



Swallow X. Yan, President

Hilda Y.W. Wolle, Vice President

US Education Without Borders

3816 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Dear Swallow and Hilda,

Congratulations to the Presidential Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) for 15 Years of Building the World Leaders of the Future.

Established in 2003 by Swallow X. Yan, a first-generation Chinese immigrant, the Presidential Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) is a youth development program on world politics, international relations and cultures, and community development. The theme of this program is a "Cross-Cultural Exchange of Young Ideas Concerning the Future of World Leadership."

The main objective of the PYLI is to facilitate and exchange ideas across an ethnically diverse and socially responsible group of young international leaders. The program blends social interaction with cultural and educational components, yielding one cohesive experience. PYLI program organizers believe a direct, hands-on experience is the best method of learning. In the simulation activities, students have the opportunity to test their leadership skills, debate current issues, deliver speeches, draft resolutions, make executive decisions, and gain a firsthand understanding of the complexities of handling local, state, national and international issues. By participating in such dialogues with the leaders of all levels, students begin to understand the political, business, and cultural relations through practice as opposed to theory. Their interaction provokes communication and dialogue that, throughout the two week long program, provides an unparalleled learning experience and cross-cultural adventure.

With multiple nationalities participating in the program, PYLI stresses cross-cultural understanding and an open-minded exchange of different national perspectives on global issues. Among the many events packed into the two weeks, PYLI recognizes communication, cooperation, and dialogue as the most important aspects of the program. The individuals that create the program are each other's best resource in uncovering the similarities and differences between people of different backgrounds who hail from diverse geographical locations. By bringing multiple nationalities together and exposing them to real world issues, PYLI

strengthens relationships and cooperation between cultures, creating a network between the future leaders of the world.

PYLI develops students leadership skills and introduces them to international organizations, businesses, governments, and educational institutes.

The PYLI Committee members serve as youth educators, advocates, and spokespeople on common issues of concern to international youth leaders. The Committee members develop media outreach campaigns, conduct policy forums, plan and run the program agenda, participate in advocacy visits to policy makers, and attend program sessions to further the goals of PYLI.

PYLI prepares students to assume active leadership roles in their community and global society. Through PYLI, students embark upon a lifetime of meaningful participation in their local and global communities. Signature academic programs provide training and exposure to prepare well-informed leaders and citizens. PYLI emphasizes the connections between local and global conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

PYLI reinforces a belief that individuals can develop and improve their societies and their world by first developing and improving themselves.

PYLI fosters critical thinking and analysis about challenging global issues. Students expand their awareness and skills by participating in international studies, internships, regularly scheduled seminars, and civic and community services. A key premise of the PYLI approach is that experience and exposure are great equalizers that build self-confidence and personal efficacy.

Why PYLI

History, Culture, Geography, Law, Environment, Economic, Education, Music, Sports, and Community

PYLI programs emphasize the ways that young people can help to effect change in their community. Students learn to be global citizens and activists who understand the importance of cooperation between local and global communities when addressing issues in their societies.

PYLI supports students to succeed in a progression of challenging academic and hands-on experiences beginning in early adolescence that lead to confident global leaders. Through PYLI seminars, students develop reasoning and analytical skills, exploring the root causes of social problems and ways that individuals and groups have tackled these problems.

Leadership Engagement Through Service

Students practice and apply leadership through the unique PYLI form of public service. They plan and develop service projects that capture their own vision for positive action while supporting the mission of the organization in which they volunteer. Through the projects they create, students serve a wide range of community needs including economic and workforce

development, cultural heritage, health, legal, educational, social service and youth development.

Global Citizenship

Their community work is enhanced by immersion in cross-cultural experiences in world cultures. Students use the PYLI framework and ethnographic research methodologies to investigate a wide range of community development issues. Through their experiences, students counter negative stereotypes and explore what they share in common as well as differences.

PYLI promotes and cultivates high expectations for personal development, including preparation for and attainment in higher education.

Global Impact

The Presidential Youth Leadership Initiative gives students the chance to create life-changing programs that impact thousands of students all over the world. The year-round camps reach open new channels for cross-cultural exchanges with an emphasis on training and educating future leaders in communities across the world.

Growth Mindset

As a PYLI member, students will develop rapidly not only as a leader but also as an individual.

They will advance their management, event planning, networking, presentation, communication, and public speaking skills. Taking on a leadership role and mentoring students in a new and exciting environment, students will enter a global network spanning thousands of members based around the world.

Most importantly, students will challenge themselves, their peers, and their assumptions of the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ro Khanna", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Congressman Ro Khanna

July 12, 2019