

SUPPORT FOR EXCHANGES

“Simple exchanges can break down walls between us, for when people come together and speak to one another and share a common experience, then their common humanity is revealed.”

President Barack Obama

April 7, 2009, Istanbul, Turkey

“I want to see more exchanges...Exchange programs should be accelerated, in my view, to include many more opportunities, and we’re going to do that.”

Hillary Clinton

Secretary of State

July 20, 2009, New Delhi, India

“We’re expanding our partnerships beyond traditional government-to-government efforts. We’re working with women’s groups and civil society, human rights activists around the world, and we’re encouraging more people-to-people cooperation. I believe this may be one of the great new tools that we have in our diplomacy.”

Hillary Clinton

Secretary of State

May 21, 2009, Senate Appropriations hearing

“My view is the American toolbox should contain something other than hammers.”

Robert M. Gates

Secretary of Defense

October 5, 2009, George Washington University

“One of the most important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win: economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communications, and more—these, along with security, are essential ingredients for long-term success.”

Robert M. Gates

Secretary of Defense

November 26, 2007, Landon Lecture, Kansas State University

“The single most important and valuable thing we do is exchanges.”

Judith McHale

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

October 21, 2009, Alliance Membership Dinner

“All sectors of American society and government are focused on [the] profound challenge [of finding common ground] and I believe exchanges are a key element. In exchanges, we rely on and engage our single greatest asset—the American citizen.”

Ann Stock

Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs nominee

February 2, 2010, Senate confirmation hearing

“No one has yet improved on the effectiveness of educational and cultural exchanges as a catalyst to open minds, open eyes, and open doors to understanding... Exchanges are an investment in exploring the ideas and experiences that can unite us in common, peaceful purposes.”

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

“Governments cannot substitute for the bonds that develop between individuals of different countries when, through mutual endeavor, they experience the joy and intellectual satisfaction of learning about one another and working with each other.”

Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN)

Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

“Exchange programs are the single most effective means to improve attitudes towards the United States.”

***Changing Minds, Winning Peace: A New Strategic Direction for
U.S. Public Diplomacy in the Arab & Muslim World***

**Report of the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab
and Muslim World**