

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**  
**March 12, 2019**

**SUBJECT:**

Request from an international travel and exchange program seeking approval to place foreign exchange students in district schools

**BACKGROUND:**

School Board Policy JFABB establishes guidelines for the admission of exchange students to the School District of Aiken County. Prior to a request for placement of a specific student, the "sponsoring organization must petition the Board for recognition/approval and to obtain the Board's willingness to participate in the organization's program of student exchange."

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Youth for Understanding USA (YFU USA) is fully accredited by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). The Chief Administration Officer has been in communication with the Local Coordinator for South Carolina of the organization and has contacted references. YFU USA is interested in placing students in Aiken County in August of 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recognize Youth for Understanding USA (YFU USA) as eligible to request placements of foreign exchange students in Aiken district schools.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Names and contact information of the sponsoring organization  
Youth for Understanding USA (YFU USA) Certificate of Acceptance

**PREPARED BY:**

King Laurence

Youth for Understanding USA - **National Office**  
6856 Eastern Avenue, NW  
Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20012  
Website: [www.yfuusa.org](http://www.yfuusa.org)  
Phone: 202.774.5200  
FAX: 202.588.7571

Youth for Understanding USA – **Regional Office**  
3995 Fashion Square Blvd.  
Suite 2  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
Website: [www.yfuusa.org](http://www.yfuusa.org)  
Phone: 989.777.4420

**LOCAL CONTACTS:**

Kristie Rotz  
Community Development Manager/Blue Ridge Field  
Phone: 757.479.2233  
Email: [rotz@yfu.org](mailto:rotz@yfu.org)

Beth Orr  
Community Engagement Manager/Blue Ridge Field  
Phone: 757.499.0195  
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**Attachment 1**



**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
**Intercultural Exchange Programs**

February 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Youth For Understanding USA would like to be an approved partner for international exchange students to be able to place students in Aiken County, South Carolina schools. Please find our CSIET certificate for 2019-2020 attached! Thank you so much!

Respectfully,

Kristie & Beth

**Kristie Rotz** | Community Development Manager/ Blue Ridge Field  
**Youth For Understanding USA**  
(p) 757.479.2233 | yfuusa.org

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Associations/Missouri State High School  
Activities Association

CHRISTOPHER B. PAGE,  
Executive Director

February 1, 2019

Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA)  
6856 Eastern Avenue NW, Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20012

Dear Scott Messing,

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) has found Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA) to have fulfilled all the requirements for CSIET Certification and grants your organization a **Full J-1 Inbound Certification** for the *2019-2020 Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs*.

Recall that for the *2019-2020 Advisory List of International and Educational Travel & Exchange Programs*, there are three separate certification categories. The certification categories are as follows:

- Inbound J-1 Programs
- Inbound F-1 Programs
- Outbound Programs

\*CSIET certification entitles an organization to publicize the fact that its program is conducted in accordance with the published standards. Further, certified organizations are entitled to use the CSIET certification mark during the period it is listed in the publication in accordance with CSIET policy (see attached "CSIET Trademark Policy" document).

\*CSIET certification does not entitle an organization to paid promotional opportunities (Weblinks, Direct Connect, Flyers, Stickers, etc.). These opportunities will be available for purchase after the full 2018-2019 evaluation cycle is complete, at the end of March 2019. You then will receive a specific communication about promotional opportunities from our Director of Marketing & Communications, Charissa Slack. Promotional opportunities purchased after March 2018 (last year) will continue to be honored and will remain active on our websites until we update them in May 2019.

#### 2018-19 Review Process

Programs were judged based on the following J-1 Requirements for CSIET Certification:

1. Programs must be paid CSIET Members;
2. Programs must complete the appropriate Application for Certification and pay the associated application fees;
3. Programs must be bona fide Department of State designees, but cannot be a school/school district so designated by the Department of State;
4. Programs must inform CSIET if they: a. cease operation; b. merge with or become acquired by another organization; c. have/received sanctions by the U.S. Department of State (including but not limited to letter of reprimand, probation, suspension, and/or forms reduction);

5. Programs that have received a greater sanction (suspension of program, loss of designation, a reduction of more than 15% of forms) by the Department of State in the year since the previous Certification will be subject to further review by the CSIET Accreditation Committee;
6. Programs that have outstanding/pending/unresolved complaints with CSIET will be subject to further review by the CSIET Accreditation Committee;
7. Programs must reaffirm their commitment to CSIET Standards every year and comply with CSIET Standards and Department of State regulations;
8. Programs that did not meet one or more of the requirements in the previous cycle must submit a management response addressing each deficiency and any corrective action taken to remedy that issue in order to receive a Full Certification in the *2019-2020 Advisory List*;
9. Programs that received a Conditional Certification in the previous cycle must meet all requirements in the current cycle to receive a Full Certification. If a program with a previous cycle Conditional Certification does not meet the requirements in the current cycle, it will be excluded from the *Advisory List*. Any program that has not submitted a management response that meets the review of the Accreditation Committee will be subject to further review and may be excluded from the *Advisory List*.

\*Newly applied J-1 organizations will be issued a Provisional Certification provided that they meet all the above criteria. Provisionally certified organizations must earn the Provisional Certification for a period of two evaluation cycles in order to be eligible for a Full Certification. Provisionally certified organizations can reduce this period to one evaluation cycle by attending required training sessions at the CSIET Annual Conference. Contact the CSIET offices for more information.

Congratulations on your new certification! Thank you for your support of CSIET and its mission. Your cooperation in this voluntary process, your demonstrated compliance with the Standards, and your professionalism and goodwill throughout the process are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Page  
Executive Director



## **CERTIFICATE of ACCEPTANCE**

**This is to certify that the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel has completed its review of applications for certification in the *2019-2020 Advisory List for International Educational Travel & Exchange Programs*.**

**Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA)  
is hereby granted a Full J-1 Inbound Certification in the  
2019-2020 edition of the *Advisory List*.**

**Christopher Page  
Executive Director**