

A black and white photograph of the United States Capitol building. The image shows the large, ornate dome on the left side, with its intricate architectural details. Below the dome is the main body of the building, featuring a portico with tall columns. To the right, another part of the building is visible, showing a smaller dome and a series of windows. The sky is clear and light-colored.

OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER

*Budget Justification for the
Committee on Appropriations*

Fiscal Year 2018



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Budget Justification for Fiscal Year 2018

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Tab 1: FY2018 Budget Justification

Fiscal 2018 Budget Request

The Open World Leadership Center is respectfully requesting an appropriation of \$5.8 million to support its staff and operating expenses. This is an increase of \$200,000, or 3.6 percent, over fiscal 2016 enacted appropriation.

Resource Summary (Actual Dollars)

Appropriation	Fiscal 2016				Fiscal 2017		Fiscal 2018		Fiscal 2017/2018	
	Operating Plan		Actual Obligations		Operating Plan*		Request		Net Change	
	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$
\$ 5,600,000	7	5,600,000	5	0	7.5	5,589,354	7	5,800,000	7	210,646
Recovered Obligations		632,781		0		935,707		800,000		
Revenue		79,306				80,000		80,000		
Prior Year Carryover Funds		67,604				71,526		88,901		
USAID - Serbia ¹		60,000		0		0		0		
USAID - Ukraine ²		750,000		0		750,000		0		
USAID - Regional ³		606,682		0		0		0		
Subtotal Avail Funds		7,796,372		7,796,372		7,426,587		6,768,901		
11.0 Personnel Salary		745,000		634,546		802,500		765,000		
12.0 Personnel Benefits		205,000		185,703		220,000		210,000		
21.1/22.1/23.1 Travel, Transp, Utilities		40,000		32,562		40,100		40,100		
25.1 Other Services, Misc		20,000		9,879		20,000		20,000		
2515 Services, Other Agencies ⁴		950,000		869,855		950,000		950,000		
2550 Contracts ⁵		3,320,950		3,718,627		2,875,731		2,270,000		
2572/2583 Entertainment/Subsistence ⁶		113,000		106,295		115,000		115,000		
26.1/31.0 Supplies, Equipment		15,000		13,529		15,000		15,000		
41.0 Grants		2,296,000		2,153,850		2,310,000		2,310,000		
Subtotal Obligations		7,704,950		7,724,846		7,348,331		6,695,100		
Total Funds Balance		91,422		71,526		78,256		73,801		

* This amount is the Center's fiscal 2016 enacted level, but also includes the fiscal 2017 rate of operations reduction (.1901%).

¹ All USAID transfers are applied to program and none are applied to administrative costs; used for the logistical costs of the program (BOC 25.0).

² There were two transfers for Ukraine in 2016: the first was in January; the second was completed on 9/30/2016. For this reason, Open World was only able to obligate half of it in FY2016.

³ This transfer (\$575,000) was completed 9/15/2016. It was obligated along with a prior year balance of \$31,682 before the end of FY2016.

⁴ This includes all MOUs with US Embassies in Open World Countries; the Library of Congress-OW Interagency Agreement; and GPO printing services

⁵ All of the requested increase is needed to cover part of an expected shortfall in Contract. The logistical contract is the largest, under which participant costs are paid, including but not limited to airfare, hotel, visa processing, translation services, and contingency services. See Part II Budget Request for a complete explanation.

⁶ In an effort to save money, the Center purchases services for food and accomodation directly from the vendors. Under the logistical contract, these costs are subject to a 17% indirect charge.

Total Funds – All Sources

(Actual Dollars)

	Fiscal 2016 Actual		Fiscal 2017 Projected*		Fiscal 2018 Projected
Appropriated Funds	5,600,000		5,589,354		5,800,000
Recovered Funds	632,781		935,707		800,000
Revenue	79,306		80,000		80,000
Carry Over Funds	67,604		71,526		88,901
USAID - Serbia	60,000		0		0
USAID - Ukraine	750,000		750,000		0
USAID - Regional	606,682		0		0
Total Funds Available	7,796,372		7,426,587		6,768,901
*The .1901% rate of operation reduction is reflected here.					

Program Overview

In 1999, Congress authorized the Open World program as a pilot project as a result of discussions between then Librarian of Congress Dr. James H. Billington and a bicameral and bipartisan group of Members of Congress. The project focused on the question of how to increase mutual understanding between Russia and the United States and to support Russia’s democratization efforts. The success of the Open World approach and the continued importance of its mission led Congress, through the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to establish in December 2000 a permanent, independent entity in the legislative branch to house the Program: the Open World Leadership Center (the Center or Open World).

The Center conducts the Open World Program, one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries¹ in transition. The program has enabled more than 26,000 young global leaders to engage in and interact with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and thousands of other Americans, many of whom are the delegates’ direct professional counterparts. Open World focuses on assisting Congress in its oversight responsibilities and on conducting exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the rising leaders of Open

¹ Current Open World countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. The Center is in the process of renewing programs for Belarus, Moldova, and Uzbekistan and of starting a pilot program in Perú.

World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. The Center's non-partisan nature and independence from the priorities of any presidential administration is an important asset for the Program.

The highly-regarded Open World Program has also played an increasingly vital role in the political landscapes of many countries throughout Eurasia. The Program has brought rising leaders who have become influential within their communities and in the national arena. The Center has also built substantial expertise in conducting exchange programs unique to the Legislative Branch. As it moves further into its second decade, the Open World Leadership Center continues to strive for excellence in providing a rich experience for foreign legislators and the best and brightest young professionals in Open World countries.

One profound insight the delegates derive from their experience in the United States is that elected officials are accountable to the citizens of their jurisdictions. Another powerful element is the impact of home stays – Open World delegates live with American families while in the United States. Partnerships and deeper understanding forged between American hosts and the delegates multiply the connections among their communities with profound results.



Serbian Members of Parliament met in the D.C. office of Representative Pete Visclosky (OH) before being hosted in Columbus, Ohio in January 2016.

Program Objectives

The Open World Leadership Center is committed to a strategy designed to strengthen our work with Congress and continue to cement our legislative identity. To that end, the Center adopted three goals that are both measurable and attainable, despite limited staff resources.

Goals

- Ensure that the Center is a resource, an asset, and an investment for Congress:
Under this goal, the Center specifically addresses Congressional interests and requests. Second, delegations of legislators at the national and local levels comprise a substantial portion of the annual total number of participants. Finally, key Members of Congress and their staff receive first-hand actionable information about strategic countries of interest from face to face meetings with rising leaders.
- Expand the reach of the Center to countries strategically important to the United States:
Via enabling legislation and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Center is able to respond quickly to Congressional requests to provide programming in strategically important countries.
- Operate as a model, cost-effective, responsive agency:
The Center is keenly aware of the importance of being effective and efficient fiscal stewards. In that capacity, interagency agreements, low overhead and responsible grant-making are hallmarks of the Center's high impact, low costs operations.

Measures of Success

Open World continues to meet the mission of focusing on a geographically and professionally broad cross-section of emerging leaders who might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the United States:

- Delegates have come from all the political regions of Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.
- More than 10,200 federal, regional, and local government officials have participated, including 272 members of parliament and 1,930 judges.
- The average age of Open World delegates is 37.
- 95 percent of delegates are first-time visitors to the United States.
- 51 percent of delegates are women.
- Nearly one-third of all Open World delegates are under the age of 30.
- The average cost per participant of the Open World program is \$8,800-9,200, depending on the country, compared to \$18,680 per person for a similar executive branch program.

Interest in the Open World Program remains robust within American hosting communities. The demand for hosting Open World delegations is more than triple the supply of available slots due to funding limitations. Delegates are hosted by a large and dedicated group of American citizens who live in big cities, small towns, and rural communities throughout the United States.



Government reform leaders from Ukraine meet with staff in the office of Rep. Kevin Yoder (KS-3). The group was hosted in Kansas City in March 2016 by Global Ties in Kansas City.



Georgians traveling to Big Canoe, Georgia in early April 2016 are welcomed into the host community on their first day there for a program concerning the development of civil society organizations

Calendar Year 2016 Highlights & 2017 Plans

Overview

In 2016, the Open World Leadership Center hosted a total of **852** delegates from **18** countries in more than **120** host communities in all **50** states. In a climate of uncertainty in the international arena, Open World continues to serve as a resource for unvarnished information to Members of Congress and their constituencies throughout the United States. Our three signature 10-day exchanges – Members of Parliament, Rule of Law, and Civic Programs – have resulted in the creation of a vital network of more than 26,000 emerging leaders that have had first-hand, peer-to-peer exposure to the United States. In 2017, we hope to bring approximately 900 emerging leaders to communities throughout the United States. Country highlights follow.

Participation by Country

	As of 12/31/2016	2017 Scheduled	Fiscal 2018 Projected
Armenia	76	24	24
Azerbaijan	257	18	18
Belarus	12	0	6
Egypt	12	0	0
Estonia	16	4	4
Georgia	562	48	36
Kazakhstan	419	42	36
Kosovo	104	30	36
Kyrgyzstan	425	31	30
Lithuania	104	0	0
Macedonia	3	0	0
Moldova	429	0	24 ¹
Mongolia	45	30	30
Russia	19,236	223	222
Serbia	415	36	36
Tajikistan	451	37	36
Turkey	97	0	0
Turkmenistan	176	24	24
Ukraine	3,159	252	252
Uzbekistan	107	6	6 ²
Other programs	123	48	48 ³
	26,228	853	868

¹ The Center is making plans to re-start the program in Moldova

² The Center is making plans to re-start the program in Uzbekistan

³ Other programs include the Rumsfeld Foundation Fellows from Afghanistan and most Open World countries; the House Democracy Partnership special delegations; and special request Congressional delegations

Russia

From 1999 to 2016 Open World has hosted more than 19,000 young Russian leaders. In calendar year 2016 the Center hosted 259 Russian participants in 42 exchanges. Delegates came from 50 of Russia's 83 regions, included a wide range of ethnic groups, and had hosting experiences in 36 host communities in 29 U.S. states. Women made up 59 percent of the delegates.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016 www.oakridger.com THE OAK RIDGER 3A

Russian women entrepreneurs visit Oak Ridge

The Oak Ridger
A delegation of women entrepreneurs from Russia are staying with host families in Oak Ridge this week.

The Sister City Support Organization welcomed the four Russian women delegates and their group facilitator when they arrived in East Tennessee Saturday. The women were selected by the Open World Leadership Center, which is sponsored by the U.S. Congress. The program will concentrate on leaders and organizations in the United States, working to increase women's participation in small and medium sized businesses.

According to information from Jerry Luckmann with the Sister City Support Organization, the women will travel to the small business development center at Chattanooga State University

for discussions with the director of the Chattanooga Women's Leadership Institute.

Local female business leaders from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Information International Associates and S&R Insurance in Oak Ridge and Roane State Community College in Harriman will present seminars on financial strategies, skills development and success anecdotes.

An independent management consulting professional will discuss tactics to grow small businesses and enhance their competitiveness.

The delegates are Yelena Lutseva, chief physician and owner of Zdorovy Medical Center; Yelena Pribyrkova, manager of a sports and fitness facility; Yekatarina Kravchuk, manager of a consulting firm; and Syuzanna Katchiyeva, general manager of "Design Studio," an advertising agency.

Also on the program are shopping opportunities, a visit to Cotton-Eyed Joe and travel to the Smoky Mountain National Park. They will also tour Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge and the



Open World delegation and their Oak Ridge host families enjoy a welcome dinner at the home of Ken and Jerry Luckmann. Host families include Rene and Steve Kelley, Scott and Nancy Linn, Barbara and Brian Bovee, Barb and Bart Renfro, Tom and Pat Row. SPECIAL TO THE OAK RIDGER

American Museum of Science and Energy.

A farewell reception is set for Saturday for the delegates, host families and others involved in the program. The women will depart on Sunday.

The Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization received a grant to host the Open World delegation

Do You Have Questions About the Energy Program White Card Benefits?

Cold War Patriots is proud to present Susan Adkisson. Susan can help you with your white medical benefits card program questions.

- Medical Reimbursement?
- Impairment Ratings?



Women business leaders from Russia made the Oak Ridger, TN newspaper in March 2016. The group was hosted by the Sister City Support Organization from March 5 – 13, 2016.

The Center's objective is to have participants return to Russia with a more positive view of America, to add to their professional skills through direct contact with U.S. citizens engaged in similar work, and to counter the Russian information war by providing an objective view of the American people and our society. Open World's ten-day thematic visits to the U.S. expose young and emerging Russian leaders to democratic practices, good governance, economic development strategies, and free market institutions. The Center's 2016 Russia program emphasized such themes as partnership building (23 programs, including nine such programs with the Moscow School of Civic Education), entrepreneurship, environment/Arctic wilderness, ethnic issues and civic integration, women as leaders, and medical issues. All aspects of programming emphasize citizen participation, exposure to transparent practices, and insight into public-private partnerships in a free society, providing a vivid contrast to life in Russia.

Open World has had enormous success in Russia since 1999, and its more than 19,000 outstanding alumni now serve in leadership positions throughout the country. To exemplify some programmatic results:

- Five current Governors/Heads of Subjects of the Russian Federation are Open World alumni representing Buryatia, Karelia, Tuva, Chuvashia, and Kaluga, and some of our most active are from the leadership of the Samara region (at the level of the First Vice-Governor and the Mayor of Samara), St. Petersburg and the broader Leningrad region, Tatarstan (including the Chair of the Supreme Court, the Director of the Judicial Academy, and several Chairs of Committees of the regional legislature). We also have strong alumni communities in the regions of Volgograd, Altay, Perm (the Mayor of Perm and one of the vice-governors are alumni), Saratov, and Kaliningrad, among other regions.
- Open World alumni are well-integrated into U.S. Embassy in Moscow follow-on programming such as the Peer-to-Peer program. Open World alumni and their American partners have been successful recipients of funding for their joint projects, such as one between Syktyvkar State University and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind called “The Socialization of Children with Visual Impairments in Special Education.” The project includes site visits for Russian and American teachers and students, regular online video conferences, live streaming events, the development of manuals on the education of blind children, and competitions in both schools called “Hello America” and “Hello Russia.”
- One Open World alumna created a smart phone application called “No Violence” (<https://www.facebook.com/nasiliu.net/>) which aims to prevent domestic violence and violence against women. The user can create a database of contacts- family and friends whom she trusts- and press a panic button when in danger. Instantly a message is sent asking for help along with the user’s geolocation. The user is also able to edit and personalize the messages, depending on the situation. The app also includes a database of every private and public crisis center in Russia and builds a route to the nearest one. Previously, this information was not widely available and very difficult for women to find.
- U.S. Federal District Judge Stephen Friot, a regular Open World host, was recently interviewed by the Magazine US-Russian Business regarding his trip to Saratov in April 2016. He described how his long-standing relationship with Russia developed as a result of the Open World delegations that he has hosted in Oklahoma City. According to Judge Friot, “People-to-people relationships at the grassroots are important because those relationships reduce the likelihood that the leaders of either country – and I emphasize either country – will be able to control the narrative and tone of the nation-to-nation relationship for their own purposes.”
- One Open World Alumna left us with the following prescient message: “We are at a critical juncture; in Russia, ties are being severed, tensions are high, and distrust is rampant. Open World is a bastion of goodwill and productivity, and we have a dormant giant that is ready and eager to flourish through the maintenance and growth of warm and

productive relationships. After all, our Russian friends have lived in American homes, integrated into U.S. communities, and formed lifelong ties. The time to act is now.”



Russians traveling on the theme of Urban Development/Environment met with Senator John Boozman (AR) in D.C. before going on to Fayetteville, AR on December 2, 2016.



The Montclair (NJ) Rotary Club hosted a delegation nominated by their sister Rotary club in Cherepovets, Russia, and aimed to provide early help/rehabilitation/assimilation to disabled children in October 2016.

This time of significant tension between the United States and Russia has made programming for U.S. embassy-sponsored activities more difficult. We note that partnering in some fields, such as

working with Russian nuclear labs, is nearly impossible. Despite these obstacles, we have managed projects covering a broad spectrum and reaching into all regions of Russia. Open World alumni still show a willingness to meet their American counterparts in Russia, despite any risk that this may have for them. American diplomats often come to Open World for contacts in cities that they are visiting because they know that Open World alumni are willing to meet and are armed with the ability to be objective and forward thinking.

Ukraine

Our objective is to further democratic and free-market processes in Ukraine by providing a new generation of Ukrainian leaders with the vision, skills, and tools needed to develop their country at this critical juncture in its history. The program is aimed at furthering anti-corruption efforts, assisting in the decentralization process, promoting the rule of law, improving transparency in the public and private sectors, and providing a secure safety net to a suffering population.

In 2016, Open World conducted 46 exchange programs with the participation of 276 Ukrainians on intense ten-day thematic visits to the U.S. that exposes young and emerging Ukrainian leaders to democratic practices, civil rights, good governance, transparency in media, sound health and education policy and practices, the provision of social services, and economic development strategies.

Much of Open World's Ukraine program is aimed at countering Russian aggression and pressure as it continues on the path of reform despite the internal problems caused by the annexation of Crimea, aggression in the East, and the overwhelming use of disinformation and propaganda by Russian media. To be responsive to the demands caused by this aggression, Open World's exchange programs have been expanded in areas that: are aimed at handling the hardships caused by these recent events (such as servicing those with battlefield injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder and helping with programs aimed at providing support for internally displaced persons), focusing on improving Ukrainian media's ability to counter Russian propaganda and provide its citizenry with more transparent and credible information, assist with government reform in the critical areas of anti-corruption and decentralization, and further the development of a robust and pro-active civil society with the tools and skills needed to serve their stakeholders and improve the lives of those they serve.

Open World has experienced enormous success in Ukraine as it has worked steadfastly there since 2003 to be responsive to its developmental and societal needs. Its more than 3,200 outstanding alumni now serve in leadership positions throughout the country. In 2016, Open World's 46 programs were hosted in 44 U.S. communities in 32 states, providing our colleagues from Ukraine with broad exposure to American democratic and free-market institutions. As a part of these 46 programs, 12 were aimed to not only thematically assist Ukraine during these trying times, but were also aimed at furthering existing partnerships to enable long-term sustainability. To exemplify some programmatic results:

- Two members of the new Cabinet of Ministers are Open World Alumni. Other alumni are in top leadership positions in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Energy and Coal Mining.
- The Prime Minister is a strong supporter of the Program and has been a very active supporter of the Birmingham-Vinnitsa partnership program that Open World implements as he formerly served as Mayor of Vinnitsa and has been involved in Open World's programs and is a beloved supporter of Open World.
- Currently, thirteen members of the Parliament are Open World alumni and several are among the leadership. This includes:
 - the Chair of the Committee on Prevention and Fighting Corruption
 - the Chair of the Subcommittee on National Security and Defense Spending
 - the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Service in Local Government
 - the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Budget Support for Regional Development
 - and the Secretary of the Committee on State Construction, Regional Policy and Local Self-Governance.

