

**Statement on International Education Week 2010**  
**by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**  
**Washington, DC**

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It is my privilege to invite you to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Education Week, November 15-19, 2010. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State. It celebrates the importance and benefits of international education in the United States and around the world. This year's theme is *International Education: Striving for a Sustainable Future*.

President Obama has stated, "All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort -- a sustained effort -- to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of all human beings."

We are reminded that the challenges we face today are increasingly borderless. Climate change, the environment, and the economy are but some of the issues that affect our daily lives and demand our attention on a global scale. Finding sustainable solutions is imperative and will require an unprecedented level of international cooperation.

A complete education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must teach our children about their interdependent world, and it must prepare them to be good leaders and good global citizens. International awareness and knowledge can help our children build the skills needed to communicate and cooperate with those from other nations and other cultures. And as they participate in international education and international exchange, our students can gain the knowledge and experiences to help them contribute to a sustainable future for all.

International Education Week 2010 is a chance to embrace the uniqueness of nations around the world as well as our similarities—to better understand how to work together. I strongly urge everyone to join the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State in celebrating international education and international exchange.

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