



Press advisory
March 26, 2014

Ambassador Bruce J. Oreck will deliver remarks at the Grant Award Ceremony for this year's Young Ambassadors Summer Exchange Program participants. Representatives of the media are welcome to attend. The event will take place on Friday, March 28, at 2 p.m. Address: Itäinen Puistotie 14. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by March 27, 4 pm.** To register, contact U.S. Embassy Press at helsinkiuspress@state.gov or call Press Assistants Anne Laanti 050-5480340 or Tuomas Hellman 050-548 0370.

A Distinctive U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy Program Enters 4th Program Season

The U.S. Embassy in Finland, Center for International Mobility CIMO, Youth for Understanding YFU, and Vaisala are organizing the environmentally-focused Young Ambassadors Exchange Program this summer for the fourth time. Thirteen upper secondary school students (ages 16-18) interested in environmental issues, who have good English skills and little or no prior U.S. experience, have been selected to travel to Colorado for a six-week stay this summer.

The program builds stronger ties between the United States and Finland by providing talented, young Finns with a valuable look into U.S. society, culture and values through various cultural excursions and a home stay. Program participants also learn about environmental and energy innovations in the United States during site visits organized by YFU in collaboration with local partners, such as Vaisala. As part of their program, the students spend two days in Washington, D.C., touring the capital city, and participating in briefings organized by the Finnish Embassy in Washington and YFU representatives. To date, 42 Finnish students have participated in the Young Ambassadors Summer Exchange Program.

This annual program is a key public diplomacy initiative unique to the U.S. Embassy in Finland.

As the First Lady of the U.S. Michelle Obama said during her visit to China with her two daughters this week: "There is nothing more important than ... to expose our kids to the world."

U.S. Embassy Finland press office, helsinkiuspress@state.gov