



January 29, 2013

The Honorable Richard Lugar  
Senior Trans-Atlantic Fellow  
German Marshall Fund  
1744 R Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Senator Lugar:

As leaders of the U.S. international exchange community, we write to commend you and thank you for your outstanding service in the U.S. Senate, and particularly for your leadership and support on issues related to international exchange programs.

Your vision and initiative in working with Senator Kennedy to create the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program has resulted in thousands of transformative exchanges over its 10-year history. YES evaluation studies show that the competitively selected young leaders from predominantly Muslim countries who come to the U.S. are forever changed by their experiences. They gain deeper understanding and appreciation of our society and people through an academic year spent living with an American family and attending an American high school. And the American communities that host these students are also changed, coming to understand the students' countries, cultures, and religion in a personal and meaningful way.

You have often spoken of the impact of your own Rhodes scholarship, and of your connection with Senator Fulbright. You have applied your personal understanding of the power of exchange not just to the YES program, but also to countless other exchange issues throughout your career. Not all of these issues involved legislation, headlines, or a new program, but each of them enriched the personal connections between Americans and their counterparts around the world, and significantly strengthened U.S. foreign policy.

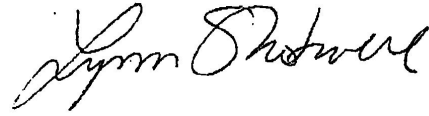
This growing web of understanding, respect, and shared interest makes our country stronger, safer, and better.

The Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange and its members applaud your exceptional leadership, and are pleased to take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks for your profound contributions to our field.

Sincerely yours,



**Christine Schulze**  
Chair, Alliance Board of Directors  
Vice President, Concordia Language  
Villages



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Vice Chair, Alliance Board of Directors  
Executive Director, American Council on  
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**Goran Rannefors**  
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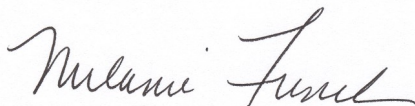
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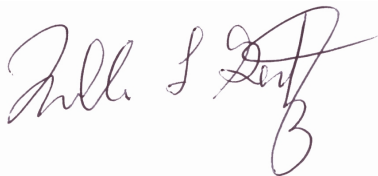
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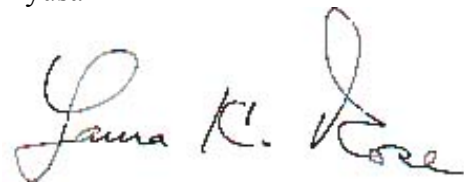
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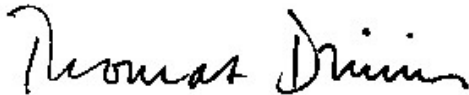
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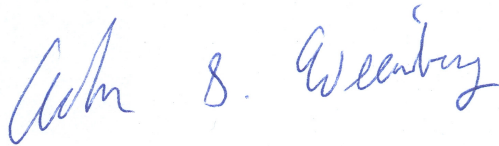
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