Many also serve as key staff members (some 95 staffers and advisors are Open World alumni). These dedicated alumni are eager to work with Open World to expand this element of programing.

- Many Open World alumni follow up their exchange program through U.S. Embassy grants for activities such as: "Journalism for All" which provides journalism training for people with disabilities; "IDP Crisis – Student Voices" a three day forum aimed at empowering children who have been dislocated; and "Starting Life Over" aimed at improving the life of displaced persons and their children. Such project activity can be found all over Ukraine.
- Numerous Open World alumni have risen among the ranks of the civic initiative "Reanimation Package of Reform (RPR)," a coalition of 48 leading NGOs and other experts from all over Ukraine that acts as the as a coordination center for the development and implementation of key reforms through its 25 working groups. Open World alumni are on both the Board and Secretariat of RPR, and one serves as the head of its international relations department.
- Open World hosts from Rochester/Irondequoit, NY recently hosted 25 delegates, many from partner region Poltava, in August 2016 to review successful projects in education reform, providing social services to veterans and IDPs, local government reform, and numerous other alumni initiatives and activities. While in Ukraine, Open World hosts from the Greater Rochester area coordinated five containers full of humanitarian aid for their partners throughout Ukraine.
- The Ukrainian founder of a Drone company that works in the field of increasing agricultural yields has reported that his visit to Branchville, New Jersey, where his delegation was hosted by the Branchville Rotary Club had provided him with new areas to expand in in agriculture

in Ukraine such as dairy farming, hydroponics, and grains. He also reported that he is now hiring the disabled and veterans as a part of his increased efforts at corporate responsibility.



Senator Roger Wicker (MS) meets with anti-corruption experts from Ukraine in Washington, D.C. The group was hosted in Mississippi by Legacy International Development Group in March 2016.



Members of the Ukrainian Parliament discuss matters of Ukraine with Senator Rob Portman (OH) in June 2016.

A tour of Ukraine brings one in contact with many leading Open World alumni that are making important and impressive strides to serve those with battlefield injuries, rising in the ranks of leading reform ministries and organizations, battling corrupt practices as part of government and private sector reform, working on decentralization efforts, and serving those displaced or impoverished by the aggression in the East and the South. There is also significant cohort of leaders at the regional and city level that are joining local councils and implementing democratic and free market reforms throughout the country as it works to end the problem of endemic corruption and a weak economy that provides a poor safety net.

Remaining Open World Countries

Armenia

From 2011 through 2016, the Center hosted 82 delegates from Armenia. This year we will host 24. 2017 programming themes include two judicial programs, one program in media literacy and one in accountability and ethics in government. The Center has also hosted delegations on themes such as women in politics, elections, civic and judicial rule of law, and urban development. Young Armenian leaders have been introduced to accountable governance and civic participation in government and society.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of Open World, one alumna, the head of the Yerevan municipality department for foreign investments, recently returned home and submitted the following feedback concerning her OW program in Cambridge, MA:

“Firstly, I would like to convey my deepest thanks to you for the wonderful work, effort and time you put into the project. It really exceeded my expectations from the program and gave me energy and strength to move forward toward new goals. And I know together we can reach to greater heights... I have already talked to the president of School for Young Leaders to organize a meeting with young leaders to pass our experience we had in the U.S., what we have learned, what are our thoughts for the future, [and to] discuss issue of women in leadership and politics and the difference between the situation in U.S. and Armenia.”

Azerbaijan

From 2007 through 2016, the Center hosted 265 delegates from Azerbaijan. This year we will host 18. These three delegations will focus on women leaders in STEM, combatting domestic violence and environmental stewardship/private-public partnerships. Programming for this country has exposed Azerbaijani leaders to pluralism in society and citizen participation in government. One 2016 theme, Rights for Disabled Persons, demonstrated that there is equal opportunity for all in the economic sector through the Americans with Disabilities Act and other

legislation. Another theme touched on improving the investment climate through protection of intellectual property and how to diversify agro-business.

Open World's program coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Baku participated as a facilitator with the September 2016 delegation that was hosted by the Cookeville Breakfast Rotary Club in Tennessee. The delegation – working to improve the education system in Azerbaijan – held a follow-up meeting with top U.S. Embassy officials. They reported that they planned to implement magnet schools, broaden the usage and practicality of vocational schools, encourage the nation-wide expansion of compulsory kindergarten, introduce transparent student evaluation systems, and encourage more parental participation in the educational system of that country.



Azerbaijani delegates traveling on a theme of Civil Rights Advocacy and hosted by the Oklahoma City Rotary Club in November 2016 visited the Oklahoma Bar Association with U.S. Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell.

Estonia

From 2011 through 2016, the Center hosted 16 delegates from Estonia. This year Open World's program for Estonia features a delegation of four judges that are hosted through our judge-to-judge program in a cost-share partnership with the Judicial Training Department of the Supreme Court of Estonia. To date, Federal district judges in Nevada, Maryland, Ohio, and North Carolina have hosted their Estonian counterparts. This year, the Estonian judicial delegation will travel to Mississippi.

Georgia

From 2007 through 2016, the Center hosted 572 delegates from Georgia. This year we will host 54, including two delegations of Parliamentarians, local legislators, judges, young entrepreneurs, museum curators, environmentalists, journalists and professionals promoting sustainable tourism. Open World has a robust record in Georgia: so far, alumni have risen to such leadership positions as Deputy Chief of Mission to the United States, the Deputy Ministers of Finance and Defense, the Chairwoman of the Committee On European Integration in the Parliament, the Public Defender, and the Rector of Gori University. Many Open World alumni are active in working to promote the rights of minorities and ensure that they are not disenfranchised from elections. One highlight of programming has also been the re-invigoration of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City partnership, which is now flourishing. Open World programs were also instrumental in judicial reform and educational reform as well as the introduction of jury trials in Georgia.

Kazakhstan

From 2008 through 2016, the Center hosted 426 delegates from Kazakhstan. This year we will host 54, including parliamentarians, judges (including Supreme Court Justices), and environmental, media and educational professionals. Open World introduced young leaders from this country to professionals in scientific, legislative, academic, and innovative industries to facilitate the development of cross-cultural communication, diplomacy, and progress. Illustrating this are the strong sister city ties between Pavlodar and Mauston, WI with a wide range of entrepreneurial follow-up projects and privately-funded reverse travel. Important supplemental programming will further entrepreneurial development, particularly in increasing energy efficiency and in finding alternates to fossil fuels. Another country priority is working to improve the battle against tuberculosis and HIV/TB, and to provide broader health care support.

One 2016 highlight was a delegation of non-proliferation experts that traveled to New Mexico for an 8-day program focusing on the expertise at the Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. There they observed the technical work underway at the nation's premier labs supporting nonproliferation and exchanging best practices to enhance control, accounting, and physical security of nuclear and radiological materials. During their orientation in DC, the delegates discussed US-Kazakhstan cooperation on nuclear security with staff members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and met with staffers from a number of Congressional

offices, as well as the leadership of many area think tanks looking at issues of nonproliferation of nuclear materials.

Kosovo

From 2014 through 2016, the Center hosted 105 delegates from Kosovo. This year we will host 30. Delegations from Kosovo in 2017 will participate in the following themes: elections processes, public inclusion in policy making (think tanks), multilingualism and access to public information, supporting judicial ethics and higher education reform. One Open World alumnus, a Senior Legal Officer at the Ministry of Justice looking for insight as to how to combat domestic violence, published an article in the La Cross Tribune titled “Delegation from Kosovo Loved La Crosse Visit” and wrote:

“I was deeply impressed by the treatment of victims with a high priority and in an organized way by competent institutions. A very important part was the aspect of treatment and provision of psychological, legal and social advice to victims by organizations and volunteers. The visit made me learn that it is not important at all what is one’s position, one’s age or one’s financial strength, but it is important to have a human soul because that is the only way you can do very good voluntary work to improve the life in the community and protect crime’s victims. . . In addition to very good professional experiences, I cannot leave out the aspect of American hospitality, respect and way of life. . . No matter where we were . . . we received warmth, respect and friendly smiles all the time. The greatest impression I had was with the families where we stayed and who offered us the greatest warmth as if we were in our homes. Knowing people and colleagues in institutions that we visited was very important. It shows that now I have friends in Washington and La Crosse – and they have friends in Kosovo. That is very important for future cooperation in various fields . . . I will always remember this visit as a success story, and it will remain my best experience in my life. All these experiences will have an impact on the quality of work I do in drafting legislation in the field of justice for my country, the Republic of Kosovo.”

Kyrgyzstan

From 2007 through 2016, the Center hosted 426 delegates from Kyrgyzstan. This year we will host 42, including a delegation of MPs, delegations looking at women’s STEM education. best practices in adoption, young entrepreneurs, combatting domestic violence, agribusiness development and tourism promotion, with the last two delegations being mostly funded by USAID.

Open World’s programming in this country has worked to spur new business initiatives. The business incubator Ideagrad (www.ideagrad.com) has resulted in successful return visits by American hosts, and has furthered volunteerism and civic education. One participant recently wrote:

“One of the wonderful things some of us have brought back to Kyrgyzstan...is the spirit of volunteerism...In addition to giving back to our home land, we hope this inspires other people in our country and around the world to volunteer time and effort to help take care of the communities they live in...In the future, we hope that we will be able to involve more people in this activity and make it a recurring event.”

This spirit was exemplified when an alumnus organized cleanup activities in the Tashtar Ata area in May 2016 where more than 58 bags were collected and a new sense of civic pride was born.



Members of the Kyrgyz Parliament meet with House Democracy Chairman Peter Roskam (IL) in May 2016. The MPs were hosted in Manchester, NH in May 2016 by the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire.

One other alumna who participated in a Women in Science and Technology themed delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic has become a senior lecturer in Software Engineering Department at Osh Technological University. An award received from the U.S. Embassy aimed at attracting girls to technical school supported 30 female students from remote villages, who were trained in math, chemistry, and physics so that they could score well in standardized university testing. As a result of the project, all 30 girls passed, and 29 of them currently study at universities, with 30% of them studying hard sciences. Our alumna has said that the Open World program, especially her visits to U.S. universities and colleges in the Raleigh, NC area where she discussed efforts to attract female students from middle and high schools into STEM, inspired her to implement her project in Kyrgyzstan.

Moldova

From 2007 through 2015, the Center hosted 429 delegates from Moldova. This year we are working on resuming programming in there with two delegations. These delegations will include one made up of Parliamentarians and one of leading education professionals aimed at furthering a classroom to classroom school program between the Sister States of North Carolina and Moldova, a vibrant partnership that Open World has been instrumental in fostering.

One Moldovan alumnus recently reported:

“Upon my return to Moldova from my Open World visit I collaborated with Global Giving to collect over \$6,000 – funds used to renovate the windows in the Pneumology Section of the Health Care for Mother and Child Hospital. 50% of the funds were covered by the members of Moldova World Children's Fund. I hope [for] this wonderful collaboration to continue. In spring we hope to host a group of nurses from Greensboro, who will collaborate with Moldovan nurses in order to improve the conditions from various medical institutions from our country.”

Mongolia

From 2011 through 2016, the Center hosted 58 delegates from Mongolia. This year we will host 24, including 12 Members of Parliament and 12 judicial delegates. Open World’s Mongolia rule of law program is a partnership with the Judicial General Council of Mongolia.

Last year’s Parliamentarians traveled to Washington and Hawaii and this year will travel to Alaska and Nevada. Judges from Mongolia participated in programs hosted by U.S. federal judges in California, Nevada, North Carolina, and Texas, and this year will be hosted in West Virginia and Oregon.

Serbia

From 2012 through 2016, the Center hosted 415 delegates from Serbia. This year we will host 42. 2017 programming for Serbia is planned in the following themes – two delegations of Parliamentarians for legislative development, and one delegation each looking at higher education, food security, building e-government capacity, and rule of law/combating domestic violence.

For Serbia, Open World efforts have focused on their Euro-Atlantic integration, on strengthening democratic institutions through its young leaders, emphasizing the rule of law, and on improving economic conditions by providing successful local models. The Center’s work there has shown us that young community leaders are eager to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions and to meet their economic standards in food security and other areas. We have provided programming in democracy, governance, and education/social services. The programs for parliamentarians and other political leaders demonstrate the accountability and transparency of essential democratic

institutions. Digital and social media programming is also essential in promoting Serbia's aspirations for Euro-integration.

Tajikistan

From 2007 through 2016, the Center hosted 461 delegates from Tajikistan. This year we will host 36, including parliamentarians, and delegations focusing on Muslim women's role in combatting violent extremism, innovation, technology, and mental health.

Reflecting Open World's impact in Tajikistan, one OW alumnus recently received a grant from the U.S. Embassy to further his efforts in working with children at risk at a specialized school for juvenile delinquents, which also houses a juvenile detention center. This grant is to work with juvenile delinquents to reintegrate them with their family and back into community based on the techniques he saw first-hand in Lincoln, Nebraska. The grant also provides training for advocates for improved juvenile justice systems, vocational development, legal advice, and positive cooperation with law enforcement agencies, a new concept for Tajikistan.



Muslim women from Tajikistan working to combat violent extremism meet with the first U.S. legislator from Somali, Ilhan Omar, at the Minnesota state legislature in March 2017.

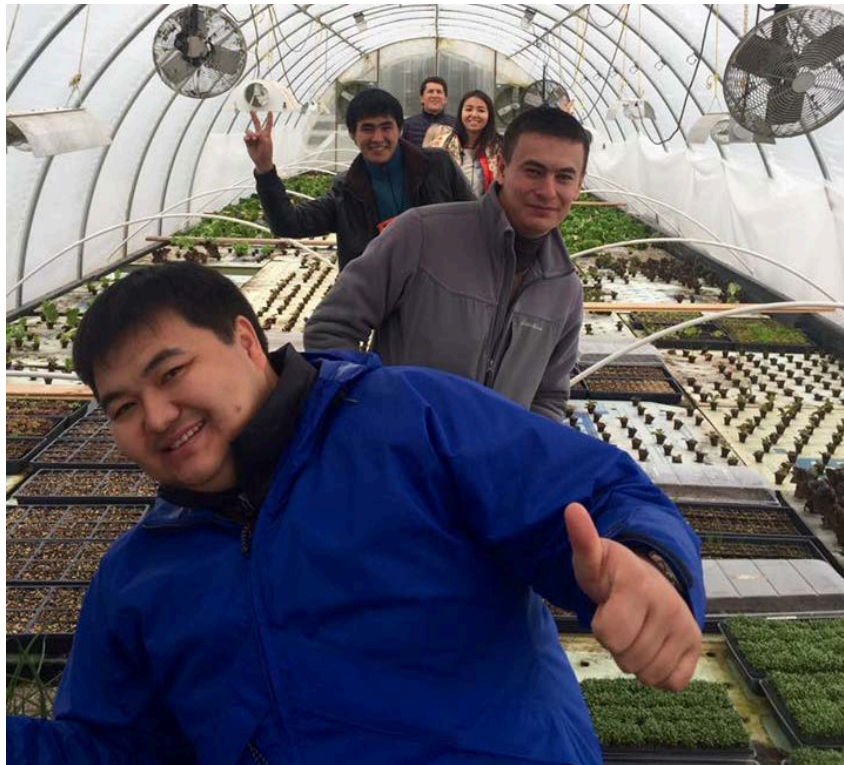
Turkmenistan

From 2008 through 2016, the Center hosted 182 delegates from Turkmenistan. This year we will host 18 delegates, including women entrepreneurs, journalists, and medical professionals looking at e-management of hospitals.

One Open World alumna that was hosted on a tourism promotion theme in Los Angeles has reported that prior to participation in Open World she was sending about 4-6 tourists to the U.S. annually. After her participation in program, she started sending about 40-50 tourists to the U.S. each year. Other alumni are working on Open World inspired projects such as the promotion of a balloon festival based on what was seen in New Mexico and a joint project with an American entrepreneur in Chicago to utilize bamboo and other reeds to synthesize new material for clothing and furniture.

Uzbekistan

From 2003 through 2004, the Center hosted 120 delegates from Uzbekistan. This year we will host two delegations of Members of Parliament – one delegation from the Legislative Chamber and one from the Senate. This and future programming is aimed at supporting greater regional economic development, energy and infrastructure initiatives, and people-to-people connectivity through the Silk Road and Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor initiatives. With the passing of long time president Islma Karimov and the first presidential transition of power in Uzbekistan's history as an independent nation there have been initial signs of the country's opening up and working to improve relations with its neighbors and in the international community. Because it is a strategic Central Asian country with the highest population, Open World is eager to work to further bilateral cooperation with Uzbekistan.



Young entrepreneurs from Kyrgyzstan tour a plant nursery in Appleton, WI. The group was hosted from April 1 – 9, 2016 by the Fox Valley Technical College.

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request

The Open World Leadership Center’s Budget Request of \$5.8 million for fiscal year 2018 is an increase of \$200,000 (3.6 percent) over fiscal year 2016 enacted funding. The funding level will enable the Center to continue its proven mission of hosting young political, civic, and cultural leaders from Russia, maintain its important program with Ukraine; and continue smaller programs with select countries approved by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with this Committee. The Board of Trustees believes that maintain a robust grassroots-based Open World presence in Russia is necessary, and important for future U.S.-Russia relations. Programs in expansion countries will account for a larger percentage of hosting than in the past. Program hosting capacity in fiscal year 2018 at the request level remains far below the limit of 3,000 set in the center’s authorization legislation.

Total Funds Available - All Sources (Actual Dollars)					
	Fiscal 2016 Actual		Fiscal 2017 Projected*		Fiscal 2018 Projected
Appropriated Funds	5,600,000		5,589,354		5,800,000
Recovered Funds	632,781		935,707		800,000
Revenue	79,306		80,000		80,000
Carry Over Funds	67,604		71,526		88,901
USAID - Serbia	60,000		0		0
USAID - Ukraine	750,000		750,000		0
USAID - Regional	606,682		0		0
Total Funds Available	7,796,372		7,426,587		6,768,901
*The .1901% rate of operation reduction is reflected here.					

