



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 28, 2012



Honorable Terry Holliday
Commissioner of Education
State Department of Education
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Commissioner Holliday:

Please join me in celebrating the 13th annual International Education Week, November 12-16, 2012, a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and State highlighting the importance of international education and exchange. This year's theme is *International Education: Striving for a Healthier Future Worldwide*.

As Michelle Obama stated at the launch of the *Let's Move!* health initiative, "The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake." We must help put our children on the path to a healthy future as they become globally competent and globally aware citizens poised to excel on the world stage in whatever career they choose. We would like to encourage you to promote global competence and awareness during this week in particular and throughout the school year. In the past, governors, mayors, and school boards have issued proclamations to commemorate International Education Week.

Since the first annual celebration in November 2000, Americans have conducted a wide variety of activities, including cultural fairs, classroom-to-classroom videoconferencing, and online exchanges of information. I invite you to visit the joint website of the U.S. Departments of Education and State at <http://iew.state.gov/> for further information about how students and schools can get involved. Your students can also post their events on this website, and I encourage you to help them do so. Other information is on the Department's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/internationaled/iew.html>.

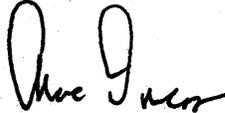
I would like to share two examples of how the U.S. Department of Education continues to work with our long-standing partners on International Education Week events. One event is an exhibit of works sponsored by VSA, an international organization on arts and disability affiliated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The Department also partners with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to give students the opportunity to participate in a downlink with the crew of the International Space Station. This program

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demonstrates the importance of a rigorous math, science, engineering, technology, area studies, and foreign language education as well as the necessity to stay intellectually and physically healthy.

I hope this information is helpful in providing ideas for how to promote international understanding and awareness during International Education Week.

Sincerely,



Arne Duncan