

# CIEE BRIDGEUSA HOST FORUM – TALKING POINTS

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## National Security

Exchange programs support U.S. national security & public diplomacy interests by...

- Facilitate global engagement
- Advance U.S. leadership and interests around the world

## Economic Impact

Exchange programs strengthen the U.S. economy by...

- Exchange visitors bring resources to U.S. communities (in program dollars, visitors spending cash, and connections for local businesses/individuals). It is estimated that the Summer Work Travel (SWT) program alone contributes more than \$500 million to the U.S. economy each year.
- SWT operates at no cost to U.S. taxpayers; participants pay fees that cover the costs associated with oversight and administration of the program.
- SWT supplements local workforces in areas with small year-round populations, which enables businesses to stay open longer and at greater scale.
- National Export Strategy report includes international education as a topic export priority for the first time.
  - “In 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that U.S. exports of education-related travel totaled \$37.68 billion, a 17% increase from previous year.”

## Mutual Understanding

Exchange programs increase mutual understanding by...

- Exchange participants learn about the U.S. while Americans in host communities across the U.S. learn about other countries and cultures.
- SWT participants’ complete programs with a better, more nuanced, and more favorable impression of the U.S., its culture, and its people.
- Engage current and future leaders

## Your Story

Exchange programs are important to me because...

- Impact on American employees and the wider community
- Student success stories
- Cultural activities
- Economic impact and value