

# Department of State Sponsored Programs



Sponsored Programs

# Session Goals

- \*To provide participants with a firm understanding of the Sponsored Programs as a whole as well as it's individual programs.
- \*To provide participants with a better understanding of the Cluster Coordinator role and corresponding responsibilities.



# Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to...



# YOU will be able to...

- List at least 2 key aspects of each Sponsored Program
- Describe 4 key responsibilities of a SP Cluster Coordinator
- List 3 required topics of a SP Cluster Activity
- Identify 4 community resources available for use when implementing a cluster activity
- Draft an example of a Cluster Activity
- Correctly complete both a Cluster activity report as well as an expense form



# Session Agenda

- I. Overview of the Sponsored Programs
- II. Introduction to the Cluster Model and Cluster Coordinator Role
- III. Focus: 4 Key Cluster Coordinator responsibilities
- IV. Hands on learning
- V. Conclusion



# Overview of the Sponsored Programs

- Funded by grants from Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State
- Programs designed for targeted populations
- Programs that embrace the core of the AFS mission
- Programs focus on leadership skills and intercultural communications



# Meet the Sponsored Programs Team 😊

- Margaret Hunt (VP, Business Development & Sponsored Programs)
- Keri Dooley (Sponsored Programs Director)
- Nancy Levine (Project Manager)
- Tamara Jazbec (YES Program Specialist)
- Sanaa Nelson (YES Program Specialist)
- Erin Abrams (Visiting Teacher Program, Global Leap & FLEX)
- Marilyn Stotts (Congress-Bundestag & US Sending Initiatives)
- Kaitlyn Wood (Sponsored Programs Associate)
- Sibylle Langer (Admissions Advisor)



# The Sponsored Programs!!

- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program **CB**
- Future Leaders Exchange Program **FLEX**
- Youth Exchange and Study Program **YES**



# Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)



- Launched in 1983 by the US Congress and the German Parliament
- Provides 50 full scholarships for US students and 60 scholarships for German participants in 2006
- Scholarships include: international travel, supplemental orientations, support, and much more
- AFS is one of five coordinating organizations
- AFS recruits from CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT and hosts students all across the United States



## Sponsored Programs



# Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)



- Originated in the FREEDOM Support Act, which was sponsored by Bill Bradley and passed by Congress in 1992
- AFS was one of the founding organizations of the FLEX program; we have hosted nearly 900 FLEX students
- Provides full merit-based scholarships to students from the countries of the former Soviet Union



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# Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)

- American Councils for International Education recruits, selects and provides orientation and alumni programming for FLEX participants in their countries of origin – each year there are nearly 55,000 applicants and 1,200 students are accepted.
- AFS along with 12 other organizations coordinate the placements for the FLEX Program
- Focus on students with physical disabilities



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# Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES)



- Impetus for program followed events of Sept 11, 2001.
- Largest grant ever awarded to AFS-USA by US Department of State.
- First group in 03-04 included 73 students from Egypt, Indonesia, Turkey and Malaysia.

- By 08-09 increased to 375 scholarships
- 5th year of funding will add Kenya and Brunei!!!
- Advocacy continues to increase number of YES participants.



## Sponsored Programs



# Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES)

- AFS-USA leads a consortium of organizations, including AFS partners and two US-based exchange organizations, PAX (Program of Academic Exchange), AIFS/ AYA (Academic Year in America) and American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES)
- Students have supplemental arrival and departure orientations in Washington D.C.
- Focus is put on students with physical disabilities
- Alumni programming is encouraged and supported after exchange year



## Sponsored Programs

# What is a Cluster?



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# The Cluster Model



- Pioneered in FLEX Program
- Students from the YES, CB and FLEX programs are hosted in mixed clusters of at least 3 students
- Focuses on leadership skills
- Allows Cluster Coordinators to model volunteerism
- Offers opportunities to involve non-sponsored students in enrichment activities and leadership curriculum
- Builds commitment to alumni programming



## Sponsored Programs

# Hmmm...

What IS my role  
as a Cluster  
Coordinator??



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# Role of the Cluster Coordinator

- **Awareness Raising**: Elevating the presence of AFS programs in community
- Serving as a **Program and Cultural Resource**
- **Program Enrichment**: Organizing cluster activities that satisfy the 3 required topics: American government, Cultural Diversity/Native Peoples, Volunteerism/Civic Responsibility.
- **Reporting**: Reporting on Cluster activities and expenses, creating a yearly calendar to share with your Area Team and update the SP Team with Cluster achievements



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# Program Awareness: Raising the Sponsored Programs profile

- International Education Week
- Global Youth Service Day



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# Awareness Raising in YOUR community

- Who to contact?
- How to contact them?
- When to contact them?



# Serving as a Program and Cultural Resource

- Share information with Area Team members, host families, community members, etc.
- Support student counseling efforts, should they arise
- Ensure student participation in arrival, mid-year and end-of-stay orientations
- Help develop orientation content



A Whole New  
World.....

Of  
PROGRAM  
ENRICHMENT



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# Program Enrichment

- 3 required topics: American government, Cultural Diversity/Native Peoples, Volunteerism/Civic Responsibility
- FLEX/YES participate in at least 6 activities; CB participate in at least 3
- Budget: \$150 for each CB student and semester YES student; \$300 for each year YES students

Let us hear a few of your own activity ideas!



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# Enriching Program Enrichment...

- Identify community resources
  - Identify student interest early
- Schedule in advance;)

What are some of the community resources available to YOU?



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# More enriching ideas!

- Program Enrichment activities should do more than just *expose* the students to American culture; they should ENGAGE them in it!
- Experience, Reflection, Generalization, Application
- Provide your students with defined learning objectives, or *tangible* goals.



# Proposed Activity:

## Participation in a local election

- **At the end of the activity, students will be able to....**



# DESIGNING YOUR OWN CLUSTER ACTIVITY!



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# Reporting

What do cluster coordinators report ON?

- \*Enrichment activities (using AFSOnline)
- \*Expenses (Submitting to AFS-USA in New York)
- \*Schedule of planned events
- \*Interesting student achievements



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# Support for Sponsored Programs

- Similar to process for core AFS participants
- Support is provided by liaison with assistance from Area Team Support Coordinator
- Support cases are handled by the Regional Support Managers and Coordinators in the Regional Offices; Sponsored Programs staff are CC'd on all communication
- Support cases also involve the Sponsored Programs staff members— this is an additional layer in the process that is required by the DOS



# Other Sponsored Programs



- **Diversity Initiative**
  - Recruitment through CBOs
- **Visiting Teachers Program**
  - In 2005/2006:
    - 46 YP hosted from China, Thailand and Turkey
    - 7 Semester teachers hosted from Latin America
- **Egypt Summer Language**
  - 12 students in Summer 06
- **Global Leap**
- **Egyptian Cultural Heritage Program**



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A warm “Thank You” from the  
Sponsored Programs Team



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Questions?



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