

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4767

To encourage the growth of educational exchanges between international scholars and United States junior or community colleges and United States postsecondary vocational institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2025

Mr. OLSZEWSKI (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. McIVER, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To encourage the growth of educational exchanges between international scholars and United States junior or community colleges and United States postsecondary vocational institutions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community College
5 Educational Exchange Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
5 the House of Representatives; and

6 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
7 the Senate.

8 (2) EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE.—The term
9 “educational exchange” means an activity listed in
10 section 102(a)(1)(B) of the Mutual Educational and
11 Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
12 2452(a)(1)(B)).

13 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—The term “eligi-
14 ble institutions” means United States junior or com-
15 munity colleges and United States postsecondary vo-
16 cational institutions that the Secretary of State and
17 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
18 International Development have identified that—

19 (A) have entered into a grant, contract, or
20 cooperative agreement with the Department of
21 State or the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development; or

23 (B) are eligible to participate in programs
24 and initiatives under the jurisdiction of either
25 such agency.

1 (4) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The
2 term “junior or community college” mean an institu-
3 tion of higher education (as such term is defined in
4 section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
5 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))—

6 (A) that admits as regular students per-
7 sons who are beyond the age of compulsory
8 school attendance in the State in which the in-
9 stitution is located and who have the ability to
10 benefit from the training offered by the institu-
11 tion;

12 (B) that does not provide an educational
13 program for which it awards a bachelor’s degree
14 (or an equivalent degree); and

15 (C) that—

16 (i) provides an educational program of
17 not less than 2 years that is acceptable for
18 full credit toward such a degree, or

19 (ii) offers a 2-year program in engi-
20 neering, mathematics, or the physical or
21 biological sciences, designed to prepare a
22 student to work as a technician or at the
23 semiprofessional level in engineering, sci-
24 entific, or other technological fields requir-
25 ing the understanding and application of

1 basic engineering, scientific, or mathe-
2 matical principles of knowledge.

3 (5) POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-
4 TION.—The term “postsecondary vocational institu-
5 tion” means a school that—

6 (A) provides an eligible program of train-
7 ing to prepare students for gainful employment
8 in a recognized occupation;

9 (B) meets the requirements of paragraphs
10 (1), (2), (4), and (5) of section 102(c) in the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 1002(c)); and

13 (C) has been in existence for at least 2
14 years.

15 (6) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
16 AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal depart-
17 ments and agencies” includes—

18 (A) the Department of State;

19 (B) the United States Agency for Inter-
20 national Development; and

21 (C) any other Federal department or agen-
22 cy that is engaged in designing, providing, or
23 supporting United States foreign assistance (in-
24 cluding development finance) that the President

1 determines is relevant for the purposes of this
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 3. EXPANDING EXCHANGE PROGRAMMING FOR INTER-**
4 **NATIONAL SCHOLARS AND EXPERTS TO**
5 **STUDY AT UNITED STATES JUNIOR OR COM-**
6 **MUNITY COLLEGES AND UNITED STATES**
7 **POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-**
8 **TIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
10 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
11 national Development should seek to strengthen and ex-
12 pand partnerships and educational exchange opportuni-
13 ties, including by working with eligible institutions, that
14 build the capacity and expertise of students, scholars, and
15 experts in key development sectors, including—

16 (1) food systems and agriculture-led economic
17 growth;

18 (2) microenterprise business development and
19 entrepreneurship;

20 (3) early childhood education;

21 (4) engineering;

22 (5) information technology;

23 (6) media;

24 (7) social services, health, and public safety;

25 (8) tourism and hospitality management;

1 (9) water, sanitation, and hygiene;

2 (10) water security; and

3 (11) environmental resilience.

