

# A.E.P.

The American Exchange Project

## Summary

Americans are beginning to lose faith in one another. Meanwhile, because of contemporary political and economic realities, our nation's children feel they are growing up in bubbles, on rail tracks to predictable futures, socially isolated from people unlike themselves. As a consequence, our union is coming undone. This cannot go on.

The American Exchange Project is in the process of building the nation's first robust domestic exchange program. This organization will provide students with the opportunity to interact via Google Hangouts with other students from around the nation in conversations moderated by teachers, members of the organization and accomplished professionals. It will also fund several students to live for a summer in an American community different from the one in which they grew up. The ultimate aim is to build friendships across economic, political, and geographic divides, to instill in our nation's young people a better understanding of their country and the good people in it, and to help both adults and students realize there is no such thing as different people, just different circumstances.

To build this program, during the early fall, David McCullough III, A.E.P.'s Executive Director, will travel to eight towns in Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Texas, to consult educators and relevant community members about the logistics of the program and to raise interest among students. The project is now looking for such individuals in the aforementioned locales who might be willing to advise, develop and help implement the idea.

## Directors and Advisors

Wendell Adjetey, (Postdoctoral Fellow, American History, Harvard University)

Akhil Amar (Sterling Professor of Law, Yale University)

Carl A. Brasseaux (Director Emeritus, Center of Louisiana Studies)

Henry Chauncey II (Special Advisor, Yale University)

Karenjit Clare (Director of Studies of Geography, University of Cambridge)

Tom Cosgrove (Producer, *Divided We Fall*)

Peggy Frankland (Environmental Activist, Southwest Louisiana)

Keith Franklin (Attorney and ex-President, Laredo Community Foundation)

Sharon Galicia (Owner, Gulf South Benefits)

Maj. Sarah Gerstein (Assistant Professor, United States Military Academy)

Pastor Richard Gibson (Pastor and Co-chair of the Greater Cleveland Congregations)

Robert Glauber (Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School of Government)

Pearce Godwin (Founder, Listen First Project and National Conversation Project)

Arlie Hochschild (Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of California at Berkeley)

Homar Olivarez (Criminal Investigator, LaSalle Co., Texas)

Paul Solman (Economics Correspondent, PBS NewsHour)

Ken Starr (former U.S. Solicitor General and President of Baylor University)

Lt.-Col. Michael Wilonsky (Global Force Manager, Marine Corps Special Operations Command)

Dr. Glenn Young (Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Kilgore, Texas)

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