



Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Washington



Washington, September 15, 2010

*Message of Greetings  
from  
German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth  
to  
The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest/Chicago  
Transatlantic Program for Young Technical Leaders*

*It is my honor and pleasure to serve as patron of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest/Chicago Transatlantic Program–Young Technology Leaders, for this outstanding transatlantic exchange program holds truly remarkable benefits for its participants.*

*After five successful years, the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest has expanded its Transatlantic Program by offering young leaders in various technical fields the opportunity to participate in a program of intensive subject-related visits to Germany.*

*I especially appreciate that the program is designed to bring advanced students and young professionals together on a trip to Germany that relates to the participants' professional qualifications and will have a positive influence on their career development over the long term.*



*Participants will meet peers, providers, and pioneers in their fields during the trip and serve as young American ambassadors, exposing Germany to new ideas and sometimes different approaches, an aspect which makes the program a valuable experience for both sides.*

*Of the different government and privately sponsored programs between our two countries, the German government ranks the Transatlantic Program–Young Technology Leaders among the highest. That is why it is generously providing seed money to allow the development of a specifically career-oriented program for young Americans. It is only fitting that the seed money has come from the European Recovery Program – better known as the Marshall Plan – which was initially designed to rebuild Europe after World War II. The original Marshall funds were partially invested in the German economy under a revolving loan system still in effect today. Not all of the repaid funds have to be employed in industrial projects, but can instead be used for the advancement of transatlantic encounters. This enables us to continue vigorously supporting this scholarship program as a token of appreciation and gratitude to our American friends.*

*Once participants return to the U.S., they will become part of the Transatlantic Program–Young Technology Leaders alumni platform. I strongly encourage members of the alumni network to share their Germany experience with incoming participants and tell how the program influenced their views and ideas for the future, thereby spreading the word about this excellent program. They should also use their knowledge about Germany and German technological innovations in their careers and maintain the established contacts. At the same time, I urge companies and universities to contribute to this program by sponsoring the participation of their young leaders and considering a sponsorship of the program itself. They will thus make its continuation possible beyond public funding and help educate an outstanding group of young Americans with German-language skills and transatlantic expertise in their respective professional fields.*



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*Let me offer my special thanks to those who contributed to the design of this unique program: the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, as the initiator and organizer, and numerous individuals, civic leaders, and companies for promoting it and sending their young leaders to Germany.*

*Best wishes to all the participants for a very memorable experience on the Transatlantic Program–Young Technology Leaders program.*

*Wolfgang Wehrhahn*