



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 22, 2022

Iir Zherka
Executive Director
Alliance for International Exchange
1828 L Street, NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Iir,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I would like to thank you for your continued partnership with the Department and the sponsor community. We are grateful for your leadership during a uniquely challenging time in the history of BridgeUSA.

The community has significantly grown and strengthened its voice since your tenure began with the Alliance. You have helped empower members and stakeholders alike through a range of working groups. Additionally, half a dozen organizations have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors for the first time and have expanded their external relations and media engagement strategies. Members services have increased, participation for Advocacy Day is at record levels and Exchange Week was successfully launched.

We have valued our strategic partnership over the last 7 years. We believe, as you do, in the transformative power of cross-cultural exchanges. President Biden and Secretary Blinken have made people-to-people diplomacy a critical component of our U.S. foreign policy, and your work is an important part of this effort. Your dedication to the mission of international educational and cultural exchange is something to be admired by all. I share your belief in the importance of enriching the lives of citizens around the world through the BridgeUSA experience. The opportunity increases cross-cultural understanding and brings the world a little closer together. This could not have been done without your extraordinary leadership as Executive Director at the Alliance and throughout your career.

Thank you again for your dedication to Department of State and International Exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Satterfield".

Lee Satterfield
Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Educational and
Cultural Affairs