The number of U.S. college students participating in study abroad and exchange programs in China has grown tremendously and will continue to increase provided the access to visas remains stable.

A plethora of other outbound opportunities for U.S. citizens – faculty exchanges, teaching abroad programs, internships, work programs as well as traditional summer, semester and year long study abroad programs will flourish during the coming decade.

The AIFS Foundation has seen a significant increase in the number of Chinese high school students coming to the U.S. on our Academic Year in America J-1 program to become part of a family and learn more about our country and culture. In addition, the interest in learning Mandarin among U.S. teenagers has risen dramatically, further illustrating the demand and significance of exchange between these two countries.

We have also seen growth in the number of Chinese students participating in our Summer Institute for the Gifted university programs and Au Pair in America programs. Many of these students will later enroll in U.S. universities and will return home to become the future political, business and education leaders of China.

We believe that this exchange between young people of our two nations will lead to a greater understanding of our widely different cultures and enable us to avoid future conflicts. However, our knowledge of educational opportunities in this expansive country remains extremely limited. We have therefore partnered with the Institute of International Education to produce this booklet which includes important studies by U.S. and Chinese experts and introduces some exciting exchange models.

We hope this volume, the first in a series of research reports, will be of interest to those working in the field of international education and will lead to many new creative endeavors.

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