

**JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT**  
**between the**  
**Federal Ministries of Education and Research,**  
**Economic Affairs and Energy, and Labour and Social Affairs**  
**of the Federal Republic of Germany**  
**and the**  
**Departments of Commerce, Education, and Labor**  
**of the United States of America**

The Federal Ministries of Education and Research, Economic Affairs and Energy, and Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor of the United States of America (collectively referred to herein as “the Participants”) share a common belief in the importance of promoting education and training as a factor in individual development and achievement, economic development, and social growth, as well as a means for strengthening the ties between the two countries. Both countries also acknowledge the significance of supporting education and training programs built in partnership with employers — particularly career and technical training with the aim of providing industry (especially small and medium-sized businesses) with access to more highly-skilled workers, thereby promoting productivity and economic growth and improving workers’ wages and pathways to quality careers.

This Joint Declaration of Intent provides a framework in which the Participants may identify and explore cooperation in the area of career and technical training, increase learning from one another and provide joint support for future initiatives and measures as a result of this cooperation.

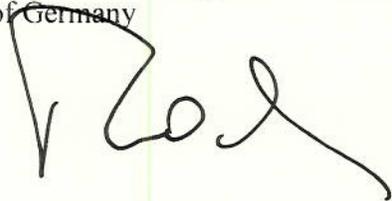
The Participants intend that, in order to pursue these mutual objectives, the following activities may be conducted, on mutually approved topics at mutually approved times and subject to available resources, during the term of this Joint Declaration of Intent:

1. Cooperation in Career and Technical Education and Training, including apprenticeship and dual system approaches, jointly determined by the Participants which may include one or more of the following focus areas:
  - needs-oriented, work-based training, in small and medium-sized businesses in particular; and
  - exchange of information about best practices including, but not limited to, the following:
    - transition from school and training to the job market;
    - organization of career and technical training;
    - opportunities to apply career and technical education and training, including apprenticeships, towards post-secondary degree programs;
    - cross-employer transferability of training; and
    - involvement and role of businesses and industry associations in career and technical training.

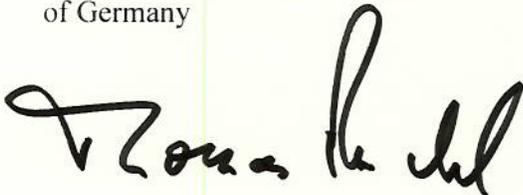
2. Other activities and topics may be decided by the Participants during the term of this Joint Declaration of Intent.
3. The Participants intend to use the following methods of cooperation to learn from each other in the areas identified in Part 1:
  - exchange of information, experience and good practices;
  - fact-finding visits and expert meetings, as appropriate and feasible; and
  - additional activities and projects of mutual interest, as appropriate and feasible.
4. This Joint Declaration of Intent is intended to continue for a period of three (3) years from the date the Participants sign it, and may be amended by mutual consent. If any Participant intends to withdraw from this Joint Declaration of Intent, the intending participant should endeavor to provide three months notification of that intent to the other participants. This Joint Declaration of Intent does not itself obligate or authorize the expenditure of any funds by any Participant. Nothing in this Joint Declaration of Intent obligates the Participants to enter into any contract or other obligations.

Signed in *Washington, DC* on *June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015* in duplicate in the English and German languages.

For the Federal Ministry of Economic  
Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic  
of Germany



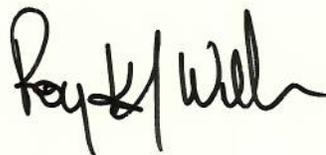
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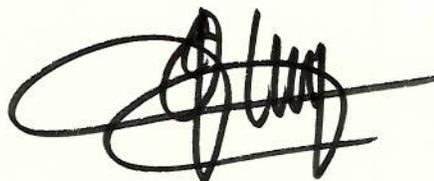
For the Federal Ministry of Labour and  
Social Affairs of the Federal Republic  
of Germany



For the Department of Commerce  
of the United States of America



For the Department of Education  
of the United States of America



For the Department of Labor  
of the United States of America

