



Simonas Vainauskas attends Greenville High School, Greenville, Alabama, and is pictured here at his first Alabama football game.

Lukas Dagalis, St. Francis High School in Traverse City, Michigan, fourth from left, during a visit to The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Second from left is Derek J Bailey, Tribal Chairman.



BUILDING ENDURING TIES BETWEEN LITHUANIA AND THE UNITED STATES

American Councils for International Education advances scholarly research and cross-border learning through the design and implementation of educational programs that are well-grounded in key world languages, cultures and regions. We contribute to the creation of new knowledge, broader professional perspectives, and personal and intellectual growth through international training, academic exchange, and collaboration in educational development. With a presence in the U.S., Russia and Eurasia for nearly four decades, in addition to representation in over thirty countries across Asia, the Middle East and Southeastern Europe, American Councils strives to expand dialog among students, scholars, educators, and professionals for the advancement of learning and mutual respect in the diverse communities and societies in which we work.

Through the initiative and vision of American Ambassador to Lithuania Anne E. Darse, and with the support of several donors, the Exchanges for

Culture, Education, and Leadership – ExCEL – was established. American Councils is proud to add to its portfolio its first direct exchange program with Lithuania. Since 1992, American Councils has been managing high school exchange programs that focus on the importance of international education, mutual understanding, civic engagement, community service, and opportunities for personal growth. For more information on ExCEL and how to donate to support ExCEL scholarships, please contact:

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- American Councils for International Education, 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 1-202-833-7522



Emile Indrasiute, center, with new friends. Emile attends Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis, Missouri.

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“The whole time here will leave a huge impact on me; it already has. I always knew it would be interesting to meet people who see the world differently, but I didn’t understand how fascinating it really was. Now I think that I may choose a career that has something to do with different cultures, languages, and people.” — Simona Pociute

EXCEL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Recruitment and selection: Competitive recruitment of high school students with an applicant-to-finalist ratio of no less than 8:1.
- Pre-program preparation: Students will participate in a pre-program workshop to prepare them for their U.S. experience in terms of expectations, and analytical and problem-solving skills.
- U.S. placement: All students will be placed in U.S. high schools and with well-selected host families. All students will be supported by trained local coordinators and American Councils staff throughout their year in the U.S.
- Workshops and enhancement activities: Each student will have access to a small fund to support their active participation in school and community activities that will support their growth as leaders. All students will be required to perform 30 hours of community service during their exchange year.
- Alumni programming: After students return home, American Councils will work with students to continue their experience through activities in Lithuania. These activities will be alumni-led and will be oriented on community service, civil society, and professional development.



The United States of America and Lithuania enjoy a cooperative relationship based on common interests and the shared values of freedom and democracy. Over the 20 years since Lithuania regained its independence, our two countries have strengthened the Euro-Atlantic alliance. In this new era of our bilateral relationship with Lithuania, a valued partner of the U.S. and a member of NATO and the EU, ExCEL (Exchanges for Culture, Education, and Leadership), seeks to enhance our relations by promoting strong ties between a new generation of young Lithuanian and American leaders through scholarships to cover one year of academic study in the U.S.



Class of 2011-2012: (top, from left) Simonas Vainauskas and Lukas Dagilis, with Ambassador Derse and Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius. Bottom, from left: Simona Pociute, Monika Urbonaite, Vygante Myzgerite, and Emile Indrasiute.



ExCEL was created by the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Ministry of Education in cooperation with American Councils. Generous support has been provided by the U.S. Department of State; biotech companies Thermo Fisher Scientific and Fermentas UAB; Strategic Staffing Solutions International (S³); Western Union Foundation; Omnitel; CSC; American Chamber of Commerce in Vilnius; the Bajorunas/Sarnoff Foundation, Inc.; and the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. Individual gifts in support of the program were received from former Lithuania President Valdas Adamkus and Alma Adamkienė, Dr. John Prunskis, Jeffrey Nelson, and other private donors.

ExCEL currently supports six students on program in the U.S., and is planning a bilateral component for U.S. students to study in Lithuania.

EXCEL PROGRAM COSTS

The cost per participant is \$13,500 for the 2012-2013 academic year. This includes the components listed above, as well as a monthly stipend, insurance, and travel. ExCEL is largely supported by private donations. For more information about the program and to donate to ExCEL, please visit our secure online Donation Center at <http://www.americancouncils.org/donation/campaign/71/>