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MEMORANDUM

Contact Information
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DPS: 2015 - 183

TO: School District Superintendents
Career and Technical Education Directors

FROM: Rod Duckworth
Hershel Lyons

DATE: December 4, 2015

SUBJECT: 2016 Congress-Bundestag Vocational Exchange Scholarship

Florida is once again participating in the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Exchange Scholarship Program. This scholarship/exchange program is administered by Nacel Open Door and provides an opportunity for 25 graduating high school seniors from across the United States to spend one year in Germany learning the German culture and exploring their career interests. Florida has been very well represented with the selection of students each year. There are currently seven students from Florida participating in this program. Please bring this scholarship/exchange program to the attention of students you feel would be good candidates and encourage them to apply.

The German vocational education system is quite innovative and has provided participating Florida students with a unique and worthwhile learning experience. You can read about the experiences of three of our students on the Commissioner's Blog (educationfl.wordpress.com) in the article, "How One Scholarship Exchange changed the lives of three young Floridians," posted in August, 2014. A brochure about the program is attached.

Each high school in the state of Florida may nominate up to **three** students. Those nominated should possess the maturity and commitment necessary to be successful in an international exchange program. Although previous study of German is advantageous, it is not a prerequisite for scholarship selection.

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Student applications will be reviewed by Nacel Open Door and the Division of Career and Adult Education to select the semifinalists from Florida. All semifinalists will be invited to interview with the selection committee who will then submit their recommendations to Nacel Open Door to choose the final recipients.

Completed applications must be submitted via email to CBYX@nacelopendoor.org no later than January 31, 2016. A link to the application can be found on the Florida Department of Education's website at http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/the-congress-bundestag-vocational-yout.stml.

If you have any questions regarding this scholarship/exchange program, please contact Heather Conley at 800-342-9271 or via email at heather.conley@fldoe.org.

RD/PS/hc

Attachment