



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

OCT. 5-7, 2026 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

MONDAY - OCTOBER 5TH

2:00 PM
-
6:00 PM

Event Registration

Location: Moretti Foyer

4:00 PM
-
5:00 PM

Government Affairs and Advocacy Office Hours - Capitol Hill Visits

Location: Elmore

Speakers:

Asenith Dixon Bell - Vice President for Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE
Casey Hartnett - Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Advocacy, CIEE

7:00 PM
-
9:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Location: Top of the Gate (if raining, reception will be held in The Vault)

Speaker:

Carye Duffin - Senior Vice President, External Affairs, CIEE

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH

7:00 AM
-
8:45 AM

Breakfast

Location: The Vault

9:00 AM
-
9:50 AM

Conference Opening and Welcome

Speakers:

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

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH - CONTINUED

9:50 AM
-
10:50 AM

America at 250: Sharing American Values with the World Through BridgeUSA

Panelists:

Geysha González - Director, Partnership Development, World Energy Council
Sherry Keneson-Hall - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Amy Therien - Vice President, Talent, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation

Moderator:

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

10:50 AM
-
11:00 AM

Break

Location: Foyer

Raising the Bar: Best Practices for Gold Standard BridgeUSA Hosts & International Agents

Panelists:

Jackie Adragna - Vice President, Human Resources, Stein Collection
Patrick Martinez - Chief Executive Officer, Travelingua
Modesto Reyes - President, Oficina de Turismo e Intercambio Cultural (OFIT)
Blake Simmons - Division Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Maggie Zeman - International Human Resources Manager, Wilderness Resort

11:00 AM
-
12:00 PM

Moderator:

Brandon McGuiggan - Vice President, Placement Sales, CIEE

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH - CONTINUED

More Truth with Rick Ruth

Panelist:

Rick A. Ruth - Former Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of State; Coalition for American Public Diplomacy and Leadership (CAPDL) Board Member

12:00 PM

12:30 PM

Moderator:

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

12:30 PM

1:30 PM

Lunch

Location: The Vault

BridgeUSA Alumni Spotlight Panel

Panelists:

Pinar Caglar - High School & Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange (YES)

Alum, 2015-2016, Türkiye

Chun Lin Lin - Summer Work Travel & Young Civic Leadership Summit Alum, 2026, Taiwan

Boluwatife Odubanjo - Summer Work Travel & Young Civic Leadership Summit Alum, 2026, Nigeria

Frederick Ulbaek - Intern Alum from Lockheed Martin Fort Worth, 2026, Denmark

1:30 PM

2:30 PM

Moderator:

Stacy Benjamin - Director of Special Programs, CIEE

Community Impact: Getting Ready to Serve with Feed the Hunger

Speakers:

Regina Alexander - Pack-a-thon Coordinator, Feed the Hunger

Lisa Long - Manager Funded Programs, CIEE

2:30 PM

2:35 PM

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH - CONTINUED

2:35 PM

Break

2:45 PM

Location: Foyer

The Changing U.S. Landscape: How Has the Trump Administration's America First Policies Affected BridgeUSA and How Will Those Policies Play Out after the Midterm Elections?

2:45 PM

3:30 PM

Panelists:

Eric Bazail-Eimil - National Security Reporter at Politico

Craig Riggs - Editor, ICEF Monitor

Moderator:

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

Introduction to Collaborative Improvement - Striving Towards Industry Excellence

3:30 PM

3:45 PM

Speaker:

Martine Mangion - Senior Vice President, Inbound Exchange Programs, CIEE

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH - CONTINUED**Collaborative Improvement Breakout Sessions – Striving Towards Industry Excellence**

*Please check the Conference App for your room assignment

Moretti Ballroom: Elevating the BridgeUSA Summer Work Travel Experience**Panelists:**

Denise Beckson - Vice President / Chief Admin & External Affairs Officer, Morey's Piers

Paige Carter - Employee Programs Coordinator, Xanterra Travel Collection

Rumyana Sotirova - Exchange Programs Director, Usit Colours Bulgaria

Moderator:

Lousia Creighton Smith - Director, Host Relations, Seasonal Exchanges, CIEE

3:45 PM
-
5:00 PM

Moretti A/B: Creating Exceptional BridgeUSA Internship Experiences**Panelists:**

Maggie Gaudio - Vice President of Human Resources, The Broadmoor Hotel

Jude Reser - Director of Human Resources, Thomas More University

Robert Upchurch - President/CEO, CTI Group Worldwide Services

Moderator:

Angie Gorney - Sr. Director Internship Placements

Library: Building a Community of High School Exchange**Panelists:**

Andrew Clifton - Sr. Director of High School Programs, CIEE

Bettina Wiedmann - CEO, Experiment e.V.

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6TH - CONTINUED

5:00 PM

5:45 PM

Break

5:45 PM

6:45 PM

Cocktail Reception

Location: Top of the Gate (if raining, reception will be held in The Vault)

7:00 PM

9:00 PM

Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Location: Moretti Ballroom

WEDNESDAY- OCTOBER 7TH

7:00 AM

8:45 AM

Breakfast

Community Impact in Action: Serving with Feed the Hunger

**Please check the Conference App for your group assignment*

8:45 AM

12:00 PM

Group One - 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Group Two - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Community Service Project Lead:

Lisa Long - Manager, Funded Programs, CIEE

9:00 AM

12:00 PM

Capitol Hill Visits

**Calendar invitations have been sent with meeting information for those hosts with scheduled meetings*

10:00 AM

12:30 PM

One-on-Ones – Individual International Agent and Host Meetings with CIEE Staff

**Please check the Conference App for your scheduled meetings*

12:30 PM

1:30 PM

Boxed Lunches Available

Location: The Vault



THANK YOU!