

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

MISSION

Under the banner of English in Action, the English-Speaking Union (ESU) employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, teachers, and members.

VISION

The members of the ESU, a non-profit, non-political organization, set English in action locally and nationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural, and social programs. Under the banner of English in Action, the ESU

- Advances global understanding by providing educational opportunities through programs and scholarships for students, educators, and members;
- Promotes communication and open exchange of ideas among the world's speakers of English;
- Enriches communities through active involvement of its branch members in outreach programs;
- Offers financial assistance to students and educators to further academic pursuits in English-related studies; and
- Develops common bonds through a shared interest in the English language and culture to strengthen friendship among members and those they serve.

English in Action programs are supported by the ESU's unrestricted endowment, corporate and foundation grants, and by contributions of its members.

HISTORY

The English-Speaking Union of the United States was organized formally in the United States in 1920, two years after the creation of its counterpart, The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, in London, England. It arose from the conviction of its founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench and a group of like-minded American and British friends, that maintenance of the close personal and national ties forged during World War I was necessary for the preservation of peace. Sir Evelyn firmly believed that given the opportunity to know one another personally, people who shared a common language would soon discover that they also shared similar values, whatever their difference in nationality or background. He imagined the ESU as an inclusive organization "founded in no narrow attitude of race pride, in no spirit of hostility to any people." Its educational mission would be carried out by a host of activities allowing for personal contact among peoples at every level.