

Statement on International Education Week 2012
by U. S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano
November 12-16, 2012

Hi, I'm Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security.

Each year, the United States welcomes hundreds of thousands of international students to our country to study and to learn at our nation's colleges and universities.

These students enrich the cultural and academic life of our campuses and their surrounding communities. They bring fresh ideas, experiences and perspectives, and they support our economy.

The Department of Homeland Security plays an important role in welcoming international students to the United States, and that is why we are pleased to join with our many partners across government, academia, and the private sector to observe International Education Week.

At DHS, we are committed to making sure America remains a destination of choice for international students, and over the past year we have taken a number of steps to help achieve that goal.

Our "Study in the States" initiative includes a focus on streamlining the student visa process, enhancing coordination among government agencies and keeping international students better informed about student visa rules and regulations, including through a dedicated website – studyinthestates.dhs.gov.

We are also working with college and university leaders to help improve our engagement with international students.

International students are a source of great pride for the United States, and we are grateful for the strong partnership we share with students, the academic community, the private sector, and international organizations and government partners.

Thank you for working with us to make sure the United States continues to have a welcoming, effective, and secure process for those who want to study here and contribute their time, energy, and talents.