



## First Bilateral Conference on the Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative

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The **Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative**, announced by the U.S. Department of State and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development on May 13, 2014, and endorsed by the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Institute of International Education (IIE), aims to strengthen the historic ties between the United States and France by doubling the number of students studying abroad in our respective countries by 2025.

Currently, 17,000 young Americans study in France each year making it the 4th destination in the world for American students (after the U.K., Italy and Spain), while 8,000 French students come to the U.S. each year.

Within this context, the Embassy of France in the United States, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI), the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (MENESR), Campus France USA, and the **American Association of Collegiate Registrars (AACRAO)** organized a bilateral conference entitled *Towards an extension of student mobility between the United States and France* on January 15-16, 2015 in Washington, DC. Participants from both French and American institutions shared questions and best practices, explored possible roadblocks to increased student mobility, and identified solutions with stakeholders.

This conference was opened by His Excellency Gérard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States and the Honorable Evan Ryan, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.