The budget request maintains hosting and other programmatic activities at a level of approximately 850-900 participants total. Actual allocations of participant slots to individual countries will be based on the Center’s Board of Trustees recommendations and consultations with the Appropriations Committee, Members of Congress, and U.S. Embassies in Open World countries.

Major categories of requested funding are:

Salaries and Benefits	\$	975,000	(split: part prog/part admin costs)
Contracts, interagency agreements	\$	3,414,000	(100% program)
Grants/Other direct program costs	\$	2,310,000	(100% program)
Administrative/Office costs	\$	69,901	(100% administrative)
	\$	6,768,901²	

Currently the Center staff includes:

Executive Director	EX	(part-time)
Deputy Executive Director	GS-15	
Senior Program Manager	GS-14	
Congressional Relations Specialist	GS-14	
Program Manager	GS-13	(retiring 03/31/17)
Program Manager	GS-12	(replacing retiring staffer)
Public Affairs Officer	GS-07	
Program Assistant (2)	GS-07	

Projected 2017/2018 FTE: 7

A Foreign Service National is also on staff in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Since we began working with our U. S. Embassies directly in 9 countries, this is the minimum program staff level required to manage all 850-950 participants in a program year. Each Program Manager handles between four and seven grantees and between 400 and 450 participants. They coordinate all aspects of the delegation from initial nominations, selection and vetting; approving the program agenda in Washington, DC; and planning and monitoring activities in the host community. The staff member in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is critical in coordinating nominations, vetting, and selections, program development, and relations municipal and officials, business leaders and NGO activists and advocates.

The Center works closely with its grantees to capture any possible reductions or savings in costs. For example, the Center works closely with grantees to find volunteer hosting organizations and requires cost-sharing in every grant proposal. We work closely with our logistical contractor to find the best airfares, to keep staff costs at a minimum, and to find savings wherever possible.

Open World spends its appropriation in two categories: Direct Program Costs and Administration Costs. Direct Program Costs includes a logistical coordinator contract; grants to host organizations across the United States; Memoranda of Agreements with most U. S. embassies in Open World countries; and 61% of the salary and benefits of the Center's staff.

² The amount over \$5.8 million shown here will be covered by unanticipated interagency transfers and other offsets.

In these categories, the Center’s fiscal year 2018 budget request breaks down as follows:

A. Direct Program	—	\$ 6,291,537
1. Logistical Contract		2,754,000
2. Grants/Other Hosting Costs		2,310,000
3. Embassy Agreements		660,000
4. Salary/Benefits (Program)		567,537

The logistical services contract with a Washington-based NGO is the single largest expenditure at Open World. This contractor coordinates the delegate nomination and vetting process and is tasked with obtaining visas and other travel documents; arranging and purchasing airfare and accommodations; planning and executing the two-day D.C. orientation, and coordinating with grantees and placing delegates in American host cities, among other duties. Since the Center began working with our embassies abroad in 2013, the contract cost decreased significantly while the embassy agreements increased moderately.

Grants/Other Hosting Costs refer to national and local hosting organizations (such as Rotary Club, Friendship Force International, and community colleges) that plan and execute an 8-day local program for each delegation.

B. Administration	—	\$ 477,364
1. Salary/Benefits (Admin)		377,463
2. All Other Operating Expenses		99,901

The salaries/benefits of the Executive Director (at 75%), the Deputy Executive Director (10%), and the Outreach Officers (80% and 100% respectively) are included in this category. It also includes an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress for infrastructure services, small contracts for professional services, postage, telephone, cell phones, and office supplies and materials. The Center benefits from lower administrative costs due to its physical location in the Library of Congress. Finally, agreements with other agencies for infrastructure services or for printing, webhosting, or graphic design are included here.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$6,768,901

In summary, the Center allocates the time of the Executive, the Deputy Executive Director and the Congressional Relations Specialist between Program and Administrative. All the Program Staff are allocated accordingly. Below is a Summary Table:

Direct Program Costs	\$	6,291,537
Logistical Contract		2,754,000
Grants/Other Hosting Costs		2,310,000
Embassy Agreements		660,000
Salary/Benefits		567,537
Administrative Costs	\$	477,364
Salary/Benefits		377,463 *
All Other Operating Expenses		99,901
TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS	\$	6,768,901

*Allocated between Program and Administrative Costs

Other Program Contributions

Major support is contributed to the Open World Program by the dedicated and enthusiastic American citizens who host program participants in their homes and communities. Private American citizens freely provide social events, community-wide activities, housing, and some meals for one week. Without this in-kind support, the cost of hosting Open World’s nearly 26,000 participants would have been substantially higher. In 2016, the hosting of Open World participants in homes throughout the United States along with cost shares offered by our embassies and logistical contractor (an NGO) saved the Center an estimated \$2.5 million in per diem accommodation costs alone.

Conclusion

Before closing this justification for the continuation of the Open World Program, it is important to talk about Russian participation once the program is over. Russia continues to play a critical role in events in the region, in Europe, and has extended its reach far beyond its boundaries. While relations remain tense, there looms the issue of how to present America – its values, its intentions, and its desire to uphold sovereignty of nations and to help settle conflicts.

Russian control of media within its borders, and the very effective information campaign in neighboring states, has brought the intended results – strong internal support for the president and for the government, a resurgent pride in Russia’s expanded role on the world stage, and a reassertion of its spheres of influence.

A few years ago, the United States was launching more than 300 exchange programs with Russia. Today there are just a few, and only one, the Open World Program, has the means to reach over this vast country and to attract rising leaders who might otherwise eschew a U.S.-sponsored program.

These delegates, who stay with American families for their intense ten-day program, carry back an understanding of a people in the U.S. who share many of the same aspirations they have: a prosperous, peaceful country, hope that their children will fulfill their potential, and a desire to understand one another. With a third of the delegates under the age of 30, and recognized as leaders among their peers, these Open World participants can explain to their broad range of contacts that the U.S. is not as portrayed in the mass media, but nuanced as is their own country.

There is one major danger with going on the Open World program: Your stereotypes will be ruthlessly destroyed. You will see and hear what is not shown and not told in the media. ~ Delegate Yuriy Lobunov, journalist from Bryansk, Russia, hosted in Seattle, WA on the theme of Independent Media, October 2016

Open World, in some ways, is the last hope for cooperation. As a resource for Congress and the nation, we may be the most important program in Russia. Our alumni, 19,000 strong, fill important positions in all regions, crossing many classes and professions of Russian society, the most important entry to Russian society for our country’s interests. Congress should be proud of what they funded and supported.

The Open World Program has been carefully honed through the years based on an ongoing and consistent review of the programming. Bearing in mind that quality will not be compromised, the Center continues the trend of reducing unit cost per appropriated dollar, of adjusting the strategies for nominations to bring legislators as a significant portion of our delegates, of working with many host organizations in all fifty states to make the programs highly relevant, and of fostering partnerships and projects involving alumni and hosts.

American Congressional leadership in advancing democracy and strengthening civil society worldwide is a strategic long-term investment in our nation’s security and a crucial source of our international influence and strength. Open World is committed to these efforts recognizing the possibility of uncertainty and setbacks, understanding that progress requires our unwavering dedication to enduring principles and goals.

To that end, the Committee’s interest and support of the Open World Program have been essential ingredients in the Center’s success.

Tab 2: List of Grantees, Host Organizations and Judges by State

National Grantees/Local Host Organizations/Host Judges by State

ALABAMA

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Birmingham
American Foreign Policy Council – Huntsville
Birmingham International Center
Birmingham Sister Cities Commission – Ukraine Committee
Birmingham Southern College
Friendship Force – Birmingham
Friendship Force – Huntsville
Friendship Force – Montgomery
Global Ties Alabama (statewide)
Rotary Club – Greater Huntsville
Rotary Club – Montgomery
United Methodist Church – Denton Road
U.S. District Court for the District of Alabama
University of Alabama Huntsville, Office of International
Programs and Services

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Karon O. Bowdre, *District Judge*
Mark E. Fuller, *District Judge*
Myron H. Thompson, *Magistrate Judge*
Susan Walker, *Magistrate Judge*

ALASKA

National Grantee

Alaska State Legislature

Local Host Organizations

Alaska/Khabarovsk Rule of Law Partnership
Anchorage International Rotary Club
Anchorage Sister Cities Commission
City of Homer
Pacific Environment
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Rotary Club – Anchorage International
Rotary Club – Homer Kachemak Bay
Rotary Club – Juneau
Rotary Club – Kendallville
Rotary Club – Ketchikan, First City
Rotary Club – Soldotna
United Methodist Church – Fairbanks

U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Harry Branson, *Magistrate Judge*

ARIZONA

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women, East Mesa Branch

Arizona Supreme Court

Corporate Education Consulting, Inc.

Empower International (Phoenix)

Flagstaff Sister Cities Organization

Friendship Force – Central Arizona

Friendship Force – Tucson

Friendship Force – Phoenix

International Training and Consulting, Inc.

People for World Change

People to People International, Greater Phoenix Chapter

Pima Community College

Rotary Club – Fountain Hills

Rotary Club – Kingman Route 66

Rotary Club – Phoenix

Rotary Club – Sun City West

Rotary Club – Tucson

Rotary Club – Yuma

Rotary District 5510

Southern Arizona Council for International Visitors

Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee

Tucson Council for International Visitors

United Methodist Church – Kingman

United Methodist Church – Lake Havasu

United Methodist Church – Phoenix

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona

U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Eileen Hollowell, *Bankruptcy Judge*

John Roll, *District Judge*

ARKANSAS

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women, North Little Rock
Chapter

Arkansas River Valley Regional Library

Arkansas State University Mountain Home
Garland County Community College
Global Ties Arkansas (statewide)
The Jonesboro Sun
League of Women Voters -- Washington County
Rotary Club – Bentonville
Rotary Club – Bella Vista Noon
Rotary Club – Little Rock
Sebastian County Bar Association
United Methodist Church – Conway
United Methodist Church – DeWitt
United Methodist Church – Fort Smith
United Methodist Church – Little Rock
United Methodist Church – Mena
United Methodist Church – Searcy
University of Arkansas School of Law

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Robert T. Dawson, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Richard D. Taylor, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Susan Webber Wright, *District Judge*

CALIFORNIA

National Grantees

Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific
Center for Safe Energy
Earth Island Institute
Independent Television Service (ITVS)
Pacific Environment
Sonoma City Opera
Tahoe-Baikal Institute

Local Host Organizations

49'er Breakfast Rotary Club - Nevada City
Alushta-Santa Cruz Sister County Support
Azerbaijani-American Council
American Foreign Policy Council – Fresno
American Foreign Policy Council – Huntington Beach
Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific
Center for Safe Energy
City of Livermore
City of Santa Cruz Sister Cities Committee
Congress of Russian Americans, Stanford University
County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission
Earth Island Institute: Baikal Watch
Episcopal Church – Berkeley

Estate Financial, Inc
Friendship Force – Kern County
Friendship Force – Sacramento
Greater L.A. Chapter of People to People – Granada Hills
Hartnell College Foundation
Independent Television Services
International Visitors Council – San Diego
International Visitors Council – Los Angeles*
International Relations Council of Riverside
Kidsave International
League of Women Voters – Claremont
League of Women Voters – Los Angeles
League of Women Voters – Piedmont
League of Women Voters – San Luis Obispo
Long Beach/Sochi Sister City Association
Los Angeles-Saint Petersburg Sister City Committee
Modesto Sister Cities International
National Council of International Visitors – Santa Ana
National Peace Foundation Escondido Chapter
New Bridge Management
Northern California World Trade Center
Oakland/Nakhodka Sister City Association
Pacific Environment
Peace Links – Berkeley
Peace Links – San Francisco
People to People International – Greater Los Angeles Chapter*
Rotary Club – Cloverdale
Rotary Club – Concord
Rotary Club – Dominguez-Carson
Rotary Club – Del Amo
Rotary Club – Del Mar
Rotary Club – East Fresno
Rotary Club – Hollywood
Rotary Club – La Verne
Rotary Club – Lamorinda Sunrise
Rotary Club – Livermore
Rotary Club – Los Altos
Rotary Club – Los Angeles - Wilshire
Rotary Club – Manhattan Beach
Rotary Club – Mariposa
Rotary Club – Merced Sunrise
Rotary Club – Mid San Fernando Valley
Rotary Club – Nevada City
Rotary Club – Oakland
Rotary Club – Palm Springs
Rotary Club – Palos Verdes
Rotary Club – Pasadena
Rotary Club – Paso Robles

Rotary Club – Rancho Cucamonga
Rotary Club – Rancho San Diego/Spring Valley
Rotary Club – Redlands
Rotary Club – Redding
Rotary Club – San Pedro
Rotary Club – Santa Barbara
Rotary Club – Santa Cruz
Rotary Club – Stockton East
Rotary Club – Temecula
Rotary Club – the High Desert
Rotary Club – Turlock
Rotary Club – Walnut Creek
Rotary Club – Westlake Village
Rotary District 5320
Russian American Business and Arts Council
Sacramento City College, International Studies Program
Sacramento Council for International Visitors
San Diego Citizen Diplomacy Council
San Diego-Vladivostok Sister City Society
Santa Barbara Cinco de Mayo Festival Committee
Santa Cruz Sister Cities
Sebastopol World Friends, Chyhyryn Committee
Sonoma City Opera
Stafford Institute – San Francisco
Tahoe-Baikal Institute
United Methodist Church – La Mesa
United Methodist Church – Los Angeles
United Methodist Church – Ontario
United Methodist Church – Sanger
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
U.S. West Coast-Russian Far East
University of California Los Angeles Department of Information
Studies
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Louise Adler, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Peter Bowie, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Samuel Bufford, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Marilyn L. Huff, *District Judge*
Christopher M. Klein, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Ronald S.W. Lew, *District Judge*
Consuelo B. Marshall, *District Judge*
Margaret McKeown, *Circuit Judge*
Michael McManus, *Bankruptcy Judge*

Louisa Porter, Magistrate Judge
Ronald H. Sargis, Bankruptcy Judge
William Shubb, *District Judge*
Dickran Tevrizian, *District Judge*

COLORADO

National Grantees

International Institute of Education/Rocky Mountain Center

Local Host Organizations

Arvada Sister Cities, Inc. Kyzylorda Committee
Boulder Chorale
Boulder County Public Health
Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities
Colorado Springs Sister Cities International
CROSSwalk People Helpers
Fremont County and Valdai Sister City Association
Friendship Force – Greater Denver
Friendship Force – Northern Colorado
League of Women Voters – Boulder County
Research Management Consultants, Inc.
Rotary Club – Aspen
Rotary Club – Centennial
Rotary Club – Denver
Rotary Club – the Denver Tech Center
Rotary Club – Evergreen
Rotary Club – Ft. Collins
Rotary Club – Golden
Rotary Club – Longmont
Rotary Club – Parker
Rotary Club – Smoky Hill
Rotary Club – Vail
Rotary Club – Westminster 7:10
Telluride Film Festival
United Methodist Church – Towner
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Colorado
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
WorldDenver

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Sidney B. Brooks, *Bankruptcy Judge*
David M. Ebel, *Circuit Judge*
Timothy M. Tymkovich, *Circuit Judge*

CONNECTICUT

Local Host Organizations

Connecticut-Pskov Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Friendship Force – Connecticut
International Visitors Committee of Connecticut
League of Women Voters – Canton
National Council for International Visitors – Westport
Rotary Club – Colchester
Rotary Club – New Haven
Southern Connecticut Friendship Force
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services
Division
University of Connecticut Global Training and Development
Institute
University of New Haven
Yale School of Drama
Yale University School of Medicine

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Peter Dorsey, *District Judge*
John Walker, *Circuit Judge*
Robin Tebora, *Clerk of Court*

DELAWARE

Local Host Organizations

Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia
Delaware Justice of the Peace Courts
National Council for International Visitors – Wilmington
United Methodist Church – Milford
University of Delaware Library
University of Delaware, Institute for Global Studies
Vital Voices Global Partnership

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Sue Robinson, *District Judge*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

National Grantees

American Foreign Policy Council
American International Health Alliance
American University – Women and Politics Institute
Center for Democracy
Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights
Freedom House
Graduate School
International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief
International Republican Institute
ISAR Resources for Environmental Activists
League of Women Voters
Meridian International Center
Global Ties
National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
National Peace Foundation
Peace Links
Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
Vital Voices Global Partnership

Local Host Organizations

American University
Center for Democracy
Center for Law and Social Policy
Chemonics, Inc
George Washington University, Community Legal Clinics
Global Arts Network
Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens
Historic Preservation Office, District of Columbia Office of
Planning
Initiative for Russian Culture at American University
International Republican Institute
ISAR: Resources for Environmental Activists
League of Women Voters of the United States
Library of Congress Preservation Directorate
National Council for International Visitors
National Council for the Traditional Arts
National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
National Peace Foundation – Urban Schools Program
Rotary Club – Washington, DC
Valbin’s Center for International Programs
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women in Politics Institute, American University

FLORIDA

National Grantees

GlobalJAX (formerly International Visitor Center of Jacksonville)
Stetson University School of Law

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Sarasota
American Foreign Policy Council – Melbourne
American Foreign Policy Council – Sarasota
Eckerd College
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
Enter-Met Thermochemical Engineers, Inc.
Florida Suncoast Friendship Force Club
Friendship Force – Greater Orlando
Friendship Force – Sarasota
Friendship Force of Tallahassee
Global Ties Miami
GlobalJAX
Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council
International Council – Central Florida, Inc
International Resource Center – Jacksonville
Jacksonville Sister Cities Association
Lakeland Sister Cities International, Inc.
League of Women Voters – Broward County
Manatee County Sheriff’s Office
Miami Dade College
Rotary Club – Brandon South
Rotary Club – Cantonment
Rotary Club – Coral Springs
Rotary Club – John Knox Vlg
Rotary Club – Largo
Rotary Club – New Tampa
Rotary Club – Panama City
Rotary Club – Pensacola
Rotary Club – Sarasota
Rotary Club – Seminole County South
Rotary Club – Tallahassee
Rotary Club – Tampa/Tampa Armature Works
Rotary Club – Weston, FL
Rotary District 6970
Sister City Program – Gainesville, Inc
St. Petersburg College
Stetson University College of Law
Tallahassee Community College
Tallahassee-Krasnodar Sister City Program
Tampa Law Center
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
United Methodist Church – Fort Walton Beach
United Methodist Church – Fruitland
United Methodist Church – Jacksonville
United Methodist Church – Lighthouse Point
United Methodist Church – Orlando
United Methodist Church – Palm City
United Methodist Church – Pensacola
United Methodist Church – Sarasota
United Methodist Church – Titusville
University of Miami School of Law
University of South Florida Health Science Center

