



Speaker Bios

Strengthening Partnerships in South and Central Asia

Opening Panel



Heidi Manley

Chief, USA Study abroad, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Heidi Manley is the chief of USA Study Abroad, part of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), serving as the lead for American student mobility within the State Department. She oversees two of the department’s leading programs to support American students, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the Critical Language Scholarship Program, which she launched in 2006. Manley also has the lead for creating and overseeing a number of capacity-

building initiatives to increase and diversify American student mobility, including the IDEAS Program (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students), and Study Abroad Engagement Grants for U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions worldwide. She also oversees all public affairs initiatives and alumni programming for American student mobility programming and activities. Manley previously served as the deputy director of ECA’s Office of Global Educational Programs and as a special projects officer in the Office of Academic Exchange Programs, where she oversaw a number of programs and initiatives under the flagship Fulbright Program.



Tammy Paltchikov

Deputy Director for Press and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of South and Central Asia, U.S. Department of State

Tammy Paltchikov is a Deputy Director in SCA’s Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. The office provides support and direction to 13 missions, encompassing 19 posts, for PD engagement strategies that leverage a combined budget of \$80+ million. Prior to joining SCA/PPD, Tammy was the PD Section Chief in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, overseeing the 19-person PD team, including post’s growing, vibrant promotion of freedom of press/media initiatives, a unique in-house English language program and diverse, high demand American Spaces programs.

She has also served as Unit Chief/East in EUR/PPD, Holbrooke

Fellow at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, CAO in Sofia, Bulgaria, PAO in Peshawar, Pakistan and consular tours in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Nassau, Bahamas. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Tammy worked in higher education administration at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). In 1992-93, she was an exchange student at Belarussian State University and completed a specialized Russian language course at Moscow State University in 1997. She also served as a Russian linguist in the U.S. Naval Reserves. Hailing from Huntsville, Alabama, Tammy has a B.A. in Slavic Area Studies and an M.A. in Public Affairs, both from UAH. She speaks Russian and Bulgarian.



India Breakout Room



Adelle Gillen

Public Diplomacy Officer, U.S. Embassy New Delhi
U.S. Department of State

Adelle Gillen is an American Diplomat currently leading education and emerging voices programs for U.S. Embassy New Delhi. For the last 15 years, she has strengthened U.S. relations with countries such as Australia, Brazil, India, and Angola through educational and cultural diplomacy, as well as media engagement. Adelle has a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and a liberal arts degree from St. John's College.



Adam Grotzky

Executive Director
United States – India Educational Foundation (USIEF)

Adam Grotzky has dedicated over three decades to advancing international education. Since May 2008, he has served as the Executive Director of the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), where he oversees the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru and Fulbright-Kalam Fellowship Programs, as well as five EducationUSA advising centers across India. Under his leadership, USIEF has administered more than 4,000 Fulbright Fellowships for U.S. and Indian citizens, tripling the program's size and broadening its scope. Key initiatives introduced during his tenure include postdoctoral fellowships and visiting chair awards for Indian citizens, distinguished scholar awards for U.S. professors, and short-term grants for international education administrators. Through its EducationUSA advising services, USIEF has empowered thousands of Indian students to pursue higher education in the United States. India is currently the largest source of international students in the U.S., with over 330,000 Indian students enrolled in American institutions. Before joining USIEF, Mr. Grotzky served as Director of Study Abroad at Towson University, Maryland, where he developed, administered, and promoted the university's study abroad programs. Prior to that, he was the Associate Director for International Programs at the University of South Carolina from 1997 to 2004. Mr. Grotzky began his career in international education as the Resident Director of the University of Wisconsin's College Year in India Program in Varanasi (1992–1994). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's degree in South Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, Ph.D

Executive Director of International Programs and Special Assistant to the Provost, Mississippi Valley State University

Dr. Shivakumaraiah is the Executive Director of International Relations and Assistant to the Provost at Mississippi Valley State University and the NAFSA Region VII Chair-elect. He has over 17 years of professional experience in the area of international education and student affairs at public land grant, private and HBCU institutions. He has also served as the Clinical Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Mississippi State University. He had formerly held positions of the Associate Director of International Institute at Mississippi State University, Assistant Director of International Recruitment and Admissions at Metropolitan College of New York, a private college, and the Director of International Programs at Jackson State University, a Historically Black College and University. Dr. Shivakumaraiah is also the past Chair and founding President of the state-wide StudyMississippi Consortium and an active NAFSA leader.

Central Asia Breakout Room



Mark Cameron

Director of Bureau of South and Central Asia's Central Asia Office, U.S. Department of State

Mark Cameron joined Office of Central Asian Affairs as Director in August 2024. Prior to this he was the Director of the Office of South Caucasus and Regional Conflicts from 2022-2024. A public diplomacy coned officer, he has served as Deputy Director of SCA/PPD and EUR/PD, Information Officer at Embassy Ankara, and Public Affairs Officer in Bishkek and Stockholm. In Tbilisi, he was the Director of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. He has also served in Adana, Turkey and a second tour in Bishkek. Domestically, he has been the Uzbekistan Desk Officer, an Economics Officer in the Office of Russian Affairs, and a Watch Officer in the Operations Center. He speaks Russian and Turkish and has studied Kyrgyz, Georgian, Swedish and Ukrainian. Originally from Montgomery, Alabama, he has a B.A. from the American University. His wife is a human rights lawyer cover Europe and Eurasia, and his three children are in various stages of the educational system. His two dogs are in various stages of being spoiled.



Dr. Cheryl Matherly

Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs,
Lehigh University

Dr. Cheryl Matherly is the vice president and vice provost for international affairs at Lehigh University. She serves as the university's senior international officer and is charged with providing strategic leadership for its numerous international education programs. Lehigh was recognized in 2021 with NAFSA's Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization in recognition of its international education programs. Dr. Matherly

has written extensively on the relationship between employability and education abroad, including several book chapters that examined this topic in context of comparative national policies. She is recognized for her leadership on issues related to international internships and experiential learning. Dr. Matherly was named Senior International Officer of the Year by the Institute of International Education in 2020. She is a member of the National Academy of International Education, and was named in 2023 by PIE Education as one of the "50 Influential Voices in North American International Education." She has an Ed.D. in education from the University of Houston, an M.S. in education from Indiana University and a B.A. in English literature and political science from the University of New Mexico. She is the recipient of two Fulbright grants for International Education Administrators, in Japan and Germany.



John Grether

Acting Dean, Kettering University School of Management

John Grether currently serves as Professor of Practice and Acting Dean in the School of Management at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. Prior to joining Kettering University in 2019, he had spent 25 years at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan as faculty, department chair and dean and as leader of several university-wide initiatives. He regularly visited and often taught at international partner institutions in China, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Romania. Over a 12-year period prior to and consecutive with his early career in higher education, John

started, managed and owned a slate of successful retail and service enterprises. At Kettering University, he teaches courses in entrepreneurship, general management, marketing and finance. As the faculty lead for the Innovation and Entrepreneurship undergraduate degree concentration and minor program, he has developed new courses in Entrepreneurial Thinking and Social Entrepreneurship. John has presented topics in entrepreneurship education and policy in several different international forums. He has been a member of several grant proposal teams focused on entrepreneurial capacity-building through curriculum transfer and instructional innovation. John earned his Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law and his Master of Arts in Economics from Central Michigan University. John's research interests lie primarily in the areas of entrepreneurship, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, business policy and organizational strategy.