



Exploring the ‘New Normal’ in Transatlantic Exchanges Virtual Networking Day ‘Azubis go USA’ November 16th, 2021 9:00AM – 12:30PM (EST) / 15:00 – 18:30 (CET)



Transatlantic projects play an important role for the Joachim Herz Foundation (JHF), based on its founder’s close ties to the USA. With the programs ‘Azubis go USA’ and recently also ‘Azubis go Canada’ as well as the grant program GATE (German Apprenticeship Training Exchange), the JHF promotes intercultural exchange between young professionals (German ‘Azubis’: vocational, dual enrolled students, see page 2 for further information) and seeks to increase the number of Azubis gaining international experience in the USA and Canada, as well as return exchanges to Germany.

During the annual **Transatlantic Day of Networking**, the JHF brings together representatives from German vocational schools and North American colleges; companies interested in hosting German Azubis for internships; chambers of commerce and workforce development agencies as well as professionals active in the field of international exchanges. Participants from other transatlantic exchange programs (high schools, career academies, university exchanges etc.) are welcome to join.

Today, we would cordially remind you to join us: Together with participants from Germany, the U.S. and Canada, we will explore what the **‘new normal’** in transatlantic exchanges might look like. International exchange programs have been hit hard since the start of the pandemic in 2020. To keep connections going during times of travel restrictions, innovative virtual formats emerged. What have we learned from these new formats? What will remain of them, once in-person exchanges resume? How can we use this information to enhance future trainee exchanges?

We look forward to discussing these topics in the context of current developments in the areas of transatlantic cooperation, putting a special focus on **participatory approaches** and **blended learning models**. The pandemic has shown that program participants are generally eager to become actively involved in the exchanges and that virtual formats offer great opportunities to do so. We will also present updates on our programs ‘GATE’ and ‘Azubis Go USA’ and there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with schools and professionals from both sides of the Atlantic.

Please register online at one of the **following links until November 14th**:

English form: <https://ls.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/index.php/433339?lang=en>
German form: <https://ls.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/index.php/433339?lang=de>

You will find the program and list of virtual booths from now on at our website: www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/gate.

The conference language will be English.

See next page for details on program and speakers of the Transatlantic Day of Networking.





The Day of Networking will be opened by **Dr. Nina Lemmens**, Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation, together with the **U.S. Consul General in Hamburg, Darion Akins**. Afterwards, we look forward to a **keynote address** by Stephanie M. Kelly, Executive Director of Community Colleges for International Development (CCID), an **exciting panel discussion** with voices and opinions from academia, educational institutions, and civil society, as well as **two inspiring talks** by particularly engaged experts from the practice.

For the panel discussion, we are happy to welcome Dr. Leah Mason, Research Lead from the Institute of International Education (IIE), Dr. Ralf Hermann, Head of German Office for International Cooperation in VET at Federal Institute for Vocational Education (GOVET at BIBB), and Martin Auer, Alumnus 'Azubi go USA' and Founder of 'Youth Lead the Change Germany'. The Day of Networking will conclude with an **Online Exchange Forum** on best practice examples and funding opportunities for vocational exchange programs.

Please also feel free to share this invitation with interested parties.

We look forward to seeing you at our virtual event!

Kind regards from your team 'Azubis go USA'



► About 'Azubis' and the German dual vocational education:

Germany's dual vocational education in technical, business, and numerous other trades is an important and popular career path. It combines employment as an apprentice at German companies and classroom learning in structured course programs at vocational schools at the same time.

Whereas around 30% of students in higher education gain international experience during their studies, only 5% of "Azubis" have this opportunity. With the programs "Azubis Go USA" and "GATE" (German Apprenticeship Training Exchange) the JHF aims at increasing the numbers of Azubis gaining international experience in the USA and Canada. GATE offers funding for partnerships between German vocational schools and Community or Technical Colleges in the U.S. and Canada to support them in organizing their own exchanges.