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

David Baker, *Magistrate Judge*
Rosemary Barkett, *District Judge*
A. Jay Cristol, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Patricia Fawsett, *District Judge*
James Glazebrook, *Magistrate Judge*
Alan S. Gold, *District Judge*
Elizabeth Jenkins, *Magistrate Judge*
Elizabeth Kovachevich, *District Judge*
Stephen P. Mickle, *District Judge*
Harvey Schlesinger, *District Judge*

GEORGIA

National Grantees

Claus M. Halle Institute for Global Learning at Emory University
Friendship Force International
Future of Russia Foundation
GA2GE Foundation (Georgia to Georgia Foundation)
Intercultural Services

Local Host Organizations

Addiction Recovery Institute
Alston and Bird – One Atlantic Center
Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Citizen Diplomat Corps
Columbus-Zugdidi Sister Cities
Community Service Board – Dekalb
Emory University School of Law
Episcopal Church – Columbus
Friendship Force – Decatur
Friendship Force – Greater Atlanta
Friendship Force – Hartwell
Friendship Force – North Georgia
Georgia Council for International Visitors
Georgia to Georgia Foundation
Greater Savannah International Alliance
Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C.
Juvenile Court of Clayton County
League of Women Voters of Atlanta – Fulton County
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Office of International Affairs, Emory University
Peace Links – Cleveland
Rotary Club – Atlanta
Rotary Club – Duluth
Rotary Club – Gwinnett County
Rotary District 6920
Toccoa/Stephens County Chamber of Commerce
United Methodist Church – August
United Methodist Church – Saint Simons Island
World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Reproductive
Health, Emory University School of Medicine

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

William Duffey, *District Judge*
Owen Forrester, *District Judge*

HAWAII

Local Host Organizations

International Peace and Friendship
Kapi'olani Community College
National Peace Foundation – Honolulu
Pacific and Asian Affairs Council – Honolulu
Rotary Club – Honolulu
U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

David Ezra, *District Judge*

IDAHO

National Grantee

Lionel Hampton Center at the University of Idaho

Local Host Organizations

Boise State University, International Programs
Idaho Council for International Visitors
International Jazz Collections
Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, University of Idaho
Rotary Club – Boise Metro
Rotary Club – Idaho Falls

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Lynn B. Winwell, *District Judge*

ILLINOIS

National Grantees

Columbia College Chicago
Rotary International
Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women - Carbondale
Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Columbia College
Chicago Sister Cities International Program
CHP International
Citizen Bridges International
College of Du Paige
Columbia College Chicago
Council of International Programs – Chicago
Episcopal Church – Peoria
Friendship Force – Northern Illinois
Geneseo International Thanksgiving Fellowship Program
Heartland International
Illinois Central College
International Cultural Educational Association
International Republican Institute – Glenview
International Visitors Center – Chicago
Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America
League of Women Voters – Lake Forest
League of Women Voters – McLean County
League of Women Voters – Oak Park
Lithuanian American Community, Inc
Otto and Associates
Peoria Area World Affairs Council
Rock River Valley International Fellowship Committee
Rotary Club – Carbondale
Rotary Club – Chicago
Rotary Club – Springfield
Rotary District 6450
Rotary District 6640
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign
Springfield Commission on International Visitors
Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
United Methodist Church – Bolingbrook
United Methodist Church – Lewistown
United Methodist Church – Orion

United Methodist Church – Quincy
United Methodist Church – Wheaton
Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association – Bloomington-
Normal
WorldChicago

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Marvin Aspen, *District Judge*
Collins T. Fitzpatrick, *Circuit Executive*
Phil Gilbert, *District Judge*
David Herndon, *District Judge*
Charles Kocoras, *District Judge*
George Marovich, *District Judge*
Michael McCuskey, *District Judge*
Michael Mihm, *District Judge*
Richard Mills, *District Judge*
James Moran, *District Judge*
James Shadid, *District Judge*
Diane Wood, *Circuit Judge*

INDIANA

National Grantee

Resource Foundation

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Fort Wayne
Beyond Borders Global Connections
Elkhart Sister Cities Association
Indiana Government Center South
Indiana Judicial Center
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs
International Center – Indianapolis
Marion County Law Library
National Peace Foundation - Indianapolis
Office of the Indiana Attorney General
Peace Links – Elkhart
Resource Foundation, Inc
Rotary Club – Bedford - District 6580
Rotary Club – Berne
Rotary Club – Bloomington
Rotary Club – Carmel
Rotary Club – Columbus
Rotary Club – Fishers
Rotary Club – Indianapolis
Rotary Club – Jeffersonville

Rotary Club – Kendallville
Rotary Club – Lafayette
Rotary Club – Muncie Sunrise
Rotary Club – Terra Haute
Rotary Club – Vincennes
Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society
Sister Cities of Richmond
United Methodist Church – Bloomington
United Methodist Church – Indianapolis
United Methodist Church – South Bend
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Michael Kanne, *District Judge*

IOWA

National Grantees

Iowa Sister States
United States District for the Southern District of Iowa
University of Iowa International Writing Program

Local Host Organizations

Community Sister City Organization (Osage)
Council Bluffs Tobolsk Sister City Association
Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities
Creating Great Places
Dubuque Chamber of Commerce
Friendship Force – Central Iowa
Friendship Force – Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
Friendship Force – Greater Des Moines
Friendship Force – Quad Cities
Genesis Medical Center
Grinnell Renaissance
International Training, Education and Business Services and
Associates, LLC (ITEBS & Associates, LLC)
International Writing Program at the University of Iowa
Iowa Central Community College
Iowa Council for International Understanding
Iowa Sister States
League of Women Voters – Ames
Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center
Marshalltown Sister Cities
Mary Greely Medical Center
Mercy Medical Center
Mt. Pleasant Public Library
Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc.

Myrtue Memorial Hospital
National Peace Foundation – Cedar Rapids
OPEN (Organization Promoting Everlasting Neighbors)
People to People International, Oscaloosa Chapter
Rotary Club – Des Moines
Rotary Club – Iowa City
Siouxland Community Health Center
Skiff Medical Center
Southeastern Community College
St. Luke's Hospital
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa
United Methodist Church – Buckingham
United Methodist Church – Davenport
United Methodist Church – Des Moines
United Methodist Church – Harlan
United Methodist Church – Shenandoah
United Methodist Church – Van Horne
United Methodist Church – Waukee
Van Buren County Hospital

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Robert Pratt, *District Judge*
Larry Eisenhower, former *State Court of Appeals Judge*

KANSAS

Local Host Organizations

Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the
University of Kansas
Dodge City Public Library
Emporia State University
Friendship Force of Kansas
Global Ties – Kansas City
Honors Leadership Academy, Neosho County Community College
International Visitors Council – Greater Kansas City
Johnson County Library
League of Women Voters – Wichita Metro
People to People International – Greater Kansas City
Rotary Club – Abilene
Rotary Club – Andover
Rotary Club – El Dorado
Rotary Club – Hays
Rotary Club – Larned
Rotary Club – Lawrence
Rotary Club – Leawood
Rotary Club – Shawnee
Rotary Club – Topeka

Rotary Club – West Wichita
Rotary Club – Winfield
United Methodist Church – Beloit
United Methodist Church – Manhattan
United Methodist Church – Pratt
United Methodist Church – Sawyer
United Methodist Church – Stockton
United Methodist Church – Topeka
United Methodist Church – Washington
U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Monti L. Belot, *District Judge*
John Lungstrum, *District Judge*
John Thomas Marten, *District Judge*
Kathryn Vratil, *District Judge*

KENTUCKY

National Grantees

Louisville International Cultural Center
University of Louisville School of Music

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Louisville
Bluegrass Community and Technical College
Episcopal Church – Richmond
Friendship Force – Western Kentucky
Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Kentucky World Trade Center
Louisville International Cultural Center
National Peace Foundation – Louisville
National Peace Foundation – Maysville
Rotary Club – Frankfort
Rotary Club – Franklin
Rotary Club – Hurstbourne Sunrise
Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc
University of Kentucky School of Public Health
University of Louisville School of Music
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
World Affairs Council of Kentucky & Southern Indiana*

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

James Moyar, *Magistrate Judge*
John Rogers, *Circuit Judge*
Thomas Russell, *District Judge*
Charles Simpson, *District Judge*

LOUISIANA

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Metairie
Contemporary Arts Center – New Orleans
Council for International Visitors - Greater New Orleans
Louisiana State University, Department of History and Social
Sciences
National Peace Foundation – Baton Rouge
New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council
Rotary Club – Harahan
Rotary Club – Metairie
Rotary Club – Shreveport
Shreveport Bar Association
Supreme Court of Louisiana
Tulane University
Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation
United Methodist Church – Lake Charles
United Methodist Church – Natchitoches
United Methodist Church – Shreveport
United Methodist Church – Slidell
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

S. Maurice Hicks, *District Judge*
Roy Payne, *Magistrate Judge*
Donald Walter, *District Judge*

MAINE

National Grantee

Archangel Committee of Greater Portland

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Caribou
American Foreign Policy Council – Portland
Center for Global Opportunities, Southern Maine Technical
College
Greater Portland Russian Sister City Project (Archangel
Committee)
Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine
Kotlas-Waterville Area Sister City Connection
Maine Supreme Judicial Court
Maine/Arkhangelsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Rotary Club – Portland
U.S. District Court for the District of Maine
University of Maine School of Law
University of Southern Maine, American-Caucasus Workgroup
Verill & Dana, LLP
World Affairs Council of Maine

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Margaret Kravchuck, *Magistrate Judge*

MARYLAND

National Grantee

Foundation for International Arts and Education

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Rockville
American Foreign Policy Council – Frederick
American Foreign Policy Council – Greenbelt
Baltimore-Odessa Sister City Committee
Center for Democracy and the Interpretation of Civil Society,
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Center for International Programs
Community College of Baltimore County
Cultural Vistas
Director of International Affairs/Mayor's Office, City of Baltimore
Ferguson Foundation
Frederick Community College
Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS)
Harford Community College
Howard Community College

International Education Associates
League of Women Voters – Baltimore City
League of Women Voters – Baltimore County
League of Women Voters – Calvert
Maryland/IROLC Steering Committee
Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of Law Partnership
Maryland Sister States Program
Montgomery County Sister Cities
National Council for the Traditional Arts
National Peace Foundation – Potomac
Prince George's County Circuit Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit
Rotary Club – Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rotary Club – Frederick
Rotary Club – Parole
Rotary Club – Towsontowne
Rotary District 7620
Peace Links – Sandy Spring
Peace Links – Silver Spring
United Methodist Church – Bethesda
United Methodist Church – Friendship
United Methodist Church – Fulton
United Methodist Church – Rockville
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
Westminster Branch, Carroll County Public Library
World Trade Center Institute, International Visitors Program

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Richard Bennett, *District Judge*

Andre David, *District Judge*

Cathy Serrette, *County Circuit Court Judge*

MASSACHUSETTS

National Grantee

University of Massachusetts-Amherst Institute of Global Health

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Holyoke
Berkshire Community College
Bristol Community College
Cairdes Foundation
Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA)
Cape Cod Community College
International Center of Worcester
Jacob’s Pillow Dance
Kanfer Legal LLC
Massachusetts RAROLC Rule of Law Committee
Massachusetts Superior Court
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
Massachusetts Trial Court, Probate and Family Court Department
Massachusetts/Tomsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Mount Holyoke College
Peace Links – Framingham
Peace Links – Medford
Rotary Club – Scituate
Rotary Club – West Springfield
Rotary International District 7950
The Altai Project
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Massachusetts Amherst Institute for Global Health
WorldBoston

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Frank Bailey, *Circuit Judge*
Marianne Bowler, *Magistrate Judge*
Robert Cordy, *State Supreme Court Justice*
Joan Feeney, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Richard Stearns, *District Judge*
Mark Wolf, *District Judge*

MICHIGAN

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Dearborn
American Foreign Policy Council – Detroit
American Foreign Policy Council – Grand Rapids
Andrews University
Colleagues International, Inc
Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association
Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work
Ellen Thompson Women’s Health Center
Friendship Force – Greater Lansing
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Hillsdale Community Library
Interlochen Center for the Arts, Education Department
International Sister Cities Flint
International Visitors Council – Metropolitan Detroit
Kalamazoo-Pushkin Partnership Committee
Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
People to People International – Midland Chapter
Pittsfield Charter Township
Portage Lake District Library
Rotary Club – Downtown Grand Rapids
Rotary Club – Livingston Sunrise
Rotary Club – Kalamazoo Sunrise
Rotary Club – Lynchburg
Rotary District 6360
Sister Cities of Flint
Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Detroit
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
United Methodist Church – Ewart
United Methodist Church – Grand Rapids
United Methodist Church – Gwinn
United Methodist Church – Houghton
United Methodist Church – Kalamazoo
United Methodist Church – Kentwood
United Methodist Church – Plymouth
United Methodist Church – Port Huron
University of Michigan
Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Office

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Virginia Morgan, *Magistrate Judge*
Gordon Quist, *District Judge*
Gerald Rosen, *District Judge*

MINNESOTA

National Grantee

Connect US-Russia

Local Host Organizations

AIHA – Duluth

AIHA – Minneapolis

American Foreign Policy Council – Rochester

Alliance for Democracy – Minnesota

City of Lino Lakes

Connect/US-Russia

Duluth/Petrozavodsk Committee, Duluth Sister Cities International

Friends of Houston Nature Center

Friendship Force – Minnesota/Twin Cities

Hedburg Public Library

International Visitors Center – Jackson

La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association

Lake Superior Medical Society

League of Women Voters – Duluth

League of Women Voters – Edina

League of Women Voters – Minneapolis

League of Women Voters – St. Paul

Martin County Library System

Men as Peacemakers (Duluth)

Minnesota AIDS Project

Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers

Minnesota International Center

Minnesota State Bar Association

Minnesota State University

Minnesota State University – Moorhead

Minnesota Supreme Court

North Country Health Services

North Country Regional Hospital

Plymouth Church Global Connections Committee

Rainy River Community College

Rotary Club – Arden/Shoreview

Rotary Club – Hibbing

Rotary Club – North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale

Rotary Club – White Bear Lake

Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN)

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health

United Methodist Church – Owatonna

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota

U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

Women in Business

World Services – Minneapolis

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Michael Davis, *District Judge*
Nancy Dreher, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Jeanne Graham, *Magistrate Judge*
Jeffrey Keyes, *Magistrate Judge*
Gregory Kishel, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Paul A. Magnuson, *District Judge*
John Tunheim, *District Judge*

MISSISSIPPI

National Grantees

Mississippi Consortium for International Development
Mississippi State University
University of Mississippi/PEN

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Tupelo
International Visitors Center – Jackson
Legacy International Development Group
Metier Professionals
Mississippi Consortium for International Development
Mississippi State University
National Peace Foundation – Oxford
Rotary Club – Hattiesburg
Rotary Club – Jackson*
Rotary Club – Moss Point
Rotary Club – Tupelo
United Methodist Church – Greenwood
United Methodist Church – Jackson
University of Mississippi

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Jerry David, *Magistrate Judge*
Leslie H. Southwick, *Appeals Court Judge**

MISSOURI

National Grantee

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc

Local Host Organizations

All Species Project

City of Columbia, Public Communications Office

Friendship Force – Missouri-St. Louis

Greater St. Louis – Samara Sister City Committee

Harry S. Truman School of Public Policy Affairs

Global Ties Kansas City

League of Women Voters – Kansas City, Mo., Jackson, Clay, and
Platte Counties

League of Women Voters – Sedalia-Pettis County

League of Women Voters – Southwest Missouri

Lincoln University of Missouri

People to People International – Greater Kansas City Chapter

Rotary Club – Kansas City Plaza

Rotary Club – Lee’s Summit Sunrise

Rotary Club – Webster Groves

Rotary District 6060

St. Louis Sister Cities

St. Louis – Samara Sister Cities Committee

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc

United Methodist Church – Carthage

United Methodist Church – Hillsboro

United Methodist Church – Lambert

United Methodist Church – Lee’s Summit

United Methodist Church – St. Louis

World Affairs Council – St. Louis

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Catherine Perry, *District Judge*

Jerry Venters, *Bankruptcy Judge*

MONTANA

Local Host Organizations

Advisory Commission on International Relationships for City of
Great Falls
Friendship Force – Billings
Friendship Force – Central Montana
National Peace Foundation – Missoula
Peace Links – Missoula
Rotary Club – Bentonville and Bella Vista Noon
WorldMontana

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Robert Holter, *Magistrate Judge*
Donald Molloy, *District Judge*

NEBRASKA

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Lincoln
Arts Industry Coordinator/Nebraska Arts Council
Friendship Force – Eastern Nebraska
Friendship Force – Greater Omaha
Friendship Force – Lincoln
Friendship Force – Smithtown
Grand Island Area Council for International Visitors
Heartland Family Service
Kiwanis Club – Omaha
Omaha Sister Cities Association
Rotary Club – East Lincoln
Rotary Club – Lincoln Downtown
Rotary Club – Lincoln South
Rotary Club – Lincoln Sunrise
Rotary Club – Omaha
United Methodist Church – Harvard
U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Joseph E. Bataillon, *District Judge*
Laurie Smith Camp, *District Judge*
Lyle E. Strom, *District Judge*

NEVADA

National Grantee

Jewish Community Council

Local Host Organizations

Friendship Force of Las Vegas
International Visitors Council – Northern Nevada
Northern Nevada International Center
Rotary Club – Elko
Rotary Club – Elko Desert Sunrise
Rotary Club – Fremont*
Rotary Club – Las Vegas
Rotary Club - Reno
Rotary Club – Reno Central
Rotary Club – Southern Nevada*
Rotary Club – Tahoe-Douglas
Rotary District 5300
U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Valerie Cooke, *Magistrate Judge*
Lloyd D. George, *District Judge*
Howard McKibben, *District Judge*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Local Host Organizations

Friendship Force – the New Hampshire Seacoast
International Cultural Education Association
New Hampshire Supreme Court, Office of the General Counsel
New Hampshire/Vologda Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Portsmouth/Severodvinsk Connection
Public Defender, New Hampshire Public Defender's Office
Rotary Club – Bow
World Affairs Council – New Hampshire

NEW JERSEY

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Cherry Hill
Camden County Library
City of New Brunswick
Cross Cultural International Institute
Friendship Force – Southern New Jersey
Global Education Center at Montclair State University
League of Women Voters – Montclair
Montclair Rotary Club
Monmouth University Institute for Global Understanding and
Department of Political Science and Sociology
Ocean County Library
Phillipsburg Free Public Library
Princeton University, Department of Slavic Languages and
Literatures
Rotary Club of Branchville
Rotary District 7470
Rutgers University School of Law
Rutgers University School of Communication and Information
United Methodist Church – Hackettstown
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

John Bissell, *District Judge*
Marie Renee Bumb, *District Judge*

NEW MEXICO

Local Host Organizations

Albuquerque/Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee
Bridges to Tajikistan (Albuquerque)
Council on International Relations
Empower International (Phoenix)
Episcopal Church – Santa Fe
Global Ties Albuquerque
Los Alamos and Sarov Sister Cities Initiative
People to People International, New Mexico Chapter
Rotary Club – Las Cruces
Sandia National Laboratory
Santa Fe Council on International Relations*
SRIC Southwest Research and Information Center
Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Mexico
U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico
United Methodist Church – Los Alamos

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Carmen Garza, *Magistrate Judge*

Leslie C. Smith, *Magistrate Judge*

James S. Starzynski, *Bankruptcy Judge*

NEW YORK

National Grantees

Appeal of Conscience

CEC ArtsLink

Lincoln Center Theater Directors' Lab

Linkages of Rochester

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Greater Rochester Area

Albany Law School

Albany-Tula Alliance

American Foreign Policy Council – Albany

American Dance Festival

Brooklyn College Library

Buffalo-Niagara World Connect

Buffalo-Tyler Sister Cities, Inc

CDS International, Inc.

