



# Partnerships for the Future – Vocational Schools Meet Community Colleges: Dialogue on Apprentice Exchange

## Goals

This project aims to assist German vocational schools and US community colleges to connect and develop international exchange programs for their apprentices.

### What GACC Midwest offers:

The Partnerships for the Future project seeks to establish a successful “exchange before the exchange.” To this end, we offer three avenues of support: Virtual Networking Meetings, Virtual Workshops, and direct Support for Transatlantic School Partnerships. Throughout the year, we bring together interested educational facilities in both countries to connect, exchange best practices, and ultimately develop their own unique apprentice exchange programs.

#### 1 Finding a Program Partner – Virtual Networking Meetings

Twice a year, we host virtual networking meetings for representatives from German vocational schools and US community colleges. These sessions offer instructors the opportunity to connect, share ideas, and explore potential apprentice exchange program concepts – without any obligation or expectations!

#### 2 Bilateral Connections – Support for Transatlantic School Partnerships

Once partnerships are formed, we continue to support the development of apprentice exchange programs in an advisory role. We ease communication between school partners, consult on project plans and funding applications, and support the implementation of concrete exchange programs.

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

#### 3 Program Ideas and Best Practices – Virtual Workshops

Participants from German vocational schools and US community colleges are invited to collaborate in four annual virtual workshops to develop concrete ideas for transatlantic exchange programs. Experts also share their thoughts and experiences on a range of topics including how to plan and implement an apprentice exchange, how the educational systems in each country compare, and what intercultural competencies are important during an exchange.

- Workshop 1: Successfully Planning an Apprentice Exchange – Determine and Develop the Basics
- Workshop 2: Implementing an Exchange with Best Practices Examples from German and US Perspectives
- Workshop 3: School Partners of Apprenticeships – Differences and Similarities DE – USA
- Workshop 4: Intercultural Competencies and Communication during Exchange



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