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Sachsen Anhalt (Germany) Parliament President Detlef Gürth
To Hold International Video Press Conference

Special Cultural Connection to
Michigan’s Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Recognized

The Parliament President of one of Germany’s largest states, Sachsen Anhalt, has announced he will host an international video press conference on Thursday, July 19th at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time/4:00 p.m. Central European Time. The purpose of the video press conference is to emphasize the importance of cultural exchange between the youth of Germany and Michigan and recognize the partnership between the government of Sachsen Anhalt and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

According to President Gürth, “The opportunity for our youth to establish meaningful exchange relationships through programs like Blue Lake turns this world into a more peaceful place. Music as the universal language is the best way to support and enhance global understanding and it is for this reason I have made international youth exchange a priority for Sachsen Anhalt. We have partnered with the Blue Lake International Exchange Program to advance this mission as we have been impressed by their long term history, excellent organization, and reputation as one of the most respected exchange programs in the world.”

Blue Lake International Exchange Program Founder and Board of Trustees lifetime member Gretchen Stansell said “since its inception in 1969, the Blue Lake International Exchange Program has been dedicated to promoting peace and understanding through the universal language of music. We are proud to work closely with President Gürth and the Sachsen Anhalt cultural community to advance this mutual mission and certainly appreciate his recognition of our program’s history and impact.”

The multi-national press conference will be hosted in Germany by the Salzlandsparkasse (bank) Aschersleben, which is a sponsor of the Sachsen Anhalt cultural exchange initiative. The U.S. video feed will take place at Muskegon Community College (221 S. Quarterline Rd.) in Room 351 – located in college’s Main Building. Muskegon Community College President Dr. Dale Nesbary serves on the Blue Lake Board of Trustees and was a student in the Blue Lake International Exchange program in 1972.

During the press conference, President Gürth will introduce three Sachsen Anhalt students who will travel to Michigan later this month to attend Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. The students, who were awarded scholarships by the Blue Lake International Exchange Program, are Leonard Schmidt (trumpet – age 15), Lennart Spangenberg (oboe – age 15), and Laurin Queck (bassoon - 15). In addition to their 2 week long experience as campers at Blue Lake, they will have a 1 week host family experience in West Michigan.

A portion of the press conference will be open for questions, with translation, from media representatives in Sachsen Anhalt and via video conference, from media representatives in Michigan.
Since its inception in 1969, the Blue Lake International Exchange program has provided the opportunity for more than 11,000 Michigan students to participate in performing arts tours of Europe and has hosted more than 600 European and Asian groups in the state of Michigan.

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, a summer school of the arts located in Twin Lake, MI, offers fine arts education for all ages. The summer camp annually serves over 6,000 gifted elementary, junior high, and high school students with diverse programs in music, art, dance, and drama, while offering public performances during its Summer Arts Festival. In addition to the International Exchange Program, Blue Lake also operates two public radio stations and a series of adult programs. For more information call 800-221-3796 or log on to www.bluelake.org.