CEC ArtsLink

Cornell University

Criminal Court for the Seventh Judicial District

Doctors of the World-USA

Episcopal Church – East Aurora

Friendship Force of Hudson Valley

Friendship Force – Long Island

Friendship Force – Smithtown

Greater Rochester Area Branch of American Association of University Women

Hofstra University School of Law

International Institute of Buffalo

International Center of the Capital Region

International Center of Syracuse

International Film Seminars, Inc

International Institute of Buffalo

Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities

League of Women Voters – Oneonta Area

League of Women Voters – Rochester Metropolitan Area

League of Women Voters – Saratoga County

Lincoln Center Directors' Lab

Linkages of Rochester, Inc

Multicultural Resource Center
Mercy College
New York State Unified Court System, Office of Court
Administration
Newcomb Central School District
Nixon Peabody, LLP
Peace Links – Interlaken
Public Relations Kingsborough Community College
Rochester Global Connections
Rotary Club District 7120
Rotary Club District 7190
Rotary Club District 7230
Rotary Club – Fayetteville-Manlius
Rotary Club – Locust Valley
Rotary Club – Monticello
Rotary Club – Riverdale
Rotary Club – Shenendehowa
Rotary Club – Shawangunk Ridge
Saratoga Springs Public Library
Saratoga Springs/Chekhov Sister City International, Inc
State University of New York Plattsburgh
Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz
Town of Johnsbury Library
United Methodist Church – Bellport
United Methodist Church – Davenport
United Methodist Church – Rochester
United Methodist Church – Wassaic
United Methodist Church – Willsboro
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York
U.S. Court of International Trade
Yeshiva University School of Law
Western New York/Novgorod Rule of Law Partnership Committee

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Jonathan Feldman, *Magistrate Judge*
Frank LaBuda, *County Court Judge and Surrogate*
George Lowe, *Magistrate Judge*
Norman Mordue, *District Judge*
Frederick Scullin, *District Judge*
Joanna Seybert, *District Judge*
Charles Sifton, *District Judge*
Randolph Treece, *Magistrate Judge*
Evan Wallach, *Circuit Judge*

NORTH CAROLINA

National Grantees

Dewitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy at Duke
University
FHI 360 (formerly Academy of Educational Development of
Washington, DC)
International Focus
International House of Charlotte
University of North Carolina/PEN

Local Host Organizations

Addiction Recovery Institute
American Dance Festival
American Foreign Policy Council – Asheville
Asheville Sister Cities, Inc.
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
The Brown Angel Center
Charlotte Sister Cities
Charlotte Council for International Visitors
DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism –
Duke University
Durham-Kostroma Sister Cities Association
Friendship Force – Central North Carolina
Friendship Force – Charlotte
Friendship Force – Raleigh
Friendship Force – Western North Carolina
GlobalHouse
Health Equity Inc.
Hendersonville Sister Cities, Inc.
Institute for Global Collaboration, Forsyth Technical Community
College
International Focus, formerly International Affairs Council of
North Carolina/Research Triangle
International House of Charlotte
League of Women Voters – Charlotte-Mecklenberg
League of Women Voters – Henderson County
National Peace Foundation – Asheville
People for World Change

Rotary Club – Charlotte East
Rotary Club – Franklin
Rotary Club – Greensboro
Rotary Club – Guilford
Rotary Club – Hickory
Rotary Club – Marion
Rotary Club – Statesville
Rotary Club of Summit

Rotary District 7670
SCIAN-Institute for Scientific Policy Analysis
Sister Cities of Durham
Stafford Institute (formerly U.S.-Russia Mayor to Mayor Program)
United Methodist Church – Clayton
United Methodist Church – Greensboro
United Methodist Church – Lexington
United Methodist Church – Rutherfordton
United Methodist Church – Wilkesboro
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Slavic
Languages and Literatures
Western North Carolina Peacekeepers

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Allyson Kay Duncan, *Circuit Judge*
Paul Newby, *Supreme Court Justice*

NORTH DAKOTA

Local Host Organizations

Bismarck State College
Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program
Minot Area Council for International Visitors
North Dakota State College of Science
Peace Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Myron Bright, *Circuit Judge*
Karen Klein, *Magistrate Judge*

OHIO

National Grantee

Council of International Programs USA (CIP/USA)
Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival
Future of Russia Foundation

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Cleveland
American Foreign Policy Council – Columbus
American Foreign Policy Council – Lakewood
Athens Center for Film and Video
Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership
Cincinnati-Ukraine Partnership
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
Cleveland International Program
Cleveland State University College of Law
Columbus International Programs
Council of International Programs USA – Cleveland
Friendship Force – Dayton
Friendship Force – Greater Cincinnati
Friendship Force – Northeast Ohio
Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and
Development (Toledo)
Global Cincinnati
Global Ties Akron
Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council
International Visitors Council – Columbus
International Visitors Council – Greater Cincinnati
League of Women Voters – Clermont County
League of Women Voters – Columbus
League of Women Voters – the Greater Dayton Area
Ohio Employee Ownership Center
Rotary Club – Dublin-Worthington
Rotary Club – Boardman
Rotary Club – Cincinnati
Rotary Club – Wooster
Rotary District 6600
Sister Cities Committee, Toledo Sister Cities International
Supreme Court of Ohio
United Methodist Church – Akron
United Methodist Church – Chesterhill
United Methodist Church – Cincinnati
United Methodist Church – Lisbon
United Methodist Church – Wapakoneta
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
Wright State University

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Christopher Boyko, *District Judge*
Paul Matia, *District Judge*
Dan A. Polster, *District Judge*
Edmund A. Sargus, *District Judge*
Jack Zouhary, *District Judge*

OKLAHOMA

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women –Tahlequah
City of Enid
Friendship Force – Oklahoma
Habitat for Humanity, Tahlequah
International Visitors Committee
League of Women Voters – Bartlesville
National Peace Foundation – Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Supreme Court
Redlands Community College
Rotary Club – Guymon
Rotary Club – Oklahoma City
Rotary Club – Tahlequah
Rotary District 6110
Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma
Tulsa Global Alliance
United Methodist Church – Oklahoma City
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental
Justice and Tribal Affairs
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma International Programs Center

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Stephen Friot, *District Judge*
Robert Henry, former *District Judge*
Vicki Miles-LaGrange, *District Judge*
Ronald White, *District Judge*

OREGON

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Beaverton Branch
Blooming Hill Vineyard
Corvallis Sister Cities Association
Eugene-Irkutsk Sister City Committee
Grants Pass Sister City Committee
League of Women Voters – Lane County
League of Women Voters – Portland
League of Women Voters – Marion-Polk Counties
Oregon Justice Resource Center
Oregon Law Commission
Oregon/Sakhalin Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Roseburg Area Zonta Club
Rotary Club – Beaverton
Rotary Club – Eugene Emerald
Rotary Club – Kendallville
Rotary Club – Lewis River
Rotary Club – Wallowa County
Tigard Breakfast Rotary Club
Umpqua Community College (Roseburg)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon
World Affairs Council – Oregon

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Michael R. Hogan, *District Judge*
Diarmuid F. O’Scannlain, *Circuit Judge*

PENNSYLVANIA

National Grantees

Keystone Human Services International
Magee Womancare International
Russian Ministry Network of the Episcopal Church
West Chester University Poetry Center

Local Host Organizations

Allegheny College
Alvernia College, Nursing Department (NRC 010)
American Institute of Finance and Technology
American Foreign Policy Council – Lancaster
American Foreign Policy Council – Paoli
American Foreign Policy Council – Philadelphia
American Foreign Policy Council – Pittsburgh
Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University
of Pennsylvania
Friendship Force – Greater Harrisburg
Global Pittsburgh
Keystone Human Services International
Magee Womancare International
Media Sunrisers Rotary Club
Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council
Northampton Community College
Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd
Pacific Environment
Peace Links – Harrisburg
PEHT - Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences,
International Programs
Rotary Club – Altoona
Rotary Club – Blue Bell
Rotary Club – Emmaus
Rotary Club – Greenville
Rotary Club – Meadville
State College Rotary Evening Club
Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute
Ukrainian Federation of America
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Historical Society
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

West Chester University Poetry Center
West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club
World Affairs Council – Harrisburg
World Affairs Council – Greater Reading

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Harvey Bartle, III, *District Judge*
Richard Fehling, *Bankruptcy Judge*
D. Brooks Smith, *Circuit Judge*

RHODE ISLAND

Local Host Organizations

Brown University Library
Cape Cod and the Islands and Rhode Island Rotary Club
Roger Williams University, Justice System Training & Research
Institute, School of Justice Studies
Rotary Club – Newport
Rotary Club -- Scituate
Rotary International District 7950
U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island
World Affairs Council – Rhode Island

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Ernest Torres, *District Judge*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Aiken Branch
Clemson University
Charleston Council for International Visitors
Friendship Force – Florence
League of Women Voters – Bluffton Area
National District Attorneys Association
National Peace Foundation – Columbia
Palmetto Council for International Visitors
Richland School District Two
Rotary Club – Columbia
Rotary Club – Hilton Head Island
Rotary Club – East Spartanburg
Soonch
United Methodist Church – Spartanburg
Walker Institute for International and Area Studies, University of
South Carolina

SOUTH DAKOTA

Local Host Organizations

Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program
Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary
Sioux Falls Promise, Greater Sioux Falls Alliance for Youth
South Dakota World Affairs Council
U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Charles B. Kornmann, *District Judge*
Karen Schreier, *District Judge*

TENNESSEE

National Grantees

Nashville Health Care Council
Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization

Local Host Organizations

Blount County Sister City Organization
Chattanooga-Nizhni Tagil Sister City Committee- Department of
Public Works
Friendship Force – Knoxville
Friendship Force – Memphis
Friendship Force – Southcentral Tennessee
Memphis Council for International Visitors
Nashville Downtown Rotary
Nashville Health Care Council
National Peace Foundation – Johnson City
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization
Rotary Club – Cookeville Breakfast
Rotary Club – Memphis
Rotary District 6780
Sister City Association – Chattanooga
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club
United Methodist Church – Alcoa
United Methodist Church – Memphis
United Methodist Church – Springfield
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture International
Programs
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Vanderbilt University Public Affairs Office

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Jennie D. Latta, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Jon Phipps McCalla, *District Judge*
George Paine, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Thomas A. Varlan, *District Judge*
Thomas A. Wiseman, Jr., *District Judge*

TEXAS

National Grantees

El Paso Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
United Methodist Church Russia Initiative Program

Local Host Organizations

Alamo Colleges
American Foreign Policy Council – Fort Worth
Baylor College of Medicine Chronic Disease Prevention and
Control Research Center
Carter Blood Care
Center for Safe Energy – Austin
CMS Emergency
Dallas Committee for Foreign Visitors
El Paso Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
Episcopal Church – Houston
Episcopal Church – San Angelo
Fayette Memorial Hospital
Global North Texas
Houston Baku Sister Cities Association
International Hospitality Council of Austin
J. M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies, Baylor University
Kilgore College Small Business Development Center
Knowledge Management and Data Resources, Office of
Community Outreach, University of Texas Medical Branch
at Galveston
Lamar University
League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County
North Harris College
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs, U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Palo Alto College
Panola Community College
Peace Links – Austin
Peace Links – Temple
Plano-Ivanovo Sister City Program
Redeemed Ministries

Richland College
Rotary Club – Burleson
Rotary Club – Fredericksburg Morning
Rotary Club – Friendswood
Rotary Club – Frisco Noon
Rotary Club – Grapevine
Rotary Club – McAllen South
Rotary Club – Mid-Cities Pacesetters
Rotary Club – Northwest Austin
Rotary Club – San Antonio North Central
Rotary District 4790
Rotary District 5730
Rotary District 5830
Rotary District 5890
San Antonio Council for International Visitors
Texas A&M University, Sponsored Student Programs Office
United Methodist Church – Russia Initiative
United Methodist Church – Bonham
United Methodist Church – Carrollton
United Methodist Church – College Station
United Methodist Church – Commerce
United Methodist Church – Dallas
United Methodist Church – Denton
United Methodist Church – Eldorado
United Methodist Church – Forth Worth
United Methodist Church – Highland Village
United Methodist Church – Houston
United Methodist Church – Meridian
United Methodist Church – Orange
United Methodist Church – Saint Jo
United Methodist Church – San Angelo
United Methodist Church – San Antonio
United Methodist Church – Terrell
United Methodist Church – Tomball
United Methodist Church – Uvalde
University of Texas at Austin
World Affairs Council – Dallas/Fort Worth
YMCA International Services

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Leif M. Clark, *Bankruptcy Judge*
Ricardo H. Hinojosa, *District Judge*
Frank Montalvo, *District Judge*

UTAH

National Grantees

International Hosting
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Local Host Organizations

Brigham Young University Center for Law and Religion Studies
Church of the Latter Day Saints – Salt Lake City
Firefly, Inc.
Friendship Force of Utah
International Hosting
Izhevsk-Salt Lake City Partnership
Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies, Baylor University
Peace Links – Salt Lake City
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
Salt Lake City Community College
Sundance Institute
Tooele Sister Cities, Inc.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Utah
Utah State Legislature
Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities
Utah Valley University, Office of International Affairs &
Diplomacy

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Dee V. Benson, *District Judge*
Leif M. Clark, *Bankruptcy Judge*
David O. Nuffer, *Magistrate Judge*

VERMONT

National Grantee

International Rule of Law Consortium

Local Host Organizations

Ecologia

Lakenet

Russian American Rule of Law Consortium

School of International Studies, St Michael's College

Vermont Council on World Affairs

Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project, Inc

Vermont Law School

Vermont Supreme Court

VIRGINIA

National Grantees

National Center for State Courts

National Council for Traditional Arts

Norfolk Sister City Association

Partners for Community Solutions

Synetic Theater

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Reston/Herndon
Branch

American Foreign Policy Council – Alexandria

Arlington Sister City Association

Arlington Sister City – Ivano-Frankivsk Committee

Center for International Programs

Eastern Mennonite University Center for Justice and Peacebuilding
FHI360*

Fredericksburg Sister City Association, Inc.

Friendship Force – Central Virginia

Friendship Force – National Capitol Area

James Kent Inn of Court

League of Women Voters – South Hampton Roads

National Council for the Traditional Arts

National Peace Foundation – Fairfax

Norfolk Sister City Association, Inc.

Partners for Community Solutions

Peace Links – Roanoke

Peace Links – Williamsburg

Rotary Club – Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Rotary Club – Bailey's Crossroads

Rotary Club – Blacksburg

Rotary Club – Falls Church
Rotary Club – James City County
Rotary Club – Leesburg
Rotary Club – Lynchburg
Rotary Club – Rappahannock
Rotary Club – Richmond
Rotary Club – Stafford
Rotary Club – Vienna
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George
Mason University
Town of Leesburg, Virginia
United Methodist Church – Springfield
United Methodist Church – Fulks Run
Virginia Commonwealth University - L. Douglas Wilder School of
Government and Public Affairs
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
World Music Folklife Center
Zonta Club – Alexandria

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Thomas Selby Ellis III, *District Judge*
Henry Coke Morgan, Jr., *District Judge*
Anthony J. Trenga, *District Judge*

WASHINGTON

National Grantees

Battelle Memorial Institute/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
World Affairs Council of Seattle

Local Host Organizations

Battelle- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Blooming Hill Vineyard
Clark College
Community Colleges of Spokane
EarthCorps
Episcopal Church – Pasco
Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation
Global Education Service
Governor's Interagency Committee of State-Employed Women
(ICSEW)
League of Women Voters – Washington
Lower Columbia College
Nakhodka Sister City
Nuclear Oversight Program, Government Accountability Project
Rotary Club – Anacortes
Rotary Club – Bremerton
Rotary Club – Downtown Vancouver
Rotary Club – Lewis River (Clark County)
Rotary Club – Lynnwood
Rotary Club – Richland
Rotary Club – Sun City West
Rotary Club – Tacoma #8
Rotary Club – West Seattle
Seattle-Tashkent Sister Cities Association
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
Whatcom Community College
World Affairs Council – Seattle
World Affairs Council/World Trade Center West

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

John C. Coughenour, *District Judge*

WEST VIRGINIA

Local Host Organizations

Center for International Understanding, Inc
Friendship Force – Charleston
Grapevine Rotary Club
Rotary Club – Cheat Lake
Rotary Club – Morgantown
Rotary Club – Morgantown North
Shepherd College, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies
United Methodist Church – Fairmont
United Methodist Church – Summersville
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

David Faber, *District Judge*
Ronald G. Pearson, *Bankruptcy Judge*

WISCONSIN

National Grantees

Northcentral Technical College
World Services of La Crosse, Inc

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – LaCrosse
American Foreign Policy Council – Madison
Amigos de Milwaukee Rotary Club
Appleton Area School District, Volunteer Services
American Association of University Women – LaCrosse Chapter
Bellin Health System (AIHA)
Center for International Education, St. Norbert College
Center for International Understanding, Inc.
Economic Development Corp of Manitowoc County Foundation
Fox Cities – Kurgan Sister Cities Program, Inc.
Fox Valley Technical College
Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS)
Friendship Force – Greater Milwaukee
Friendship Force – Madison
Greater Green Bay YMCA
Green Bay West Rotary Club
Heart of Wisconsin Business Alliance
Hedberg Public Library
Hudson Daybreak Rotary Club
Institute of World Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
International Crane Foundation
International Institute of Wisconsin

Jackson-Monroe-Vernon County Leadership Program
La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association
League of Women Voters – Door County
League of Women Voters – La Crosse Area
League of Women Voters – Milwaukee County
Madison Area Technical College
Marquette University College of Nursing
Marshfield Rotary Noon Club
National Peace Foundation – Madison
New London Medical Center
Northcentral Technical College
Portage County Health and Human Services
Rotary Club – Beloit
Rotary Club – Hudson
Rotary Club – La Crosse
Rotary Club – Madison
Rotary Club – Milwaukee
RUS Global Initiatives
Shawano Public Health (AIHA)
Sigurd Olson Environment Institute, Northland College
Stevens Point-Rostov Veliky Sister City Project
ThedaCare
United Methodist Church – Hudson
United Methodist Church – Neenah
University of Wisconsin – Barron County
University of Wisconsin Extension – Juneau County
University of Wisconsin – Marathon County
University of Wisconsin at Marinette, Continuing Ed/Intl Students
University of Wisconsin - Marshfield/Wood County
University of Wisconsin - Richland
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
Vernon County Office, Family and Children’s Center
Western Technical College
World Services of La Crosse, Inc

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Charles N. Clevert, *District Judge*
Barbara Crabb, *District Judge*
Patricia Gorence, *Magistrate Judge*
Rudolph Randa, *District Judge*

WYOMING

National Grantee

Vista360°

Local Host Organizations

Brown, Drew & Massey, LLP

Rotary Club - Kemmerer

Vista 360°, Inc.

