

# Focus on International Education: SUNY Broome welcomes student from Germany

**\*\*updated\*\***

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*SUNY Broome has increased its international scope with a variety of new programs that draw students from abroad. This is the first in a weekly series of articles on the new programs.*

Guten Tag! SUNY Broome has forged a new connection with Germany this year, via the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program, or CBYX. The program began in 1983, in celebration of 300 years of German immigration to the United States and the longstanding friendship between the two countries.

This year, the college welcomed its first CBYX student: Franziska Strauss from Munich. She's part of the CBYX Young Professionals Program, which has participants in technical, business, agricultural and vocational fields. In the 2015-2016 school year, 75 Germans – including Franziska – will travel to the United States, and 75 Americans will go to Germany.

Participants will stay in the country for a year, taking classes and doing internships, noted SUNY Broome's International Coordinator Claudia Beebe.

While Franziska is the college's first CBYX student, the International Education Department hopes to expand the program in the future. She's currently living with a host family while pursuing her studies at SUNY Broome.

This past weekend, she took a trip to Cincinnati, where she helped a member of Munich's City Council open the Oktoberfest Zinzinnati. Strauss works for the local government of Munich back home, and her studies in business – particularly international business and business law – relate to her career, she noted.

During her year in the United States, she hopes to learn more about our culture. Ultimately, she plans to continue working for the Munich government when she returns, hopefully in either human resources or the public relations department.

"Life in the USA is so different than the life in Germany. It starts with the greeting," she reflected. "In Germany, we don't ask people 'how are you?'"

The countries' educational systems also differ. More happens on SUNY Broome's campus, and students often stay there to do homework or research. Student organizations are also a new option.

Strauss, however, said she enjoys the differences. "This is what makes everyday so interesting and important for me," she said.



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