

QUEENS Chronicle

An exchange of more than just students

FUSIA its celebrates 19th year of internship graduates

by [Michael Gannon](#), Senior News Editor Jul 16, 2026 Updated 3 hrs ago



Exchange students and interns proudly display their certificates upon completion of professional training under the U.S. State Department's BridgeUSA program.

FUSIA Communications of Bay Terrace last week celebrated 19 years of giving promising students some real-world professional experience, all while making the world a little bit smaller.

The July 8 ceremony at the Jamaica YMCA honored nearly 30 students who came to the United States to fill internships with host organizations through the U.S. State Department's BridgeUSA J-1 Exchange Visa program.

FUSIA stands for the Fusion of the United States and Asia. Established in 2002, it facilitates J-1 visas for internships and exchange programs that equip young professionals with practical skills, cultural insights and global perspectives, while partnering with U.S. organizations to promote international collaboration and shared growth.

Andrew Leung, president of engineering firm Yu & Associates, served as emcee. He has been one of FUSIA's earliest host partners since 2008, having provided engineering interns with professional mentorship and workplace learning opportunities.

"Engineering school teaches you how to solve problems — but your career will teach you how to lead people," Leung said in a prepared statement. "Stay humble, keep learning, own your mistakes, and always give credit where credit is due. The best engineers aren't just technically sharp; they inspire those around them to become extraordinary."

Assemblymembers Ron Kim (D-Flushing) and David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows), longtime supporters of the internship program, were among the dignitaries at the ceremony.

Additional acknowledgements were sent by U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing), state Sen. John Liu (D-Bayside), Mayor Mamdani's office, City Council Deputy Speaker Nantasha Williams (D-St. Albans), Councilwoman Sandra Ung (D-Sunnyside) and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.