U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming

Wyoming Global Leadership Exchange

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

William F. Downes, *District Judge*

Tab 3: Open World Delegations by Date – CY2017



OPEN WORLD

LEADERSHIP CENTER

2017 Open World Program

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
30-Jan	Members of Parliament	Serbia	6	Chicago, IL
	Members of Parliament	Serbia	6	Columbus, OH
1-Feb	Role of Legislature/Staff			
	Role of Local Legislatures/Staff	Georgia	6	Annapolis, MD
	Role of Local Legislatures/Staff	Kazakhstan	6	Atlanta, GA
6-Feb	Members of Parliament	Tajikistan	7	Burlington/Montpelier, VT
8-Feb	Role of Legislature/Staff			
	Improving Elections Processes/Elections Management	Kosovo	6	Des Moines, IA
	Legislative Development: Education	Ukraine	6	Albany, NY
	Legislative Development: Health Care	Ukraine	6	Sacramento, CA
	Legislative Development: Women Legislators	Ukraine	6	Columbia, SC
	Legislative Development: Women Staffers	Ukraine	6	Lincoln, NE
27-Feb	Members of Parliament	Kyrgyzstan	7	Helena, MT
2-Mar	Women's Issues			
	Women Leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)	Azerbaijan	6	Bedford, IN
	Encouraging Women's STEM Education and Careers	Kyrgyzstan	6	Sparta, WI
	Best Practices in Adoption	Kyrgyzstan	6	Bedford, TX
	Social Entrepreneurship for Women	Russia	6	Kalamazoo, MI

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
	Women Leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)	Russia	6	Spokane, WA
	Women Leaders in STEM	Russia	6	Maui, HI
	Women in Politics	Russia	6	Metairie, LA
	Role of Women in Countering Violent Extremism	Tajikistan	6	Minneapolis, MN
	YP/Women Entrepreneurs	Turkmenistan	6	Albuquerque, NM
6-Mar	Members of Parliament	Georgia	6	Raleigh, NC
15-Mar	NGOs/Social issues			
	Combatting Human Trafficking – Sex Trafficking and Forced Labor	Ukraine	6	Kansas City, MO
	Combatting Human Trafficking – Sex Trafficking and Forced Labor	Ukraine	6	Louisville, KY
	NGOs Combatting Poverty/Homelessness/Supporting Needy Children	Ukraine	6	Fredericksburg, TX
	NGOs Combatting Poverty/Homelessness/Supporting Needy Children	Ukraine	6	Cincinnati, OH
	Equality Issues in Society	Ukraine	6	Fairfax, VA
	Equality Issues in Society	Ukraine	6	Jacksonville, FL
	Issues of Internally Displaced Persons/Crimean Tatars	Ukraine	6	Akron, OH
	Issues of Internally Displaced Persons/Crimean Tatars	Ukraine	6	Buffalo, NY
20-Mar	Members of Parliament	Mongolia	6	Reno/Carson City, NV
	Members of Parliament	Mongolia	6	Homer/Juneau, AK

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
22-Mar	Sister Cities/Partnerships - Entrepreneurship			
	OPORA Sister Cities/Partnerships – Entrepreneurship (St. Petersburg)	Russia	6	Los Angeles, CA
	OPORA Sister Cities/Partnerships – Entrepreneurship (Vladivostok)	Russia	6	San Diego, CA
	OPORA Sister Cities/Partnerships – Entrepreneurship (Volgograd)	Russia	6	Cleveland, OH
	OPORA Sister Cities/Partnerships – Entrepreneurship (Perm)	Russia	6	Louisville, KY
	OPORA Sister Cities/Partnerships – Entrepreneurship (Tyumen)	Russia	6	Tulsa, OK
29-Mar	Education and Innovation			
	Public Inclusion in the Policy Making Process (Think Tanks)	Kosovo	6	Carbondale, IL
	YP/Entrepreneurship in Small and One-Industry Towns	Georgia	6	Big Canoe, GA
	Academic Integrity-Secondary and Higher Education	Ukraine	6	Raleigh, NC
	Academic Integrity-Secondary and Higher Education (Khmelnitsky)	Ukraine	6	Modesto, CA
	Role of Innovators/Entrepreneurs in Society	Ukraine	6	Pensacola, FL
	Women Technology Entrepreneurs	Ukraine	6	Appleton, WI
3-Apr	Members of Parliament	Kazakhstan	6	Birmingham/Montgomery, AL

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
6-Apr	Innovation			
	YP/Young Entrepreneurs	Kyrgyzstan	6	Cashmere, WA
	Think Tanks	Russia	6	Washington, DC
	Higher Education System in the U.S.	Serbia	6	Bethlehem, PA
	YP/Innovation, Technology, and Start-ups	Tajikistan	6	Dubuque, IA
20-Apr	Judicial Rule of Law			
	Judges	Armenia	6	Shreveport, LA
	Judges	Estonia	4	Jackson, MS
	Judges	Kazakhstan	6	Phoenix, AZ
22-Apr	Rumsfeld Fellows	Various	6	Hartford, CT
	Rumsfeld Fellows	Various	6	Des Moines, IA
26-Apr	NGOs/Civil Society			
	Empowering NGOs/Advocacy	Ukraine	6	Santa Barbara, CA
	YP/Empowering NGOs/Advocacy	Ukraine	6	Santa Cruz, CA
	Empowering NGOs/E-Governance	Ukraine	6	Birmingham, AL
	NGOs and Promotion of Civil Society/Youth Development and Workers	Ukraine	6	Richland, WA
	Empowering NGOs/Family Services	Ukraine	6	Newton, IA
	Empowering NGOs/Family Services	Ukraine	6	Omaha, NE
	YP/NGOs and the Promotion of Civil Society/Youth Development and Workers	Ukraine	6	Brookings, SD
	Empowering NGOs/Children with Disabilities	Ukraine	6	Corvallis, OR
6-May	Civic Education			
	Supporters	Russia	9	St. Louis, MO

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
	Supporters	Russia	9	St. Louis, MO
	Supporters	Russia	9	St. Louis, MO
11-May	Health Issues			
	Mental Health and Well-being	Tajikistan	6	Dayton, OH
	E-Governance for Hospitals	Turkmenistan	6	Bemidji, MN
	Reintegration/Medical Practitioners and Social Workers	Ukraine	6	Roseburg, OR
	PTSD and Reintegration/Medical Practitioners and Social Workers	Ukraine	6	Rochester, NY
	Services for Handicapped Individuals	Belarus	6	Salt Lake City, UT
15-May	Members of Parliament	Moldova	6	Raleigh, NC
18-May	Environment/Agriculture			
	National Parks/Parks and Recreation	Kazakhstan	6	Helena, MT
	Prevention of Illegal Logging/DNA Analysis	Russia	6	Burlington, VT
	Organic Certification	Russia	6	Worcester, MA
	Forest Management	Russia	6	Marquette, MI
	National Parks/Nature Reserve	Russia	6	Redding, CA
	Legacy Waste Remediation	Russia	6	Pittsburgh, PA
	Environment/Forest Management (Fire Rescue)	Russia	6	Portland, ME
	Food Security/Food Safety	Serbia	6	Little Rock, AR
	Ecotourism	Tajikistan	6	Boulder, CO

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
31-May	Museum/Exhibit Curation	Georgia	6	Baltimore, MD
1-Jun	Environment			
	Environmental Campaigns/Public-Private Partnerships	Azerbaijan	6	Thornton, CO
	Environmental Protection/Sustainable Development	Georgia	6	Alcoa, TN
	Sustainable Tourism	Georgia	6	Princeton, WV
	Environmental Protection	Ukraine	6	Santa Fe, NM
	Environmental Protection	Ukraine	6	Great Falls, MT
12-Jun	Members of Parliament	Uzbekistan	6	Seattle, WA
19-Jun	Members of Parliament	Peru	6	Salt Lake City, UT
17-Jul	Members of Parliament	Ukraine	6	Chicago, IL
20-Jul	Judicial Rule of Law			
	Judges	Mongolia	6	Princeton, WV
	Judges	Mongolia	6	Portland, OR
6-Sep	Media			
	Best Media Practices/Independent Media	Georgia	6	Syracuse, NY
	Multilingualism and Access to Public Information	Kosovo	6	Knoxville, TN
	YP/Countering False Information/Media Literacy	Ukraine	6	Chicago, IL
	Countering False Information/Media Literacy	Ukraine	6	Silver Spring, MD
	Countering False Information/Media Literacy	Ukraine	6	Madison, WI
11-Sep	Members of Parliament	Ukraine	6	TBD

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
13-Sep	Media			
	Best Media Practices OR Government Spokespeople	Kazakhstan	6	Wichita, KS
	Livable City Planning	Russia	6	TBD
	Think Tanks	Russia	6	TBD
	Best Media Practices	Russia	6	Houston, TX
	YP/Successful Blogging	Russia	6	TBD
	Building E-Government Capacity	Serbia	6	Salt Lake City, UT
	Journalism	Turkmenistan	6	Cedar Rapids, IA
21-Sep	Civic Rule of Law			
	Combatting Domestic Violence	Azerbaijan	6	Lenexa/Overland Park, KS
	Supporting Judicial Ethics and Discipline	Kosovo	6	Huntsville, AL
	Domestic/Gender-Based Violence – Victim Rights and Prosecution of Perpetrators	Kyrgyzstan	6	Gainesville, FL
	Combatting Domestic Violence	Tajikistan	6	Albuquerque, NM
	Combatting Domestic Violence	Ukraine	6	Sebastopol, CA
	Combatting Human Trafficking	Ukraine	6	Phoenix, AZ
	Anti-Corruption Practices/E-governance and Transparency	Ukraine	6	Longview, TX
	Tourism Promotion	Kyrgyzstan	12	TBD
27-Sep	Education			
	Promoting Media Literacy in Schools	Armenia	6	Cambridge, MA
	School-Based Drug Prevention Programs	Kazakhstan	6	Charlotte, NC
	Environmental Education	Kazakhstan	6	Mauston, WI
	Inclusive Education	Russia	6	White Bear Lake, MN
	Autism Spectrum Disorder	Russia	6	Tooele, UT

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
	Social Integration of Children and Adults with Mental Disabilities	Russia	6	San Jose, CA
	Education Partnerships	Moldova	6	TBD
2-Oct	MPs	Georgia	6	TBD
11-Oct	Education			
	Policies and Planning: Improved Higher Education	Kosovo	6	Dobbs Ferry, NY
	Improved English Language Education – Secondary Schools	Ukraine	6	Palatine, IL
	Improved English Language Education-Secondary Schools	Ukraine	6	Atlantic City, NJ
	Improved Civic Education – Secondary Schools	Ukraine	6	Hutchinson, KS
	Improved Civic Education-Secondary Schools	Ukraine	6	Longmont, CO
12-Oct	Nelson Fellows	Russia	6	Council Bluffs, IA
19-Oct	Judicial Rule of Law			
	Judges	Armenia	6	TBD
	Judges	Georgia	6	Baltimore, MD
	Judges	Ukraine	6	Oklahoma, City
	Judges	Ukraine	6	Baton Rouge, LA
21-Oct	Rumsfeld Fellows	Various	6	Memphis, TN
	Rumsfeld Fellows	Various	6	TBD
25-Oct	Civil Rights			
	Accountability and Ethics in Government: E-Freedom of Information	Armenia	6	Great Falls, MT
	Making Cities Accessible for Handicapped Individuals	Russia	6	Annapolis, MD

U.S. Arrival Date	Theme/Subtheme	Country	Number of Delegates	Host City
	Indigenous Groups	Russia	6	Rapid City, SD
	Muslim Inter-Ethnic Issues	Russia	6	Detroit, MI
	Finno-Ugric indigenous Peoples	Russia	6	Hendersonville, NC
	YP/U.S. Political Party System (Young Party Leaders)	Serbia	6	Parker, CO
28-Oct	Civic Education			
	Supporters	Russia	9	Chicago, IL
	Supporters	Russia	9	Chicago, IL
	Supporters	Russia	9	Chicago, IL
1-Nov	Intellectual Property Rights	Belarus	6	TBD
31-Dec	House Democracy Partnership	TBD	28	TBD

Tab 4: Select State Summaries and Open World in the News



Open World in Connecticut

Fast Facts

- **Connecticut** has hosted **278 Moldovan, Russian, Tajikistani, and Ukrainian** Open World visitors since the program began in 1999.
- Past Connecticut host cities for Open World exchanges include **Canton, Hartford, Westport, and Wethersfield**.
- The Connecticut/Pskov Rule of Law Partnership is a longtime Open World host organization; Superior Court Judge **Jonathan E. Silbert** was a regular cohost.

Upcoming Exchanges

Hartford will host a delegation of **Rumsfeld Fellows** from various countries in April.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Hartford, April 2016

A **Ukrainian** delegation studying open and accountable governance visited Hartford last spring. While touring the **State Capitol**, the group met with Lieutenant Gov. **Nancy Wyman** and State Sen. **Len Fasano**. Delegates learned of the various systems in play to ensure timely, legitimate, and democratic voting systems in America. Other notable meetings included State Rep. **Tim Ackert**, State Rep. **Tami Zawistowski**, a plethora of aides and advisors to Sen. **Stephen Cassano**, and State Sen. **Tony Guglielmo**.

Hartford, September 2014

A **Serbian** delegation traveled to **Hartford** for a program focused on accountable governance. During the State Government Day on September 19th, the delegates toured the **State Capitol** and met with Lieutenant Gov. **Nancy Wyman**, Rep. **Brian Becker**, and State Sen. **Beth Bye**. Other highlights included meeting Rep. **John Larson** during one of the stops along his campaign trail for the 1st district in Connecticut, attending a **West Hartford Town Council** meeting, and having dinner with two Serbian families that recently immigrated to the U.S. who currently reside in Hartford.



Ukrainians on an Accountable Governance program studying American voting systems meet with Senator Chris Murphy. (April 2016)

Previous Delegations

City	Local Host	Theme (Country)
Colchester	Colchester Rotary Club	Accountable Governance (Ukraine)
Hartford	Friendship Force of Hartford	Parliamentarians (Serbia)
New Haven	Connecticut-Pskov Rule of Law Partnership	Rule of Law (Russia)
New Haven	U.S. District Court/New Haven Rotary Club	Rule of Law (Moldova)
West Haven	Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, University of New Haven	Rule of Law, Anticorruption (Russia)
Storrs	University of Connecticut Global Training and Development Institute	NGO Development (Ukraine)

Testimonial

The delegates were really amazed by the openness of ... American society, no matter whether this was an official person talking (the Governor of the state of Connecticut in this case) to them or just a shop assistant ... When we visited [the] Mark Twain museum, I translated some of [the] author's quotations inscribed on the museum's wall. The delegates told me that one of them fully reflected how they were feeling at the moment: "Travel is fatal to prejudice.' We parted with our prejudices and wanted to thank our American hosts for this."

—Russian facilitator for April 2012
New Haven rule of law delegation

Open World in Connecticut



Ukrainian medical specialists pose with Sen. Chris Murphy at a Yale School of Medicine reception during their unique PTSD-related educational programming. (August 2014)

New Haven, August 2014

A delegation comprised of **Ukrainian** medical professionals participated in an education and training initiative concerning behavioral health assessment and treatment of traumatic stress survivors at the **Yale School of Medicine in New Haven**. Throughout the program, the delegates attended various presentations and sessions led by **Yale University** faculty. The group also toured the **ERRERA Center** for mental health and had the opportunity to meet both Sen. **Richard Blumenthal** and Sen. **Chris Murphy** at a Yale University reception held during the program.

Making a Difference

The August 2014 **New Haven**-based PTSD program to create new or further existing partnerships between American and **Ukrainian** organizations was very effective. As a result of this collaboration, a permanent linkage has now been established between the Yale University School of Medicine and the lead practitioners of PTSD treatment in Ukraine. It is expected that the hosts from Yale will be visiting their partners in Ukraine in the coming months, and the funding for this has already been obligated by a donor organization. In addition, members of the Ukrainian psychiatry/psychology community and church have established and signed the Declaration of St. Michael's Cathedral in Kiev. The Declaration seeks to establish a nationwide network of psychological service assistance for those suffering from PTSD as a result of the recent history of conflict in Ukraine.

About Open World

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Last updated: March 2017



Open World in Kansas

Fast Facts

- **Kansas** has hosted **363** Open World participants since the program began in 1999, including participants from **Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.**
- Past Kansas host cities include **Abilene, Dodge City, El Dorado, Hays, Junction City, Larned, Leawood, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee, and Topeka.**

Upcoming Delegations

A delegation from **Azerbaijan** will travel to Lenexa/Overland Park in September. **Ukrainians** will travel to Hutchinson in October.

