

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

German American Partnership Program (GAPP) Celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2022

Largest high school exchange program between U.S. and Germany has helped more than 400,000 students travel across the Atlantic in organization's 50-year history ... and counting!

NEW YORK CITY (February 9, 2022)– The German American Partnership Program (GAPP) will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2022. Administered by the Goethe-Institut in the U.S. and the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) in Germany, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and U.S. Department of State, and sponsored by the Joachim Herz and Max Kade foundations, more than 400,000 students have participated in the exchange program between the two countries since its founding in 1972.

GAPP will celebrate its 50-year milestone with a series of school collaborations across the country to spread awareness, education and excitement – with the goal of recruiting new schools in the U.S. and Germany. The celebration will also include alumni events in several U.S. cities.

“Exchange students with GAPP experience life in Germany, make international friendships, boost German language skills, and build confidence and independence,” GAPP Executive Director Molly Rowland said. “We stay connected with GAPP alumni and hear time and time again that their experience was life-changing and helped shape the person they are today. We’re so honored to celebrate our 50th anniversary in the United States. We are passionate about this program, and our purpose in 2022 is to showcase and celebrate all GAPP has to offer and welcome families, teachers, parents and students to talk to us and learn more.”

Each year, 9,000 students participate in GAPP exchange programs that are coordinated by 1,000 teachers. As a result, these families in the U.S. and Germany open their homes and hearts, but GAPP isn’t stopping there. The 50th anniversary celebration will also recruit new participating schools in the U.S. and Germany.

GAPP’s anniversary events will take place across the country and include alumni and anniversary events in New York, Atlanta and other major cities.

“For 50 years, GAPP has provided a transatlantic exchange program filled with exciting, insightful and fascinating experiences for high school students from the United States and Germany. As many participants have told me, those memories are being treasured for a lifetime.” –President and CEO of German American Chamber of Commerce, and Board Chairman of GAPP Dietmar Rieg

GAPP inspires intercultural understanding, promotes German language instruction, and fosters new and lasting friendships. It allows groups of 10-20 U.S. high school students and German secondary school students in similar age groups to visit a school in the other country. GAPP is a teacher-led bilateral exchange program where students participate in school activities and stay with host families.

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For more about GAPP, its 50th anniversary and 2022 events, including the celebrations and more, visit goethe.de/gapp50.

The German American Partnership Program

GAPP, the largest and most successful bilateral student exchange program in the U.S., is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. As the only short-term German-American exchange program to receive financial support from the U.S. government, GAPP coordinates more than 800 partnerships with high schools and technical colleges on both sides of the Atlantic. More than 400,000 German and American students have participated in the free program since 1972. GAPP is funded by the U.S. Department of State and German Federal Foreign Office, administered by the Goethe-Institut in the U.S. and the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) in Germany, and sponsored by the Joachim Herz and Max Kade foundations. For more, visit goethe.de/gapp50

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