



## SAVE THE DATE

### Exploring the 'New Normal' in Transatlantic Exchanges

### Virtual Networking Day 'Azubis go USA'

November 16th, 2021

9AM – 12:30PM EST



The Joachim Herz Foundation in Hamburg, Germany, promotes education, science, and research in economics and the natural sciences as well as the personal development of adolescents and young adults. Transatlantic projects play an important role for the Joachim Herz Foundation (JHF), based on its founder's close ties to the U.S.

Promoting intercultural exchange between young professionals ("Azubis": vocational students and apprentices) is one of its core activities within the program area "Personal Development". Dual vocational education being an important and popular career path, German "Azubis" are employed in technical, business- and other vocations and learning 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.

**We cordially invite you to join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup>. Virtual Networking Day on November 16, 9-12:30am (ET).** At the yearly **Transatlantic Day of Networking**, the JHF brings together representatives from German vocational schools and North American colleges; companies interested in or offering apprenticeships for German Azubis; 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.

Together with participants from Germany, the U.S. and Canada, we will explore what the 'new normal' in transatlantic exchanges will 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.

The Day of Networking will be opened by **Dr. Nina Lemmens, Executive Board Member of the Joachim Herz Foundation**. We are looking forward to an exciting virtual **panel discussion**, two inspiring **keynote talks** and an **online exchange forum** on best practice examples and funding opportunities for vocational exchange programs. The conference language will be English.



## AZUBIS IN DIE USA

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Please register online at the **following link**:  
<https://ls.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/index.php/433339?lang=en>

You will find the program on our website starting October: [www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/gate](http://www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/gate). If you are interested in a virtual exhibit booth, please send your inquiry to: [gate@joachim-herz-stiftung.de](mailto:gate@joachim-herz-stiftung.de).

Please also feel free to share this 'Save the Date' with interested parties.  
We look forward to seeing you at our virtual event!

Kind regards from your team 'Azubis go USA'