

Activities of American Siberian Education Foundation (ASEF)

Arkady Shemyakin

University of St. Thomas, St Paul, Minnesota

ASEF is the only non-profit organization directly connecting Siberia and the United States through business and cultural workshops, academic exchange programs, symposia and exhibitions. ASEF was established in 1995 to perform as an educational liaison between two great communities with a great deal in common. A gateway to the United States' academic, business and cultural community for constituents from Siberia, as well as surrounding regions in Asia and Russia, ASEF facilitates learning, bilateral collaboration and impactful relationships to open doors and build stronger cross-cultural communities.

In the past, ASEF has facilitated joint educational projects in Siberia funded by the Eurasia Foundation and USAID, research collaboration between U.S. and Siberian universities in the fields of small business and entrepreneurship studies, and expanded cultural appreciation programs and initiatives. ASEF has taken the role of the official liaison for the sister-city relationship between the cities of Novosibirsk, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul. We will discuss the current situation with educational and cultural projects in Siberia and the future plans of the foundation.