

**Center for
International
Private
Enterprise**



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NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WELCOME INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Washington, D.C. - Throughout April and May, four chambers of commerce across the United States will welcome young professionals from four different countries to participate in the ChamberL.I.N.K.S. (Leaders, Innovators, and Knowledge Sharing) program. The ChamberL.I.N.K.S. program provides talented young professionals from chambers of commerce and business associations around the globe opportunities to gain valuable leadership skills in the United States.

Interns from Tajikistan, Jamaica, Russia, and Ethiopia will participate in the daily operations of local chambers in Vallejo, CA; Colorado Springs, CO; Joplin, MO; and McKinney, TX. John D. Sullivan, executive director of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) said, "this unique program gives talented young leaders from chambers of commerce around the world access to best practices and innovative services provided by chambers of commerce in the United States. CIPE continues to track the progress of the first participants as they utilize key concepts learned during their time in the United States, applying them to their own work and business environment."

As ChamberL.I.N.K.S. participants experience how a chamber in the United States operates, they enhance their skills and professionalism, and their home organization can benefit from techniques learned throughout their stay. A chamber equipped with well-trained staff, advocating on behalf of its membership, has a positive impact on the private sector and environment for doing business. This program's goal is to reach beyond each participant to the membership of their home organizations and the communities in which they operate.

Rick Wells, president and CEO of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce notes, "we are extremely excited to have Temur Rakhimov travel all the way from Tajikistan to stay with us here in Vallejo. We hope that he will help in our ongoing outreach efforts to our membership. He will have the opportunity to learn about how our chamber operates, and also about the wonderful community that makes Vallejo a great place to live and do business."

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The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) strengthens democracy around the globe through private enterprise and market-oriented reform. CIPE is one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy and a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For 25 years, CIPE has worked with business leaders, policymakers, and journalists to build the civic institutions vital to a democratic society. CIPE's key program areas include anti-corruption, advocacy, business associations, corporate governance, democratic governance, access to information, the informal sector and property rights, and women and youth.

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