

COLLEGE CORNER

Building A Better College Application

(NAPSA)—When it comes to the college admissions process, well-traveled students might have a world of advantage. That's the word from education experts who say college applicants with international travel experience gain additional consideration over other students with similar academic credentials.

"Grades are just one factor college admissions officers look at when assessing applicants," explains Debra Latta, Principal, State College Area High School, State College, Pa. "They're also looking for well-rounded students who are involved, socially aware and who show potential to succeed in life. That's where international travel comes in."

Latta recommends People to People Student Ambassador Programs, which provide international educational opportunities to 5th through 12th grade students.

The journeys offer hands-on cultural experiences, unique behind-the-scenes access to fascinating people and places, and amazing outdoor adventures. Whether they find themselves rappelling down castle walls in Scotland, visiting Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam or meeting world leaders, student ambassadors broaden their horizons while learning what it means to be a global citizen. In addition, students can earn transferable high school and college credit through the program.



People to People Student Ambassadors meet with the Queen of England during a British and Irish Heritage journey.

Latta offers these additional tips for impressing the admissions committee:

- **Be an Early Bird:** Get involved in school activities, your community and cause-related global initiatives as soon as possible.

- **Flex Your Passport Muscle:** Participate in an international journey and promote and describe the experiences in college essays.

- **Get Behind a Cause:** Find a social issue that you are passionate about and get behind it.

- **Leave Your Backyard:** Don't turn your back on academic opportunities across the country or across the world.

- **Spring Break to Colleges:** Start visiting colleges on your junior year spring break.

- **Power in Numbers:** Apply to more schools (experts recommend eight to 10) to keep a range of colleges open and to evaluate the best scholarship options.

To learn more, visit www.studentambassadors.org.