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WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE REPORTED
Report shows a steady growth in high school students studying abroad with over 30,000 participants during the 2009-2010 academic year

ALEXANDRIA, VA – March 30, 2010 The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) reports that during the 2009-2010 school year over 28,000 international students came to the U.S. as exchange students. Additionally, roughly 2,000 U.S. students are spending a semester or year abroad.

Each year CSIET evaluates U.S. based youth exchange programs and produces an annual statistical report that tallies student exchange activities for the academic year. The student information is broken down by country of origin for the “inbound” participants and by which countries are hosting “outbound” American students. The data also provides state-by-state breakdowns of exchange students hosted and American students studying abroad.

“With all 50 U.S. states, plus the District of Columbia, and 115 countries participating this year, the program is truly global in nature, with strong nationwide support in the United States,” said John Hishmeh, Executive Director of CSIET. “The report provides useful trend data to enable program operators to more effectively plan and promote the program.”

CSIET collects student numbers from exchange organizations voluntarily applying for listing in CSIET’s *Advisory List*, a compilation of international youth exchange programs that meet CSIET’s national standards for quality.

The 2009-2010 statistical report shows that the Midwest hosts the greatest number of international students by far, almost 40%. Along with the placement totals, the report provides rankings based on hosting totals per capita (the number of exchange students relative to the number of high-school students in each U.S. state). Although Michigan hosted the largest number of exchange students this year, Montana was the #1 hosting state per capita. The top ten sending countries, in rank order, are Germany, Brazil, South Korea, China, Thailand, Norway, Italy, Spain, Japan and Denmark.

“This year, we note that several regions in the United States that were disproportionately hit harder in terms of economy and unemployment last year continue to host international students in great numbers,” said Hishmeh. “American families continue to open their homes to exchange students as they have done for decades.”

To learn more about CSIET and to read the complete report, visit www.csiet.org. If you are interested in hosting an exchange student or studying abroad, visit www.hoststudents.org

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About CSIET: The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) is a not-for-profit organization committed to quality international educational travel and exchange for youth at the high school level. The purpose of CSIET is to identify reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities so that youth are provided with meaningful and safe international exchange experiences, and to promote the importance and educational value of international youth exchange.