

**25 years of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)
Message of Greeting from Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel**

I congratulate the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies on its 25th anniversary. It has developed into an institution in the best sense of the word, a fixture without which German-American relations would be inconceivable. As the only think-tank in Washington devoted entirely to relations between Germany and the United States, it is of particular importance for us Germans.

Through its work, AICGS reminds us again and again that, despite our close ties and despite decades of friendship, we Germans and Americans cannot always take it for granted that we will invariably have a common standpoint on the major challenges of our age. The transatlantic dialogue requires constant upkeep to enable us to meet our shared responsibility. It is good that AICGS, its founding director Dr. Robert G. Livingston, and Dr. Jackson Janes, who has headed the Institute since 1994, work untiringly to ensure that this dialogue is constantly nurtured.

I wish AICGS a continuing role as an indispensable element of the German-American network and as a point of contact for all Germans and Americans who hold our relationship dear. I wish you all an enjoyable transatlantic evening here in Berlin.

May 20, 2008