**The** **Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Europe on Youth, Education, and Closing the Skills Gap** will explore how advances in technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation, and robotics are shaping how we work, where we work, and the skills and education required to work.  The Institute will expose participants to global issues in the context of the future of work by examining educational, social and economic trends.  Using an interdisciplinary approach, the academic program will examine the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries and sectors including business, technology, science, higher education, the creative arts and other fields.  Topics may include, but are not limited to, communication, entrepreneurship and the gig economy, globalization and urbanization, innovation and technology, organizational development and management, skills development, and reskilling and retraining.  The Institute will also provide opportunities for participants to engage with educational and industry leaders, policy makers, trade associations and other key actors. The Institute will then conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

**All costs for participation will be covered by the U.S. Department of State.**

**Housing and Meal Arrangements**: Housing will be in shared university dorms on campus with common bathrooms.  Male participants will be housed on one floor and female participants on a separate floor.  Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.  It is important that nominees are aware of these arrangements and that they are comfortable with such accommodations.

Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

**English Language Ability**: All candidates must be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program.  Host institutions will take into account that the level of comprehension and speaking ability of students may vary and will prepare lectures and discussions that meet the highest academic standards while using language appropriate for students where English is their second or third language.

**CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**:

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities.  Their fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields.

**Emphasis should be made on recruiting participants from non-elite backgrounds, from both rural and urban areas, and with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country**.  The candidates should provide relevant information in the application.

In addition, recruitment of participants should include historically underserved groups, indigenous groups, disadvantaged groups, individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, and ethnic minority communities. The candidates should provide relevant information in the application.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

·         be proficient in English;

·         be interested in the Institute topic;

·         be between 18 and 25 years of age;

·         have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;

·         demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;

·         indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;

·         have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;

·         demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;

·         have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;

·         be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;

·         be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and,

·         be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.