



**We connect  
the world of  
business  
and academia**



AMCHAM  
SLOVAKIA



The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic (AmCham) has been consistently trying to actively deepen the cooperation between business and academic environment and help so to the cooperation between the educational sector and the demand of the market. We are trying to achieve this by active and constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders in the area of education, science and research, but also by our own activities.

## The American Chamber of Commerce is aiming at

- regular dialogue with the key players responsible for the educational decision-making
- improving the conditions for the research and the development connected to the transfer of innovations and technologies
- providing the platform for sharing the best experiences of AmCham members
- contributing to the quality of the vocational education capable to react dynamically to the needs of employers
- contributing to the expert discussion with the goal of effective implementation of the educational reform in Slovakia



## The American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic

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Since 2007 AmCham's **Committee on Business-Academic Cooperation** has been an effective platform for the broad spectrum of AmCham members for the implementation of educational activities and the engagement in the public discussion in regards to the questions of education.

BSC BUSINESS  
SERVICE  
CENTER  
FORUM

**Business Service Center Forum**, founded in 2014, brings together more than 30 shared service centers and actively participates on carrying out educational activities especially in cooperation with universities and high schools. Together with the committee it represents the voice of the vast member base of AmCham in relations to public institutions.

## Committee on Business-Academic Cooperation Leadership



CHAIR  
**František Jakab**,  
Technical University  
of Košice



VICE-CHAIR  
**Milan Polča**,  
U. S. Steel Košice

# Projects and Initiatives



## Mentor Network Program

### Honorary Chairman, Sponsor and Founder:

Martin Kardoš  
of CSI Leasing Slovakia



### Main Partners:



**Mentor Network Program (MNP)** provides young talented university students with the opportunity of mentoring from the most prominent representatives of the business sector in Slovakia. Thanks to the active contact with their mentor, many of the graduates managed to start their own business, get an internship or a job position in the company of their mentor. More information about MNP, which has annually been organized since 2008 in Bratislava and since 2012 in Košice, can be found on [www.mentornetworkprogram.sk](http://www.mentornetworkprogram.sk).



## Train the Trainer

### General Partners:



Program **Train the Trainer** is focused on lecturers at Slovak universities and high schools. Since 2011, the program has been equipping teachers with innovative trainings, topics and skills which according to AmCham members the majority of graduates lack when entering the labor market. Since 2015 the program has been delivered by the Business Service Center Forum (BSCF) experts and its goal is to bring the new trends in soft skills into the educational process as these are considered to be the success key for university graduates on the labor market.



## Job Fair

### Level 1:



### Level 2:



### Level 3:



**Job Fair** is an excellent platform for connecting AmCham member companies with jobseekers, having an irreplaceable positive impact on regions. Thanks to the Job Fair, plenty of AmCham members gained access to number of skillful young people, many of whom asserted themselves in the labor market. It is annually organized in Košice and Žilina and considered to be a direct contribution to regional development initiatives. More information about AmCham's Job Fair can be found on [www.amcham-jobfair.sk](http://www.amcham-jobfair.sk).



## Resume Workshops

Main Partners:



In cooperation with its partners and universities, AmCham annually puts together a series of workshops on career advisory. During these free-of-charge workshops students are trained on writing a high-quality CV, preparing for a job interview, while having an opportunity to meet and be inspired by the prominent representatives of AmCham member companies.

## Accredited University Courses

Partners:



Every fall semester AmCham in cooperation with the Center for North American Studies (CNAS) at the University of Economics organizes two accredited courses in English language, which are led by members' representatives. **American Business Culture and Ethics** offers a possibility of combining the study of business environment in North America with case studies taught through the business perspective. **HR in American Practice** develops critical thinking of the participants about the possible challenges for the professionals in the field of HR and increases professional preparation of the students for job positions in HR.

Since 2016, AmCham's Business Service Center Forum (BSCF) covers its first fully accredited university course **Skills for Success – from University to Workplace**. The course is delivered at 4 Slovak universities and its aim is to provide students with the effective communication skillset which is critical for the majority of graduates when entering the labor market. The course is delivered by the soft skills trainers from the shared services centers (SSC) and business process outsourcing (BPO) companies.

## 2012 Initiative: Year of Education

The key goal of the AmCham **2012 Initiative: Year of Education** was to actively contribute to the increase of the quality of the education and its connection with the needs of employers in regards to the raising quality of graduates and their assertion on the job market. Initiative, officially supported also by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, peaked with the expert conference where the recommendations for the improvement of the quality of the education in the Slovak Republic were introduced. Lots of them are still being up-to-date today, years after the end of the initiative.

*"Education is my life motto. It brings the highest values into our lives. Educated person is a free person and exactly these people can, while searching for their own happiness, improve our society."*

Beáta Brestenská,  
Ambassador of the 2012 Initiative: Year of Education and Chair of API



*"I think, that if graduates want to be successful in both life and work, they need the critical skills of how to cooperate and communicate with others, to be initiative and to have an entrepreneurial spirit. A school can provide them with knowledge and skills from the given scientific field – graduates gain expertise and competence. However, schools aren't many times prepared for the development of the previously mentioned skills, which are, according to me, very important and have the biggest influence on the overall quality of a graduate's life."*

František Jakab,  
Ambassador of the 2012 Initiative: Year of Education



*"During my long-lasting experience of being the AmCham executive director in Slovakia, I felt that it is very important to engage ourselves in the field of education, which is the best way how to achieve the high competitiveness of the Slovak Republic in the future. I believe this is being proven by many AmCham initiatives. Of Course, I am very happy because of the 2012 Initiative: Year of Education' and I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who was involved."*

Jake Slegers,  
Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia

