



MEDIA RELEASE

Alumni Homestay Network (AHN) – A first of its kind

Leveraging the power of Alumni to create deeper community and support for international students

16 AUGUST 2016 – Renowned Alumni Relations expert, Gretchen Dobson has partnered with the founder of the Australian Homestay Network and the American Homestay Network to form the new Alumni Homestay Network.

The Alumni Homestay Network (AHN) is a new program designed to promote a deep, personal cultural exchange between host families and the international students who become their guests.

Gretchen Dobson said this week:

“Whether students come for a few weeks or several school years, the benefits of our alumni homestays lay the foundation for a rich and successful lifetime experience for both the student and alumni host.”

Alumni Homestay Network is unique in that programs serve students, alumni hosts, and alma mater. Each party benefits from the personal relationships built and the dividends realized by institutions that can proudly promote the AHN to international students worldwide.

Ms Dobson said:

“The alumni hosts – the institution’s global brand ambassadors - will orientate their guest student to both the local community and the traditions of their former college, university or school. Alumni hosts may also fast track the settling in process by assisting their guest in setting an agenda for the first month on arrival - a critical period that impacts overall student satisfaction and success.”

David Bycroft the Executive Director and Founder of both the Australian and American Homestay Networks said:

“International students are eager to have an authentic American or Australian experience including food, entertainment, shops, and sightseeing. Alumni Homestay Network hosts can make these exciting new experiences possible and help bridge the cultural divide, while supporting English language skills through daily conversation.”

Ms Dobson said:

“We are raising the standards of homestay globally by partnering with the world’s leading international homestay providers to ensure the right processes are adopted of approving alumni host families and matching students to the right hosts.”

Education providers wishing to find out more information on how to establish an Alumni Homestay program for their institution should register at www.alumnihomestaynetwork.com

Ends

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About: Gretchen Dobson EdD, Consulting Manager

With over 23 years of experience in higher education and constituent relations, Dr. Gretchen Dobson leads institutions, governments and member-based organizations towards sustainable alumni engagement strategies and solutions. Specialty services include international alumni relations strategy, international student-alumni programs, and volunteer management for groups of all sizes and backgrounds.

Dr. Dobson is the author of *Being Global: Making the Case for International Alumni Relations* (CASE Books, 2011), the *International Travel Handbook: Engaging Constituents Abroad* (Academic Impressions, 2014), and editor of *Staying Global: How International Alumni Relations Advances the Agenda* (EAIE, 2015). She was recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the leading “Innovators in Internationalization” for her work at Tufts University. She serves as Board Chair of United Planet, a global network of leaders and volunteers fostering cross-cultural understanding and addressing shared challenges to unite the world in a community beyond borders.

Dr. Dobson received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Boston College, and her Doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania.

About: The Alumni Homestay Network

Alumni Homestay Network (AHN) is an affiliate of the American and Australian Homestay Networks – the world’s most experienced homestay management companies. Since 2008, both Networks have placed globally over 35,000 students in exceptional homestay environments. AHN incorporates decades of international experience in homestay operations management to ensure that every homestay experience is successful.

Alumni Homestay Networks shares in their global mission of delivering the highest quality homestay experience based on accountability, system integrity, transparency, personalized services, safety, insurance, and a 24/7 professional support line.

About: Australian and American Homestay Networks

Refer: www.homestaynetwork.org www.homestaynetwork.com