Delegation Highlights

Lawrence, September 2016

Ukrainian secondary and higher education and innovation specialists had the opportunity to visit middle schools, high schools and colleges in Lawrence. The delegates were able to tour the schools and receive an overview of the teaching programs, methods, and innovations. They also attended a meeting at the Lawrence Public Library to learn about the governance structure of the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and Unified School District 497, and their cooperative partnerships. A highlight for the Ukrainian delegates was visiting the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka. Before the delegates left Lawrence, a local school board member expressed their wish for the delegates to stay longer since they learned as much about the educational systems from the delegation as they the delegates learned from him.

Winfield, June 2016

Russian environmental specialists visited Winfield to focus on alternative energy, eco homes, and buildings. While in Winfield, they visited local homes that were powered by wind and solar energy. An interesting experience for the delegates was visiting the Slate Creek Wind Farm in Gueda Springs. The wind farm generates enough electricity to power the equivalent of 55,000 average Kansas and Missouri homes. The delegates also discussed wind energy with the Executive Director of The Energy and Climate Project. The delegates were given a tour by the architect that built the LEED certified YMCA in Wichita then attended a presentation regarding eco building architecture.



Ukrainian city council members with Joe Eannello of Rep. Kevin Yoder's Washington, DC office. (March 2016)

Selected Delegations

City	Local Host	Theme (Country)
Kansas City Area	International Visitors Council of Greater KC (KCIVC)	Accountable Governance (Ukraine)
Kansas City Area	KCIVC	Intermunicipal Cooperation (Serbia)
Kansas City Area	KCIVC	NGO Development (Ukraine)
Lawrence	University of Kansas	Accountable Governance (Russia)
Lawrence	University of Kansas	Education (Russia)
Wichita	Friendship Force of Wichita	Accountable Governance (Russia)
Winfield	Winfield Rotary Club	Disability Services (Russia)

Testimonials

In my country, everything is based on which tribe you belong to, and how you're connected, and that's what people rally around. But here, people gather around an idea—that's the big difference.

—Delegate hosted by Open World in Kansas City in April 2013 for the Rumsfeld Foundation

I felt the program was very successful ... Winfield is a small town and the community felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with professionals from Russia ... I also feel strongly that the Delegates will be able to use the information they have learned here to improve the conditions of the disabled in their part of the world.

—Winfield host coordinator for April 2013 disability services exchange

Open World in Kansas



A Russian delegation visits the Mosaic organization in Winfield during an exchange on services for people with disabilities. (April 2013)

Wichita, September 2015

Russian entrepreneurs and business experts were hosted by the **West Wichita Rotary Club** and experienced an in-depth look at entrepreneurship in the U.S. and Kansas. Starting with an informative session about the structure and government of the U.S., Kansas and local communities, the group also enjoyed a panel discussion at Wichita State University with local innovation and entrepreneurship experts. Via Rotary Club meetings and visits to local businesses, such as the Cessna Aircraft showroom, the group left Kansas impressed by American ingenuity and drive. They took best practices and other ideas back to their communities throughout Russia.

Making a Difference

After participating in the September 2015 Open World Program in Wichita, young Russian entrepreneurs were inspired to take action when they returned home. Delegate Dmitriy Yevdokimov found a potential partnership between his company, Robust Technology, and Cessna Aircrafts. Dmitriy suggested that Robust technology could manufacture plastic parts for Cessna. Delegate Liana Sladkomedova hoped to start a training course for young entrepreneurs in St. Petersburg. She also hoped to give a presentation in Russia regarding the welcoming business climate of the U.S.

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Last updated: February 2017



Open World in Ohio

Fast Facts

- Ohio has hosted **1,156** visitors from **Azerbaijan, Georgia, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine,** and **Uzbekistan** since Open World began in 1999.
- Ohio is the **sixth most-visited** state under Open World.
- **Columbus** is one of the **10 most-visited** host cities under Open World; **Cleveland** and **Cincinnati** are among the **top 25 most-visited**.
- Past Ohio host cities include **Athens, Boardman, Chesterhill, Dayton, Miami,** and **Worthington**.



Delegates from Turkmenistan with the Mayor of Cleveland Frank G. Jackson (May 2016)

Upcoming Exchanges

Columbus will host **Serbian** Members of Parliament in February. In March, **Cincinnati** will host **Ukrainians** from its sister city in Kharkiv and **Cleveland** will host **Russians** from its sister city in Volgograd.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Cleveland, October 2016

A delegation of Judges from **Serbia** participated in a Judicial Rule of Law Program hosted by **Judge Aaron Polster**, United States Federal Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. This Judge-to-Judge program gave the Serbian Judges the opportunity to share how the judicial system works in their country and to hear from their U.S. counterparts about the intricacies of U.S. jurisprudence. While in Cleveland, the delegation observed court proceedings in both federal and municipal courts.

Akron, September 2016

A delegation of public health experts from **Ukraine** traveled to Akron to learn about best health policy practices in the United States. The delegates met with **Mayor Daniel Horrigan** of Akron to learn about how he serves the people of his community. A highlight of the program was the opportunity to visit the office of **Sen. Rob Portman** during their orientation in Washington D.C.

Selected Recent Delegations

City	Local Host	Theme (Country)
Columbus	International Visitors Council of Columbus	Members of Parliament (Serbia)
Dayton	Friendship Force of Dayton, OH	Innovation and Creativity for Youth (Serbia)
Cincinnati	Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership	Decentralization (Ukraine)
Akron	Akron International Friendship	Telemedicine (Ukraine)
Toledo	Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development	Energy Efficiency (Ukraine)
Columbus	International Visitors Council of Columbus	Specialized Rule of Law (Estonia)
Toledo	Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development	Women Leaders (Ukraine)

Testimonial

“When I do these presentations, it renews my belief in the democratic process. I am compelled to give back to assist others, even for people from several thousand miles away, and even if only one idea captures their interest.”

—*Columbia Township Administrator C. Michael Lemon in September 2015*

Open World in Ohio



Ukrainian medical professionals learn about Telemedicine at the Ohio Medical Center. (September 2015)

Columbus, April 2016

A young professional delegation from **Kosovo** observed how officials and judges in Ohio maintain legal transparency. The group met with many members of the Ohio state government, including Representative **Michael Curtin**, State Senator **Frank Larose** and the Ohio Inspector General. The delegation also met with Judge **Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.** who provided an excellent overview of the U.S. legal structure, particularly as it pertains to access to public records and information.

Making a Difference

After participating in the October 2016 **Cleveland** Open World exchange, Serbian Judges were eager to organize seminars and roundtable discussions on domestic violence to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve relationships and coordination among courts. By organizing such events, the judges would become more familiarized with U.S. system and start thinking “outside of the box” and being more creative when it comes to introducing novelty in the system. These seminars and roundtable discussions would enable enhanced communication and interaction thereby resulting in more efficient work. These ideas could be discussed at the Judicial Academy and perhaps adopted as a part of judges’ training.

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Last updated: January 2017



Open World in Oklahoma

Fast Facts

- Oklahoma has hosted **310 Azerbaijani, Georgian, Kyrgyzstani, Russian, Serbian, Tajikistani, Turkish, Turkmen, and Ukrainian** Open World visitors since the program began in 1999.
- Past Oklahoma host cities include **Bartlesville, El Reno, Guymon, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Tahlequah, and Tulsa.**

Upcoming Delegations

Tulsa will host a delegation from **Russia** in March.



Delegates meet with Rep. Tom Cole at his office in Washington, DC. (October 2015)

Recent Delegation Highlights

Oklahoma City, November 2016

A trio of Oklahoma City judges hosted a group of Bar Association and Civil rights professionals from **Azerbaijan** for a week of peer-to-peer professional exchange. **U.S. Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell, Judge Lisa K. Hammond, and Judge Richard Ogden** crafted an intense program for the Azeri group. Highlights included observing Federal sentencing proceedings with frequent Open World host judge **Stephen P. Friot**, Senior United States federal judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. This was followed by a Q&A session with Judge Friot in his chambers. The delegation's visit to Oklahoma City was administered by the **Rotary Club of Oklahoma City.**

Tulsa, April 2016

A **Russian** delegation funded by **Tulsa Global Alliance** traveled to **Tulsa** for an Interfaith Dialogue program. Delegates had a chance to take part in discussions with students, observers, and leaders of the Islamic faith community at the **University of Tulsa.** The group also attended a presentation at the **Cherokee National Tribal Complex**, where they heard from **Chief Bill John Baker** and **Crosslin Fields Smith.** Delegates also met with staff members of **Rep. Jim Bridenstine.**

Selected Delegations

City	Local Host	Theme (Country)
Norman	University of Oklahoma International Programs	Accountable Governance (Azerbaijan)
Oklahoma City	Friendship Force Oklahoma	Accountable Governance (Georgia)
Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Supreme Court	Rule of Law (Ukraine)
Oklahoma City	U.S. District Court/ OKC Rotary Club	Rule of Law (Russia)
Oklahoma City	U.S. District Court/ OKC Rotary Club	Rule of Law (Turkey)
Tulsa	Tulsa Global Alliance	Acc. Gov. (Central Asia, Caucasus)

Testimonial

My Russian counterparts frequently have some skepticism about the jury system and some skepticism about the reinstatement of the right of jury trials in Russia. I think one thing that they come away with from their Open World visits is a more thorough understanding of how the jury system can be made to work and work well. The American experience helps lessen their concerns about the reliability of results produced by jury verdicts....

... Our work [with Open World judicial delegates] at the regional level (which I think very much is the grassroots level) has the effect of strengthening the constituency at the grassroots level in the Russian Federation for the rule of law. Strengthening the political will for a robust and transparent judicial system at the grassroots level would then inevitably have beneficial effects at higher levels.

—Open World host judge Stephen P. Friot to *RussianAmericanBusiness.org*, published on Oct. 19, 2010

Continued on reverse

Open World in Oklahoma



Ukrainian delegates visit a wind farm in Weatherford, OK, during an energy efficiency program based in Tulsa, OK. (June 2015)

Oklahoma City, October 2015

A delegation from **Ukraine** traveled to **Oklahoma City** for a program focused on higher education and innovation. While there, the educators visited various technical, private, and public universities, such as **Oklahoma University, University of Central Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City Community College**. The delegates especially enjoyed meeting with OCCO President **Jerry Stewart** and UCO Dean **James Machell**, as well as seeing the Teacher Resource Lab at OU. The program concluded with a visit to the **Oklahoma State Capitol Building**, where the delegates toured the building and met with State Rep. **Harold Wright**. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with Rep. **Tom Cole** in Washington.

Building Relationships

Long-time Open World partner Honorable Federal Judge **Stephen P. Friot** has hosted numerous delegations of legal professionals in **Oklahoma City**. Upon return, Delegate **Viktor Tsyganov**, Department Dean of the Law Department and Acting Chair of the Business Law Division at Lobachevskiy Nizhniy Novgorod State University in **Russia**, was among delegates hosted in **Oklahoma City** in 2011. Upon return, he invited Judge Friot to come on a reciprocal visit to the Department of Law of Lobachevskiy Nizhniy Novgorod State University. The Department covered travel expenses for their guest. With the support of the US Embassy in Moscow, Judge Friot returned to Russia in 2015, giving a lecture at the **Law School of Moscow State University** and the **Academy of Public Administration in Saratov**, as well as meeting with members of the local business community and US government program alumni at the **Saratov Region Chamber of Trade and Commerce**.

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Last updated: January 2017

The Gazette

Coe pushing international growth

By Vanessa Miller
April 8, 2016



David McNally, Coe College President, speaks to a delegation from Kosovo as they take a tour of Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016. (Stephen Mally/The Gazette)

CEDAR RAPIDS — The presence of international students on U.S. college and university campuses has spiked in recent years — jumping 73 percent over the past decade. And Coe College in Cedar Rapids, like many Iowa campuses, is no exception.

Of Coe's 1,400-some students, about 80 — or almost 6 percent — come from outside the United States. That is higher than previous years, reflecting a shift in both international education trends and local recruiting efforts.

“We’ve been doing a lot more on the Office of Admission side to help increase enrollment,” said Chris Paasch, Coe’s associate director of admission for operations and international recruiting.

Bolstering Coe’s international presence is a collegewide goal, as it benefits the campus by encouraging “other cultures, other perspectives, and other opinions,” Paasch said. But, he added, Coe has a lot to offer, too.

“Places like Coe really offer some great benefits, such as the smaller class sizes and a lot of interaction with the faculty members,” Paasch said. “That’s really very important to a lot of students — both domestic and international.”

The push to increase international enrollment at Coe has meant more recruiting trips overseas, more webinars geared toward foreign students, more collaboration with U.S. education offices abroad and new financial aid options specific to international students.

“We are trying to visit new places and kind of get the student climate there — to see if they would be a good fit for Coe,” Paasch said.

Coe’s international student population today represents 20 countries — including China, Nepal, Vietnam and Nigeria, which have the largest number of international students this year. But Paasch said recruiters are looking not only to grow those numbers but diversify them — capitalizing on education and awareness opportunities, like a Kosovo delegation’s visit to Iowa this week.

Coe College doesn’t have any students from Kosovo, a partially recognized state in southeastern Europe that declared itself an independent country in 2008. But Paasch said it would welcome them.

“That’s why we’re kind of excited to have the group here — to see what they think,” Paasch said.

The Iowa Sister States organization, a non-profit founded to manage Iowa’s “official relationships with foreign states” like Kosovo, took the delegation around Iowa this week — introducing its representatives to leaders in Des Moines, Iowa City, Ames, Fort Dodge and Cedar Rapids.

Paasch said his connections with Iowa Sister States prompted the Kosovo visit to Coe on Friday.

“The director of that program and I have been talking and thought it would be a great relationship for Coe to have,” he said.

During the delegation’s stop in Cedar Rapids, leaders toured the Coe campus, met professors and chatted with students.

Coe President David McNally welcomed the group by laying out the concept and the mission of private liberal arts colleges in general, and Coe in particular, and he highlighted the college's intentional development of a multicultural experience.

"Diversity is a critical value for us," McNally said. "That includes international diversity, as well as other forms of diversity. And we strive to create the kind of community where students have the experiences to prepare them to succeed in a diverse, interconnected world."

Technology has made global connections increasingly common and necessary in the workforce.

"And we know that our graduates, to be successful, should not encounter that for the first time after they leave college," McNally said, "but should experience it while they are here."

He also stressed Iowa's values and the impact they have on the student experience.

"We are quite confident that our students leave campus with lifelong friendships," McNally said. "One of the things you find in Iowa in general, and at small colleges in particular, is a very friendly, accessible population."

A panel of international Coe students who met with the Kosovo guests corroborated McNally's assertions, saying the most surprising thing about coming to Iowa was the kindness they encountered.

"The people here are very, very nice," said Coe freshman Yuan Chai, 19, from Guang Zhou, China. "Before coming here, I was afraid that I would experience racial discrimination. That people would not want to talk to me. But people here are really nice. They don't care where I come from."

The welcoming atmosphere is among the features Paasch said he highlights when pitching Coe to international prospects. He also stresses Coe's small class sizes, its encouragement of extracurricular involvement and its residential community.

"They want to be a part of a community where they can be active and engaged in various activities outside of the classroom as well," he said.

Because of Chinese affluence and their interest in getting an American education is largely behind the national surge in international enrollment, Paasch said, Coe has focused some of its ramped up recruiting efforts on that Asian power.

He's also dedicated recruiting time and resources in countries like Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Despite the push to grow international numbers, Paasch said Coe is doing it strategically.

“We are not just opening the flood gates from one country,” he said. “We are trying to get a well-balanced and well-represented international student population. We are trying to do it methodically here.”



David McNally, Coe College President, speaks to a delegation from Kosovo as they take a tour of Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016. (Stephen Mally/The Gazette)



Ugur Akgun, Associate Professor of Physics, talks with a delegation from Kosovo as they take a tour of Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016. (Stephen Mally/The Gazette)



A delegation from Kosovo walks through a “parade” as they take a tour of Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016. (Stephen Mally/The Gazette)



A delegation from Kosovo listens to comments from Mai Le, sophomore from Vietnam, Yuan Chai, freshman from China, Christine Obiesie, sophomore from Nigeria, and Uzir Thapa, junior from Nepal, as they take a tour of Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016. (Stephen Mally/The Gazette)

###

PANTAGRAPH

New ideas: Russian delegation tours McLean County farms

By Lenore Sobota
June 19, 2016



STEVE SMEDLEY, THE PANTAGRAPH
Aleksandr Ragimov of Vladimir, Russia, takes a look at the Illinois State University Farm composting site, north of Lexington.

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STEVE SMEDLEY, THE PANTAGRAPH
Russian delegate Aleksandr Ragimov, center, watches a tractor move through a row of compost being sorted during a visit to the Illinois State University Farm composting site north of Lexington.

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LEXINGTON — A delegation of agriculture educators from Russia are returning home with new ideas and a greater understanding of U.S. agribusiness and culture after a visit to McLean County.

Five people from Vladimir State University spent a week in McLean County, touring various agricultural facilities and staying with host families. A program facilitator from Russia and a U.S.-based translator were part of the group.

The Illinois State University Farm at Lexington was among their stops.

“We received a lot of interesting ideas to explore,” Yekaterina Shenterova said through the translator. “We enjoyed seeing how research is done.

The visit was sponsored by the Vladimir/Canterbury Sister Cities Association of Bloomington-Normal with a grant through **Open World Leadership Center**, an arm of Congress that promotes visits by young foreign leaders from post-Soviet countries. This year, agriculture was an area of focus.

Elaine Cousins, the association's president, said that when the Sister Cities group saw agriculture was one of this year's topics, “we immediately seized on this as something ideal for us.”

Last year, the Sister Cities group hosted a delegation of special education teachers from Vladimir State University through an **Open World** grant.

With the variety of agricultural interests in Central Illinois, Cousins said, “They were given a diverse look at farms in the county.”

The idea was to let the visitors “see what we consider best practices and what challenges there are,” said Cousins.

During the visit, the Russians were taken to large-scale farms, including livestock operations, as well as smaller farms with multiple crops.

In addition to the ISU Farm, other site visits included the Bittner family farm, Epiphany Farm

###



Open World Program unlocks doors, communication

By Rebecca Walter Times-News Staff Writer
November 20, 2016

Five citizens of the country of Georgia visited Hendersonville the past several days through the **Open World Program**, with a theme geared toward social inclusion.

