

## Letter from the Chair of the Fulbright Finland Foundation Board of Directors

It is an honor to be given this opportunity to reflect upon the Fulbright Finland Foundation's impactful activities during the fiscal year 2020 to 2021. Despite the ongoing issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, dynamic relationships continued to flourish between Finland and the United States regarding the American and Finnish Fulbright Finland Foundation grantees.

When reading through the "The Year in Focus" there are an impressive number of awarded grants and established as well as renewed institutional partnerships. For the first time, outstanding applicants have now been selected for the new "U.S. Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges" grant category. One of the engaging programs the Foundation undertook during this past year, was the online live-streamed webinar series called "Internationalization of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era". Organized by the Foundation in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's USA Study Abroad branch, and the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), these webinars were attended by a global audience from 67 countries. We listened to and saw the diverse approaches initiated by various academic institutions in their efforts and response to the Corona Pandemic. At the end of each of the eight webinars, participants had their questions related to these challenges answered.

Identifying experts in the field of international relations and education has been further highlighted during this past year by appointing the Foundation's first-ever Senior Advisors who graciously share their vast professional background and experiences with the Foundation. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge regarding organizational skills, fundraising strategies, intercultural dialogue, international relationships, and other timely and important competencies, all supporting the excellence for which we strive.

Members of our Board of Directors continue to dedicate many hours to the goals and objectives which are focused upon the long-term and important exchange of American and Finnish expertise within the fields of science, medicine, education, the arts, and other areas of research and practice.

Looking back at this past year, I want to sincerely thank the Foundation's CEO **Terhi Mölsä** for her dynamic and creative leadership and to the dedicated Foundation staff members. The feedback received from both the American and Finnish grantees consistently reflect their sincere thanks concerning the dedicated support they receive beginning with their first communications with the Foundation's staff, through the informed orientation period, dialoguing during their grant residencies, and the reflection period upon the completion of their grant periods as they become alumni.

We have seen growth in the Foundation's American and Finnish alumni base and their desire to support the Foundation's mission. The alumni's interests and actions are realized by them promoting the Fulbright Finland Foundation in both the United States and Finland, offering friendship activities to the Finnish grantees in the United States and the American grantees in Finland, as well as their vital fundraising and financial donations. Such donations are true investments in the future of our two countries and towards dialogue, understanding, tolerance, and compassion between all people worldwide. The Fulbright Finland Foundation truly empowers "the minds that will find global solutions to tomorrow's challenges by fostering academic and professional expertise and excellence in leadership."



**David Yoken**  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Fulbright Finland Foundation

Find out more of year 2021 activities:  
[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/year-focus](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/year-focus)