









CONFERENCE AGENDA 2025

Monday - October 6

IEC Check-In

Location: CIEE Welcome Table will be set up in the Moretti Foyer

3:00-6:00pm Arrivals and Check-In

7:00-9:00pm IEC Welcome Reception

Location: Top of the Gate Roof Top (The Vault is the weather backup)

7:30pm - Welcome Remarks

Carve Duffin, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE

Tuesday - October 7

7:00-8:45am Breakfast

Location: The Vault

9:00-9:45am Conference Opening & Welcome

Location: Moretti CDEF

Carye Duffin - Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE Martine Mangion - Senior Vice President, International Exchange Programs, CIEE James P. Pellow - President & CEO, CIEE

9:45-10:30am

IEC Opening Plenary: The Story of BridgeUSA's Past, Present, and Future Location: Moretti CDEF

Speakers:

Rebecca Pasini - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, U.S. Department of State Rick Ruth - Former Senior Advisor, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Moderator: <u>James P. Pellow</u> - President & CEO, CIEE

10:30-10:40am Networking Break





Tuesday - October 7 - Continued

10:45-11:30am The Power of BridgeUSA - Economic Prosperity and Diplomatic Relations **Location: Moretti CDEF**

Speakers:

Daniel Mulhall - Former Ambassador of Ireland to the United States Marie Royce - Former Assistant Secretary of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Moderator: Carmen lezzi Mezzera - Executive Director, Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership (CAPDL)

11:30am-12:00pm Made Impact - Million Stories Location: Moretti CDEF

Speakers:

<u>Chris Arnold</u> - Founder, Made Impact Jackson Muneza M'vunganyi - Award-Winning Broadcaster, Multimedia Storyteller, Global Speaker

12:00-1:00pm Best Practices: BridgeUSA Community Engagement Location: Moretti CDEF

Panelists:

Dan Bullock - President, Holtz Companies

<u>Courtney Kobos-Smith</u> - BridgeUSA High School Local Coordinator and Host Parent Noel Mayes - Executive Director of Operations, Xanterra Travel Collection, Yellowstone National Park

Andrea Nunes - CEO for Servicio Educativo Internacional (SEI) from Colombia Kathy Winfree - Work and Travel Community Liaison, Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce <u>Albert Zulps</u> - Director of Emerging Technology, Skanska USA

Moderator: Louisa Creighton Smith - Director, Host Relations, CIEE

1:00-2:00pm Lunch





Tuesday - October 7 - Continued

2:00-3:00pm

BridgeUSA Participant Spotlight Location: Moretti CDEF

Panelists:

Carol Cecillia - Front Desk Trainee at Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica, CA from Indonesia

<u>Ketevan Chincharadze</u> - BridgeUSA Summer Work Travel and YCLS Alum from Georgia, Current Junior Research Fellow, Casimir Pulaski Foundation Mihkel Märtens - Baltic-American Freedom Foundation Research Scholar, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), Washington, DC from Estonia Marta Sanz Gómez - BridgeUSA High School Alum from Spain

Moderator: <u>Stacy Benjamin</u> - Director of Special Programs, CIEE

3:00-3:15pm Networking Break

3:15-3:45pm

Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership (CAPDL) Location: Moretti CDEF

Speaker: <u>Carmen lezzi Mezzera</u> - Executive Director, CAPDL

3:45-4:45pm The Intersection of BridgeUSA, Public Diplomacy and a Safer, Stronger and **More Prosperous America**

Location: Moretti CDEF

Panelist: Dr. Vivian Walker - Adjunct Professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University and Co-President of the Public Diplomacy Council of America

Moderator: Asenith Dixon Bell - Vice President for Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE

4:45-6:00pm

Break







Tuesday - October 7 - Continued

6:00-7:00pm Cocktail Reception

Location: Top of the Gate Roof Top (Moretti Foyer is the weather backup)

7:00-9:00pm Closing Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Location: Moretti CDEF

Wednesday - October 8

Location: Hotel and/or Capitol Hill

7:00-8:30am Breakfast (working breakfast for group going to Capitol Hill)

Location: The Vault

8:30-10:30am Individual Agent and Host Meetings with Staff

Please refer to packet for individual meetings.

8:30-11:00am Capitol Hill Visits for U.S. Hosts and Stakeholders

Only those who registered for these meetings will attend.

Please refer to your personal calendars for meeting invitations.

For more information or questions, talk to Asenith Dixon Bell or Casey Hartnett.

11:00-11:20am

Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

Location: Moretti CDEF

Speaker: <u>Martine Mangion</u> - Senior Vice President for International Exchange

Programs, CIEE





Wednesday - October 8 - Continued

11:30am-1:00pm Collaborative Improvement of the BridgeUSA Process with CIEE Location: Library, Elmore, Moretti AB, Moretti Ballroom

Please refer to the event app for your breakout room assignment.

Discussion session led by CIEE staff to share best practices and process improvements in the Exchange Industry that will elevate the student experience, host engagement, employer benefits, and international representatives' success.

Facilitators:

<u>Andrew Clifton</u> - Director, High School Programs, CIEE Micah Clifton - Strategic Project Manager, CIEE Angie Gorny - Sr. Director of Industry Partnerships and Placements, CIEE <u>Brandon McGuiggan</u> - Interim Vice President, Placement Sales, CIEE





Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to the **2nd Annual CIEE International Exchange Conference** (IEC)!

How fortunate we are to gather once again in such a vibrant and dynamic city—joined by leaders, advocates, and champions of cultural exchange from across the globe. Your presence here reflects our shared commitment to the transformative power of international exchange.

This year's program highlights the vital role that the **BridgeUSA** program plays in **driving economic growth, advancing public diplomacy, and reinforcing national security.** BridgeUSA is not only shaping lives—it is shaping the future of our country. As we reflect on their profound impact, one message rings true:

BridgeUSA makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Since the inception of the BridgeUSA program in 1961, CIEE has supported more than 1.5 million alumni—a powerful global network of individuals whose experiences in America have helped foster peace, mutual understanding, and enduring partnerships across borders.

In just the past year, CIEE supported over **30,000 BridgeUSA participants** representing **over 140 nationalities**, placed in communities across all 50 U.S. states. Their contributions enrich our workplaces, energize our communities, and create lasting connections that benefit us all.

None of this would be possible without you. Whether you're a host, agent, educator, government official, or program advocate, your dedication fuels these life-changing opportunities. We are deeply grateful for your leadership and commitment.

Over the next few days, IEC offers a chance to celebrate our shared impact, explore new ideas, and strengthen the future of cultural exchange. Most importantly, it's a time to honor our valued partners and stakeholders who make this important work possible every day.

Thank you for your continued support of CIEE and BridgeUSA. We look forward to an inspiring and productive conference as we continue working together to build a more connected, empowered, and prosperous world through international exchange.

With sincere appreciation,

Carye DuffinSenior Vice President, External Affairs
CIEE