Section 8
“Financial Aid, Scholarship, and Government Exchange Opportunities”
There are numerous scholarship opportunities for international and American students to participate in exchange programs many of which offer financial aid. US and foreign governments sponsor exchange programs in order to further foreign policy aims. Corporations and foundations sponsor exchange programs as community philanthropy, as an employee benefit and as a means of developing a globally-competent workforce. A list of organizations which have such programs are included within the CSIET Advisory List.

Students may also apply to exchange programs sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State. These programs are administered by non-profit grantees of the Department of State. Students live with families and attend school in the United States or destination country for the academic year or for a summer. Students are granted scholarships that provide travel, medical insurance, cultural enrichment trips and activities, and orientation programs.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program provides full scholarships to German and U.S. students and is initiated and funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Congress. The international exchange programs which participate in the Congress-Bundestag program are included in the CSIET Advisory List.

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program is an exchange with students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine. The scholarship is funded by the U.S. Government through the Secondary School Initiative of the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992.

The Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program was established in 2002 and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs to provide scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations. They may spend up to one academic year in the United States.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs also funds programs for American students to learn critical languages, such as Arabic and Chinese, as well as programs that promote classroom to classroom exchange. Through organizations such as the Fulbright exchange program, exchange opportunities are also available for U.S. high school teachers.

More information on current opportunities is available at the CSIET website (www.csiet.org) and click on “U.S. School Resources.”