

## ***GACC Supports 25th Anniversary of The Alliance for International Exchange***

For many years, the GACC has been a member of The Alliance for International Exchange, - the leading collective public policy voice of the exchange and J-1 visa community.

In late October, three of our GACC team members attended The Alliance annual conference in Washington. This conference has grown in scope and importance over 25 years, this time featuring over 300 attendees and 60 US government representatives. It offers a unique chance for J-1 visa sponsors to share best practices, ask questions and consult one-on-one with regulators and State Department analysts on the intern and trainee programs.

Matthew Allen, incoming Director of Career Services, and Senior Manager Cindy Klarwasser agreed with their colleague Chris Gallagher who noted that "The Alliance annual conference has become the central gathering place in the country for thought leaders and policy makers on all things J-1 visa each year. As an intern and trainee sponsor, our programs are enhanced by what we learn here."

Keynote speaker Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce highlighted the importance of international exchange programs, as well as the bureau's five-year strategic goals which include a boost for business - to increase Americans' global competitiveness.

2018 marks the 25th anniversary of The Alliance, and to kick off the conference, a gala dinner was held with a wide cross-section of the exchange and training community, members of Congress, government officials and special guests. The guest of honor was Harriet Mayor Fulbright, widow of the late Senator from Arkansas whose name is synonymous with international study and exchange programs.