

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT (JDI)

TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATION

BETWEEN

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants” and in the singular as “a Participant”) acknowledge the deep political, social, economic, cultural and scientific connections that have strengthened and furthered the transatlantic cooperation between the United States of America and Germany since the end of the Second World War.

These enduring connections, grounded in shared democratic principles and values, have flourished into collaborations that have positively influenced the economy, civil society, science and culture.

The Participants, in response to current global challenges, desire to further strengthen their transatlantic cooperation in the hope that this Joint Declaration of Intent (“JDI”) inspires similar arrangements worldwide.

The Participants are convinced that a successful US-German alliance requires the involvement of all levels of government, and especially the impetus from the federal states harnessing directly their ideas, perspectives and support to shape the future path of our relationship. The Participants welcome successful implementation of the current JDI that inspires the conclusion of similar JDIs with other federal states.

The Participants agree that skilled workers are of vital importance to maintain and improve economic prosperity in and between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a particular focus on supporting strong local manufacturing of sustainable technologies, ensuring supply chains and economic development, and stimulating the creation of employment and business opportunities. The Participants declare their shared intention to advance apprenticeship, Career and Technical Education (“CTE”), and Vocational and Professional Education and Training (“VPET”).

The Participants agree that this JDI may subsequently be broadened on the basis of mutual agreement.

The Participants express the following understanding:

Paragraph 1

Purpose

This JDI will develop and strengthen an efficient framework for further cooperation in the field of apprenticeship, work-based learning, CTE and VPET. The Participants will aim to reach populations that are underrepresented in high-quality apprenticeship programs, including but not limited to women, people of color and individuals with disabilities.

Paragraph 2

Planned Areas of Cooperation

The Participants will, in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations policies governing the subject matter in their respective states, endeavor to encourage and promote strategic and technical cooperation for mutual benefit in the following areas:

- Build on existing initiatives in particular of German-American Chambers of Commerce, as well as existing collaborations among government, industry, labor, education and other relevant stakeholders;
- Promote the development of effective, practice-oriented and labor-supported apprenticeships through the sharing of promising practices. Particular focus should be placed on German companies with a presence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that can demonstrate compliance with applicable laws;
- Facilitate the exchange of trainees and teachers ('train the trainers'); and
- Develop joint programs, involving all relevant parties including enterprises, technical and vocational schools and community colleges and administrations of all levels, to increase awareness of and access to work-based learning, including apprenticeships, for students and workers, with a focus on women, people of color and individuals with disabilities.

Paragraph 3

Forms of Cooperation

The Participants plan to encourage cooperation, collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the field of apprenticeship, work-based learning and CTE related issues in both jurisdictions. The cooperation described in Paragraph 2 of this JDI may include the following:

- Exchange of information, experiences and best practices;
- Support and encourage all relevant stakeholders, as described in Paragraph 2, to contribute to joint projects to advance apprenticeships, work-based learning and CTE;
- Facilitating dialogue through organization of conferences, workshops and other meetings between all relevant stakeholders, as described in Paragraph 2;
- Organize fact-finding mission; and
- Pursuing other forms of cooperation as may be determined jointly by the Participants in writing.

Paragraph 4

Funding

1. This JDI does not require or envisage the transfer of financial resources between the Participants.
2. The Participants concur that each will bear the costs of its own activities under this JDI, unless otherwise determined jointly by the Participants in writing.
3. Each Participant intends to conduct the activities provided in this JDI subject to all applicable laws and regulations, as well as rules applicable to the budgetary assignment, availability and deployment of resources and personnel. The Participants intend to express jointly, in writing, the details for the financing of each particular cooperation activity before commencing such activity.

Paragraph 5

Designated authorities

Each Participant will designate a primary point of contact to coordinate the overall cooperation between the Participants for the areas described in Paragraph 2.

Paragraph 6

Implementation and Responsibilities

1. The Participants will convene a joint Working Group that includes but is not limited to the primary points of contact.
2. The Working Group will identify collaboration opportunities, coordinate activities to be conducted under this JDI and decide on the specific actions through which the areas of cooperation will be addressed meaningfully.
3. The agenda, time and place of the meetings will be jointly decided upon by the Participants.
4. The host Participant will chair the meeting. For meetings with no obvious host, including meetings held by videoconference, the Participants will jointly decide the chairperson in advance of the meeting.
5. The Participants, through the Working Group, will conduct an annual review of activities under this JDI, with a view to exchanging information on progress and consideration of future collaboration opportunities. The Working Group will serve as the mechanism for this review and update their respective executives accordingly.
6. The Participants understand that each Participant will bear its own internal and external costs incurred in connection with the Working Group meetings; and
7. Relevant departments/ministries will be involved in areas of cooperation that are led by those departments/ministries.

Paragraph 7
Intellectual Property

If any intellectual property rights arise from the application of this JDI, the Participants will address them in a separate and appropriate instrument. This JDI will neither establish nor govern any intellectual property rights that might arise as a result of its implementation.

Paragraph 8
General Considerations

1. The Participants intend to amicably resolve any questions concerning implementation of this JDI through mutual consultation and negotiation.
2. This JDI constitutes an expression of the Participants' good faith intention to engage in the collaboration described herein.
3. This JDI does not constitute an international treaty or create any rights or obligations under domestic or international law. It does not constitute a binding legal agreement.
4. This JDI does not affect the obligations arising from membership of the Federal Republic of Germany in the European Union.
5. This JDI is applicable from the date of its signature and will continue to have effect for a period of three years. It can be extended for successive periods of two years if both Participants consent to its extension in writing through diplomatic channels with three months' notice.
6. A Participant may end its participation at any time and should inform the other Participant in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to end its participation with three months' notice.
7. This JDI may be amended by mutual written consent of the Participants at any time. The amendments will come into effect upon signature by both Participants.

Signed in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on June 15, 2026, in duplicate in German and in English, both texts being equally valid.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA


Joshua David Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

FOR THE FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY


Jens Hanefeld
Ambassador
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