

April 22, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to introduce and recommend Mr. Paul Dickler, a professional development specialist for the Transatlantic Outreach Program. The Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) is a non-profit, public/private partnership between the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Goethe-Institut, Deutsche Bank, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and the Siemens Corporation. TOP was founded in 2002 to promote **education** about Germany, to encourage intercultural **dialogue**, and to provide the opportunity for North American social studies and STEM educators to **experience** Germany in person. TOP promotes awareness of Germany within the context of its education and political systems, vocational training, corporate social responsibility, environmental sustainability, culture, history, geography, and more.

The *Three Pillars* of TOP correspond with our goal to promote education, dialogue, and experience:

1. **Teaching Materials.** TOP currently produces two teaching resources for the elementary, middle, and secondary levels. These resources are NCSS and Common Core standards aligned, and each lesson is completely self-contained, making it easy to incorporate into an existing curriculum. All TOP teaching materials are provided free of charge.
2. **Workshops.** TOP sponsors hundreds of in-service training workshops every year in which educators are supplied with quality resources and trained in strategies for teaching about contemporary Germany.
3. **Study Tours.** TOP sends around 100 social studies and STEM educators to Germany every summer on two-week, all-expenses-paid study tours. Since its inception, TOP has provided study tour fellowships for nearly 1,300 American and Canadian educators.

Mr. Dickler is a member of the TOP Network of Trainer Specialists, a select group of educators who previously traveled to Germany with TOP and who have extensive experience facilitating professional development workshops. As such, Mr. Dickler is authorized to organize and lead in-service workshops on behalf of the Transatlantic Outreach Program. TOP covers all funding for these sessions. During a TOP workshop, participants would be introduced to and receive free copies of TOP's teaching resources on contemporary Germany, and they would learn about TOP's study tour fellowships, including tips on submitting a successful application.

We hope that you will take advantage of this valuable professional development opportunity! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the program or about working with Mr. Dickler to organize an in-service workshop.

Kind regards,



Jennifer Windell  
Public Relations and Alumni Coordinator