Dear Sir/Madam,

AFS Interculture South Africa, in conjunction with American Councils and the American Department of State is proud to announce that they will once again be offering ten-month scholarships to study in the United States to 15 South African Students.

Known worldwide as the Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (KL-YES), since 2003 almost 1000 students from across the globe are offered this scholarship opportunity annually. Almost 100 South Africans, from all walks of life, have become global citizens through this initiative. In addition the exchange experience enhances their independence and self reliance, fosters understanding and intercultural learning, teaches multiple communication skills and facilitates an exchange of ideas from around the world.

The students will spend from August 2020 until June 2021 living in an American home, with an American host family and attend some of the finest schools in the country. They will learn the importance of building community spirit and volunteerism through 50-100 hours of compulsory community service of their choice – soup kitchens, reading to the elderly or working in animal shelters are just some of the selections they can make. They will be helped to find projects which will enhance their self esteem while contributing meaningfully to the community. On their return they are expected to continue this volunteerism in whichever way they choose but in such a way that it “gives back” to their local community. They are regarded within the organisation as “change makers”

While on exchange, they will have 24/7 emergency assistance as well as a designated, trained person who will be in contact with them throughout their stay and help them settle and adjust to life in the States,

This exciting academic scholarship is fully funded and even offers a monthly stipend to the participants while they are on exchange. Visa costs are paid for, however there are some vaccinations and a compulsory TB test that is to the applicants cost. The applicants are also expected to attend one, possibly two compulsory sessions at their own cost. A selection day will be held in their choice of Cape Town, Johannesburg or Pietermaritzburg. Should they make it through this initial selection round and the subsequent home interview then they return to the same centre to write the ELTIS test (English Language Test for International Students).

All successful applications are then independently ranked and scored by a panel with no prior knowledge of the applicants in terms of ethnicity, gender or age.

Applications for this remarkable scholarship will open on 22 July and preliminary application forms will be sent to you. In order to reduce applicant disappointment and ensure full eligibility we would ask that you or a member of your staff identify a maximum of a top 5 applicants from your school who are both interested and meet the following criteria:

* Born between 1 January 2003 and 1 August 2005
* In Grade 9, 10 or 11
* Be South African Citizens or able to prove permanent residence
* Must have lived for more than 50% (3yrs) of the last 5 years in South Africa and be able to provide citizenship documents.
* Have no subject mark below 50% in the last 3 years
* Have a grade average of a minimum of 70% for each year.

We hope you are as excited to learn about this chance of a lifetime as we are to offer it. We look forward to receiving your completed preliminary applications once they have been sent to you.

For additional information please contact:

 Boitumelo Mpungose

011 431-0113

or visit our webpage [www.afs.org.za/](http://www.afs.org.za/) programme.recruitment.za@afs.org