



Message of Greeting
by German Ambassador Peter Ammon
to The Transatlantic Program
of the German American Chamber of Commerce
of the Midwest/Chicago (GACCoM)



Washington, October 2011

It is a great honor and a pleasure for me as the new German Ambassador to the United States to serve as patron of the Transatlantic Program – Young Technology Leaders of the German American Chamber of Commerce.

This program seeks out talented individuals in technology and natural science, on whom we depend now more than ever on both sides of the Atlantic – young people who, through their expertise and their hard work, their innovative thinking and their can-do spirit, are making an enormously important contribution to the economy and society.

I am very glad that the Chamber is enabling young Americans to visit us in Germany. No book, no lecture, no smartphone, and no tablet PC can replace personal experience – when the PhD student from Chicago sees how Hamburg engages in sustainable water management or the young logistics professional from Illinois sees how the greater Rhine-Main region organizes the interplay of life, transport, and work. These personal experiences shape and stay with us. They strengthen the ties between people, companies, and universities.

In their own way, they help ensure that the two seals of approval – “Made in Germany” and “Made in America” – retain their appeal in the world. And, of course, the program helps the participants and their companies also in a very practical way: The time spent in Germany, the additional skills acquired there, the alumni network, and deeper knowledge of Germany will further spur the careers of many young people.

My call goes out to the Chamber’s member companies: Support this program by making your sharp young minds available and encouraging them to visit Germany. Or directly become a sponsor of the program. The German Government supports the Young Technology Leaders with funds from the European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan. George Marshall, that farsighted American Secretary of State, recognized soon after the war that we could only build U.S.-European cooperation and friendship on the same values, on the same understanding of a free society, and above all on a free economy. Even over 60 years later, it is still worthwhile to continue working in Marshall’s spirit. For that, I owe my thanks to the Chamber and all its friends and supporters. My best wishes for a brilliant future of the Transatlantic Young Leaders Program.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Thurn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'P'.