasiia's previous experience includes work with the FLEX Program and U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine.</p>



AZUBIS IN DIE USA



	<p>Participating host organizations are not only at the forefront of bringing innovative talent to the U.S. workplace, but also play a critical role in fostering mutual understanding.</p> <p>This year the internships were conducted virtually. In this session you will learn about how internships can be organized in times of travel restrictions.</p>	<p>Alexandr Strekalov 2020 E. S. Muskie Intern (Fulbright Scholar) from Russia</p>  <p>The class of 2020 brings together 49 graduate students currently studying in the United States through the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. Alexandr Strekalov is one of them. He studies Sustainable Energy Systems at the SUNY Cortland University and was hosted as a virtual intern by Texas Solar Integrated, LLC during the program.</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Dr. Yulia Kozyrakis see above</p>
<p>10:30AM 16:30 Uhr</p>	<p>Breakout Session 7: German-American Expert Exchange: German-style Apprenticeship Initiatives in the Southeast of the United States</p> <p>Recent years have seen a rise in coordinated U.S. apprenticeship programs modeled after the German dual education system. In order to close the skills gap many companies have partnered with colleges to create effective training programs. In Coweta County, Georgia, the German American Chamber of Commerce has initiated the first German-certified apprenticeship program under the umbrella of GACC that focuses on high school students and involves a consortium of companies. Join this session to learn more about GACC’s work on closing the skills gap in the Southern USA.</p>	<p>Catherine Malone Director of the Skills Initiative at the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S. (GACC South)</p>  <p>Prior to her role as the Skills Initiative Director, Catherine Malone spent 12 years in the GACC South’s Consulting Services Department, where she supported numerous German companies with their US market entry and expansion. The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S. (GACC South) was founded in 1978 to promote and support bilateral trade between Germany and the USA.</p> <p>Session Facilitators: Iris Schulz & Isabel Dwinger Joachim Herz Foundation see above</p>
<p>11:20AM 17:20 Uhr</p>	<p>Forum – Insights from the Breakout Sessions (4-7)</p> <p>Participants of the Breakout Sessions share the main insights from each session.</p>	<p>not applicable</p>



<p>11:40AM 17:40 Uhr</p>	<p>Award Presentation – Cultural Vistas Award Cultural Vistas is a nonprofit exchange organization promoting global understanding and collaboration among individuals and institutions. Its programs empower people to drive positive change in themselves, their organizations, and society.</p> <p>Every year, Cultural Vistas holds an award ceremony for partners and international exchange programs. This year, Cultural Vistas has launched a new prize: <i>The 2020 Cultural Vistas Award for Excellence in International Skills-Building</i> and will award it virtually during the Networking Day.</p>	<p>Dr. Heike Fuller German Consul General in Atlanta</p>  <p>The German Consulate General in Atlanta is the official representation of the German government to the Southeast of the United States. The consular district includes Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.</p> <p>Dr. Fuller was appointed Consul General in Atlanta in 2018. Prior to that, she was the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, starting in 2014. From 2011 on, she was Commissioner for Corruption Prevention and Head of Internal Revision at the Foreign Ministry in Berlin. On her career path she served in Portugal, Japan, Egypt, at NATO in Brussels and in Rwanda and Germany. Between 1996 and 1999, she served at the Political Department of the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. She received her Ph.D. (Law) in 1991 after her assignment as an Attaché at the Foreign Ministry in Bonn. She trained 2 years at the Dresdner Bank in Wiesbaden, during which times she passed the Second German State Exam in Law in 1989 and in 1985 the First German State Exam in Law, studying at universities in Hamburg, Geneva and The Hague.</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Clinton President & CEO Cultural Vistas</p>  <p>Dr. Jennifer Clinton joined Cultural Vistas as President & CEO in 2017. She previously served as President & CEO of Global Ties U.S., and she has held leadership roles at the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, the Telecommunications Industry Association, and the Overseas Private Investment Corp. She serves on the boards of Women’s Foreign Policy Group, the Alliance for International Exchange, and Open DC. Jennifer earned her executive MBA at the University of Maryland, her Ph.D. at the University of California, and her bachelor’s degree from Marquette University.</p>
<p>12:00PM 18:00Uhr</p>	<p>Closing Remarks and Beginning of Networking Opportunity</p>	<p>not applicable</p>