

## community connections for global learning

---

Within every community, no matter its size or location, there are connections to other parts of the world. These connections can create starting points for exploring the world, as well as resources that can support afterschool global learning. Consider the many connections that may already exist in your community to help support global learning:

- population diversity → start with immigrant and heritage organizations.
- cultural traditions → start with local museums and historical societies.
- schools → start with school boards, school administration, principals, Parent-Teacher Associations.
- educational exchange organizations → start with AFS Intercultural Programs, American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS), American Councils, EF Education, and others that have networks throughout the country. The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) maintains a list of K-12 travel and study programs, at <http://www.csiet.org/publications-resources/publications/listed-programs.html>.
- colleges and universities → start with international education programs, international faculty, international students, and American faculty and students who have returned from study abroad, as well as the 120 federally-funded (Title VI) university-based National Resource Centers focusing on Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, and International Studies. The Outreach World website (<http://www.outreachworld.org>) highlights the various K-12 teaching resources and educational activities produced by the National Resource Centers, beginning with the Middle East.
- business, economic development, and trade organizations → start with the Chamber of Commerce or World Trade Council.
- policy centers → start with state and national government representatives' offices and websites.
- international affairs organizations → start with the World Affairs Councils, United Nations Associations and Model United Nations, and State Geographic Alliances.
- faith-based programs → start with local churches, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship.
- international volunteer programs → start with Kiwanis, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, or other international humanitarian organizations.
- media → start with local print, Internet media television, and radio stations, especially those whose audiences include diverse cultural groups. International education organizations, such as the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) and ePals, also provide electronic linkages globally.