4 (b) EXCHANGE PROGRAMMING.—To deepen relation-
 5 ships and educational exchange between foreign partici-
 6 pants from underrepresented backgrounds and the United
 7 States in ways that advance United States foreign policy
 8 goals and increase academic collaboration, there is estab-
 9 lished in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
 10 of the Department of State a Community College and
 11 Postsecondary Vocational Institution Initiative Program
 12 to provide scholarships for students, scholars, and tech-
 13 nical experts to spend up to one academic year at eligible
 14 institutions to support knowledge and skills training in the
 15 sectors referred to in subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 4. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF UNITED STATES JUN-**
 17 **IOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNITED**
 18 **STATES POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL IN-**
 19 **STITUTIONS TO EXPAND STUDY ABROAD**
 20 **PROGRAMMING.**

21 (a) CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM.—To strengthen
 22 educational grant opportunities for eligible institutions
 23 and expand educational exchanges with these institutions,
 24 there is established in the Bureau of Educational and Cul-
 25 tural Affairs of the Department of State a capacity build-

1 ing program to increase the capacity of eligible institutions
2 to create and expand study abroad programs for their
3 scholars through small-grant and in-person and virtual
4 study abroad capacity building activities. This program
5 should seek to prepare scholars to contribute to the fields
6 critical to United States national and economic security.

7 (b) SMALL-GRANT AND IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL
8 STUDY ABROAD CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES.—The
9 Secretary of State is authorized to award grants, provide
10 technical assistance, and develop resources for the pro-
11 gram outlined in subsection (a) to—

12 (1) increase the number of eligible institution
13 students participating in study abroad programs;

14 (2) provide training for faculty and staff at eli-
15 gible institutions to design, implement, and sustain
16 study abroad programs;

17 (3) create and disseminate toolkits, curriculum
18 guides, and program templates for eligible institu-
19 tions seeking to launch or expand study abroad of-
20 ferings;

21 (4) fund faculty and staff training workshops
22 on best practices for developing, managing, and sus-
23 taining study abroad programs;

1 (5) support the development of study abroad
2 programs aligned with workforce needs to STEM,
3 technical, and vocational fields;

4 (6) pilot hybrid exchange models that combine
5 virtual and short-term in-person components to
6 make study abroad more flexible and accessible for
7 students at eligible institutions;

8 (7) develop outreach and advising resources for
9 underrepresented student populations to increase
10 their participation in study-abroad programs; and

11 (8) other activities the Secretary of State deter-
12 mines are necessary to strengthen the capacity of el-
13 igible institutions to create or expand their ability to
14 administer study abroad programs.

15 **SEC. 5. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PROGRAM-**
16 **MING.**

17 As part of strengthening and enhancing partnerships,
18 the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the
19 United States Agency for International Development shall
20 advance outreach to and communications with eligible in-
21 stitutions, including by—

22 (1) providing technical assistance in the devel-
23 opment of grant and partnership applications; and

24 (2) upon request, providing feedback to eligible
25 institutions to the maximum extent practicable, after

1 a grant rejection in order to improve future grant
2 applications, as appropriate.

3 **SEC. 6. CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
5 of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with
6 the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
7 national Development, shall consult with the appropriate
8 congressional committees regarding implementation of—

9 (1) the countries prioritized for the program es-
10 tablished by section 3;

11 (2) existing partnerships and programs between
12 relevant Federal departments and agencies and eligi-
13 ble institutions and efforts to expand such partner-
14 ships and programs;

15 (3) efforts to strengthen the capacity of eligible
16 institutions to participate, or to be eligible to partici-
17 pate, in relevant programs and initiatives; and

18 (4) any progress made towards—

19 (A) advancing plans to develop partner-
20 ships or programs and initiatives with eligible
21 institutions that are not engaged in existing
22 partnerships with relevant Federal departments
23 and agencies;

24 (B) identifying plans in which an eligible
25 institution may participate; and

1 (C) any other information that relevant
2 Federal departments and agencies determine is
3 relevant to promoting opportunities to fund,
4 partner, contract, or otherwise interact with eli-
5 gible institutions.

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