On Friday, participants met with Henderson County Commissioner Bill Lapsley and state Rep. Chuck McGrady to discuss local and state politics, and how it fits in with the program's focus.

The group engaged in fluid discussion on issues such as budgets, services, diversity and different forms of government. Each participant had multiple questions for the Lapsley and McGrady, and also had input of their own.

The discussion lasted about an hour and a half, and dove into the inner workings of government, as well as how the two countries compare.

The government aims to have a diverse group examine issues, but it can be difficult to get everyone to want to participate, McGrady said. Some of the **Open World** participants said similar problems are faced in their country.

During the nine-day program, the group participated in hikes, church services and other activities to immerse themselves in the local culture.

They also spent their time here meeting with public officials, along with visiting schools and health care facilities. Organizations such as the NAACP, the League of Women Voters and the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County also met with the participants.

Local host coordinators Bill and Judy Wilkes have participated in the program for a number of years, and enjoy the experience. To call it a learning process is an enormous understatement, Bill Wilkes said.

“We are always stunned by something wonderful,” he said. “There is always a surprise. That keeps us going.”

The host organization for the program was the League of Women Voters of Hendersonville. Co-host organizations were Blue Ridge Community Health Center, First Congressional Church, and

Sister Cities of Hendersonville. Aleksandra Kalatozishvili was the facilitator, and Ia Dzanashvili, the interpreter.

The mission of the **Open World Program**, an arm of the U.S. Congress, is to introduce rising leaders of emerging countries to the importance of legislative functions in creating and sustaining democracies, according to the program's website.

A learning experience

Most of the five participants, who were visiting the United States for the first time, were well-versed in English, and a translator accompanied them on the trip.

Shalala Amirjanova, 18, works for a community radio station and is also a student. For her, the excitement of the journey began several months ago when she discovered she was accepted into the program.

Amirjanova was amazed at the different programs and systems in place in America, and hopes to take what she has learned back home, she said.

She took rigorous notes throughout the program, particularly about the successes she sees in America's school system. Amirjanova's interests center around work with minorities and the disabled, and she plans to form an action plan for when gets back home to Georgia.

Kamran Mamedovi, 26, is a project manager for a civil foundation, and plans to take what he learned in the U.S. back to his home as well.

During his visit, he met with different minority groups. His interests focus on the political participation and civic representation minorities play in government. He is also interested in the different causes minority groups participate in.

Mamedovi noticed similarities between his country and Henderson County, particularly with small numbers of minorities and women in government roles.

He was impressed, however, that Hendersonville has a female mayor — Barbara Volk. He's also enjoyed speaking with people about the recent presidential election and getting various viewpoints.

Ambartsum Baboyan, 28, is a representative back in Georgia for what can be compared to a city council here. He found most of his interest focused on Friday's meeting with Lapsley and McGrady, learning more about how government works in this community and state. Baboyan also liked learning more about how the health care system works in this country, he said.

When he returns home, Baboyan plans to speak with his colleagues about the implementation of laws, and how they work here in America.

Giorgi Tevzadze, 24, works with disabled children back home, so he was interested in absorbing information about the care offered to them here in America.

He was fascinated with hospital visits taken on the trip. The main difference Tevzadze has seen between the two countries within his own profession is financing and experience, he said.

“But then again, everything has been different,” he said.

Tevzadze plans to take what he has learned and apply it in his job back home, he said. To him, that means working closer with patients and preparing new projects to help them.

Akaki Saginadze, 19, is a student who also spends his time working on projects to promote integration and tolerance.

His favorite part of the experience was meeting with students at the university and meeting new people.

Like others in the group, Saginadze said he sees problems here that are similar to those in Georgia, but is confident progress is being made. He is excited to take what he has learned back to his home country.

“I now have new ideas for projects to make a change,” he said.

###



HPU ‘OHANA THIS WEEK

Parliamentarians from Mongolia visit HPU

By HPU Ohana
March 21, 2016



Associate Professor of Political Science Gregory Gaydos, Ph.D., and his Introduction to Politics students welcomed five parliamentarians from Mongolia to HPU and their class on Tuesday, March 1. The delegation, hosted by the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council, were taking part in the U.S. congressionally-sponsored **Open World** program. The program brings young political and civic leaders from nine post-

Soviet states to the U.S. for short-term professional trips.

Focusing its Honolulu visit on “Accountable Government,” the Mongolian delegation spoke to Gaydos’ students on the role of government in Mongolia and the current issues they face. They started with a brief presentation on the history of Mongolia in the political and economic context. It was pointed out that through Mongolian rule, a small tax was taken from traders using the Silk Road. This provided traders with protection by the Mongolian empire, breaking the image of barbarianism and showing a more peaceful side of Mongolian history.

Other highlights from the presentation:

- Mongolia is proud to be one of the only peaceful post-Soviet transitions from Communism to democracy.
- Engaging young people to be involved in politics is difficult, but the Members of Parliament are adapting by using social media, political campaigns and engaging youth in their offices as volunteers.



###

NorthEscambia.com

News for Molino, Bratt, Walnut Hill
McDavid, Century & Cantonment

Ukrainian Delegation Tours Escambia's New Recycling Facility

September 14, 2016



ECUA District 5 Board member Larry Walker hosted an international delegation from the Ukraine at the Interim Materials Recycling Facility (IMRF) in Beulah on Tuesday.

The Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Group is hosting a group of six Ukrainian delegates in a U.S. Congressional exchange called **Open World**. The exchange brings up-and-coming leaders from the former Soviet Union countries to the U.S. for short-term trips that focus on specific professional topics as well as intercultural exchange opportunities.

The IMRF, a collaborative effort between ECUA and Escambia County, is a state-of-the-art facility that will have the capacity to recycle up to 40,000 tons of materials per year.

The \$10.6 million project was initiated to offer a long-term, regional recycling solution for the community, while at the same time, to assist Escambia County in reaching its state-mandated 75 percent recycling goal. On February 12, ECUA broke ground for the IMRF, which encompasses

UKRAINE: PENSOLA, FL

FL-01

a 53,460 square-foot fabric building and recycling equipment that is expected to process up to 165 tons of materials per day.

Pictured: ECUA District 5 Board member Larry Walker (in hat) leads a Ukrainian delegation through the IMRF Tuesday morning. Photos for NorthEscambia.com.



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The Cowley CourierTraveler

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Russian Visitors

By The Cowley Courier Traveler
June 8, 2016



The Winfield Rotary Club has been hosting six Russians this week through the **Open World Program** of the **Open World Leadership Center**. From left are Ivan Cherkasov, Ivan Golenkov, Vladimir Khomutinin, Viktoriya Paechkin, Denis Tashlykov and facilitator Nikolayevich Popov. The group is focusing on environment and energy, studying alternative energy sources such as wind farms and homes using alternative energy sources. Today they are visiting Greensberg. They will be in Winfield through Saturday. (Special to the Courier)

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ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS

Elko Rotary Club hosts Russian guests

By Hasani Grayson

March 10, 2016



Russian delegate Anna Makhlay, left, translator Elene Golis, middle, speaks to Tatyana Kostyuk about the exhibit. Photo: Hasani Grayson, Elko Daily Free Press

ELKO — The Elko Rotary Club has been helping six guests from Russia get acquainted with the culture of rural Nevada this week.

The Rotary Club of Elko is hosting six businesswomen from Russia through the **Open World Program** which allows guests in different countries to visit host cities around the world. The program is sponsored and funded by the United States Congress, and is administered Rotary International.

The six Russian delegates are staying with host families from the Rotary Club Of Elko during their weeklong visit.

Lucy Tomera-Miller, president of the Rotary Club of Elko, said that hosting their overseas guests has been just as fun for her as it has been for them.

“It’s been fantastic. They have been so friendly and want to know information that we can share with them from Elko,” she said.

However, before Elko could be allowed to host the delegates they had to put together a proposal to exhibit the cultural value of visiting.

“Our club and the Elko Desert Sunrise Club filled out an application to apply to be a host for this particular program,” she said. “We had to submit a schedule of events of what we can do that would be of interest for these ladies.”

On Wednesday the Russian Delegates got a brief history lesson of the cowboy culture in Elko with their tour of the Western Folklife Center. With the assistance of a translator, the delegates heard the stories behind the artwork in the center and watched a brief video presentation about the history of cowboy poetry in the West.

Executive Director of the Western Folklife Center David Roache said that even though the delegates were from a different cultural background that they should be able to relate to aspects of cowboy culture.

“This group is from the far eastern part of Russia,” he said. “That’s also a very remote part of that country so there is a parallel here. This group can relate to what we’re doing out here in Elko.”

One of the other things that Elko is doing that has defined the region is the mining industry. Earlier in the week the delegates visited a Newmont Mining Corp. gold mine and were able to get a tour of the facility. Tomera-Miller said it was the most memorable event the group attended so far.

“Their tour was at the gold mines and they got to walk around the plant and see the open pit of Newmont mining here in Elko,” she said.

The delegates also pointed to the gold mines as being one of the most memorable experiences of their visit to Elko but also said they enjoyed spending time with their American hosts.

“We enjoyed the Ruby Mountains and were very impressed with the gold mine,” said translator Elena Golis speaking on behalf of the group. “We also enjoyed being hosted by the American families. We have fun with them and will remember this time for a long, long time.”

Even though the delegates are from a different culture and a different country the delegates have seen that people from different countries still face a lot of the same challenges.

“People are very much alike,” said Golis. “People are facing the same issues and problems, and I think the people of our two countries are very much alike.”

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La Crosse domestic violence experts share expertise with delegates from Kosovo

By Isuf Jahmurataj, Republic of Kosovo
December 30, 2016



Isuf Jahmurataj

Isuf Jahmurataj

I made a study visit to the United States last month thanks to the assessment and will of the U.S. Embassy to Kosovo, the U.S. Congress, **Open World Program**, World Services and the American Association of University Women chapter in La Crosse.

I was part of a six-member official delegation of the Republic of Kosovo comprised of judges, prosecutors, victim defenders and me, as a senior legal officer in the Ministry of Justice.

Our delegation visited Washington, D.C., and La Crosse — two very nice places.

In our contacts with professors, diplomats and judges, we were introduced to federalization, the judicial system in the United States and in what keeps the United States of America together. It was a very good organization of the **Open World**. We were lucky to visit the most beautiful places in Washington.

While watching through windows of the airplane, I was engulfed by a feeling of excitement for the visit that I would make to La Crosse, a place in which we would participate in training to

assist victims of domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking and compensation of victims. As soon as we arrived at the La Crosse Regional Airport, AAUW La Crosse members, who would be the hosts where we would stay during the training in La Crosse, were waiting for us.

We started to feel the hospitality right away with their faces and smiles. They were holding a board saying, "Welcome Kosovo."

During the stay in La Crosse to address the topic of victims of violence, gender-based violence, we had numerous discussions with a lot of officials from many competent officials and institutions such as judges, prosecutors, victim defenders, safe houses, hospitals, universities and the La Crosse Tribune.

I was deeply impressed by the treatment of victims with a high priority and in an organized way by competent institutions. A very important part was the aspect of treatment and provision of psychological, legal and social advice to victims by organizations and volunteers.

The visit made me learn that it is not important at all what is one's position, one's age or one's financial strength, but it is important to have a human soul because that is the only way you can do very good voluntary work to improve the life in the community and protect crime's victims.

I had a special impression about the volunteer work of AAUW La Crosse, which planned and implemented volunteer efforts in the community. That's why I have a high appreciation for AAUW and its members, because the feeling to help others is the highest level of social emancipation.

In addition to very good professional experiences, I cannot leave out the aspect of American hospitality, respect and way of life. I knew many of the U.S. values from the movies, but it was this visit that gave me the possibility to make my dream a reality and get acquainted with culture, tradition, hospitality and the warmth of the American state and people, particularly the ones of La Crosse.

No matter where we were, be it on the road, bars or shops, we received warmth, respect and friendly smiles all the time. The greatest impression I had was with the families where we stayed and who offered us the greatest warmth as if we were in our homes. Knowing people and colleagues in institutions that we visited was very important. It shows that now I have friends in Washington and La Crosse – and they have friends in Kosovo. That is very important for future cooperation in various fields.

The speed of the Mississippi River and its freshness brought to me the spiritual tranquility that made me enjoy and experience every moment in La Crosse.

I will always remember this visit as a success story, and it will remain my best experience in my life. All these experiences will have an impact on the quality of work I do in drafting legislation in the field of justice for my country, the Republic of Kosovo.

Increasing life quality in the world belongs to people. Therefore, we have to work and exchange experiences to increase democratic values for a better world, which is full of human values. People in the Republic of Kosovo have aligned themselves with the democratic world and are unified on high human and universal values that have been embraced by the democratic world.

Therefore, I hope and I want this exchange of experiences in La Crosse not to be the last one, but a good beginning to increase further social and universal values that are promoted by the democratic world.

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UNMC NEWSROOM

Russian scientists get warm Nebraska welcome

By John Keenan, UNMC Public Relations
December 6, 2016



In November, UNMC once again took part in the **Open World Program**, a federal program that strives to stimulate goodwill and collaboration between the people of Russia and the United States.

The visiting doctors were all research scientists in molecular diagnostics of HIV/AIDS, and/or resistant infections including staphylococcus and tuberculosis.

"We've found over the years that governments disagree a lot, but the people seem to be very good wherever they come from," said Mike Mendlick, M.D., a member of Friendship Force of Greater Omaha, which hosts the visiting scientists. "We have a people-to-people relationship that's fun."

Dr. Mendlick said that members of Friendship Force were proud to show off Nebraska and UNMC to the Russian visitors. That included meetings with Michael Dixon, Ph.D., of UNeMed,

Howard Gendelman, M.D., chair of the department of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience, and Courtney Fletcher, Pharm. D., dean of the College of Pharmacy; a tour of the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit with Mark Rupp, M.D., chief of the division of infectious diseases; an off-campus meeting with Adi Pour, Ph.D., director of the Douglas County Health Department; a tour of the governor's mansion; and many other activities.

Maksim Kupyushkin, Ph.D., one of the visiting scientists, said it was a pleasure to visit Omaha.

"I didn't know too much about Nebraska before," he said, adding that it was interesting to see how much effort the state government had put into creating a state-of-the-art campus in terms of both science and the physical buildings.

"It was great to observe the public-private partnership," added Alexander Khilkov, the facilitator for the Russian group. "The government provides the basis, and then private donors and manufacturers of the university play a significant role."

Dr. Kupyushkin was especially interested in UNeMed, the university's transfer technology office, something he has been trying to push through at his university in Russia, as well.

"I try to find financial support for our projects," he said. "Here's it the opposite story -- they go around the university and try to find investigators and help them to commercialize their investigations."

The Russian scientists were all "Nelson Fellows." In 2013, the board of trustees of the **Open World Leadership Center** voted to create a program of Sen. Ben Nelson Fellows to honor Sen. Nelson's contribution to **Open World** and to improving ties between the U.S. and countries of the former Soviet Union.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Albany-area Ukrainian Americans host delegation of Verkhovna Rada deputies

By Slavko Tysiak
July 8, 2016



Delegates at the meet-and-greet event at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club (from left): Alyona Shkrum, Viktoriya Ptashnyk, Krystyna Dobrovolska, Anna Romanova and Taras Pastukh.

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – This year, as we celebrate the 25th year of Ukraine’s renewed independence, the Ukrainian American community of the Albany, N.Y., area received a rare visit by four members of Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada, as part of a leadership program created by the U.S. Congress in 1999.

This was the first time four sitting members of the Verkhovna Rada visited the local Ukrainian American community in the Albany area.

The Ukrainian-American Cultural Center Inc., located in Watervliet, N.Y., a hub for the local Ukrainian American community, worked with the International Center of the Capital Region, the Albany-based not-for-profit federal grantee selected to develop and implement a professionally oriented foreign exchange program for the visiting delegation together with a network of local organizations to provide family hosting opportunities. The Ukrainian American Cultural Center

was asked to arrange home stays with local Ukrainian American families that would showcase U.S. values and further the delegates' exposure to democratic ideals.

Working diligently with little advance notice and during a busy time of the year for families with summer vacations starting and school ending, the Ukrainian-American Cultural Center, together with the International Center of the Capital Region, headed by Executive Director Diane Conroy-Lacivita, found host families for the four Verkhovna Rada elected-deputies plus their program tour guide and translator.

The four Verkhovna Rada deputies included: Viktoriia Y. Ptashnyk, member of the Samopomich party; Anna A. Romanova, also of Samopomich; Alyona I. Shkrum, a member of the Batkivshchyna party; and Taras T. Pastukh, a member of Samopomich.

Accompanying the four national deputies was Krystyna V. Dobrovolska, a U.S. Embassy-assigned government liaison and translator who escorted the delegates from Kyiv during their visits to Albany and Washington.

The five members of the visiting delegation stayed in the homes of: Mykola and Maria Fil, John and Nancy Uruskyj, Yaroslaw and Cynthia Tysiak, Gregg Sagor, and Dan and Mary Berry.

The delegates arrived in Washington on Sunday, June 19, for a one-week, whirlwind visit with members of the U.S. Congress followed by a visit to New York State's capital. They departed from Albany on Sunday, June 26, returning back to Ukraine.

The delegation arrived in Albany on the evening of Wednesday, June 22, to a warm welcome by their host families at the Albany International Airport. The next morning the delegation started extensive visits with state legislators, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, state agency officials, and other not-for-profit civic and advocacy leaders. The official visits arranged through the **Open World Leadership Center** in Washington went morning until evening on Thursday and Friday, June 23-24.

The Ukrainian-American Cultural Center hosted a dinner for the visiting delegation and host families on Friday evening, followed by a community meet-and-greet event at the Ukrainian-American Citizens Club, also located in Watervliet.

The Rada national deputies addressed the gathering by giving individual opening remarks, noting the warm welcome received and the surprise of finding so many Ukrainian Americans in the diaspora. They uniformly commented that this visit gave them one of the first opportunities they'd had to meet anyone from the diaspora. They were very much impressed by the diaspora's retention of Ukrainian language, culture and traditions, while creating a host of institutions to hold the community together.



Ukrainian community members with the visiting Ukrainian national deputies at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club in Watervliet, N.Y. Photo credit: Mykola Fil

The deputies commented on current conditions and challenges that face Ukraine. They explained how they held a number of discussions with congressional leaders to explain the need for the U.S. to change its policy and release more modern armaments to employ against the better equipped militants in eastern Ukraine. They said the congressmen with whom they spoke encouraged all in the community to contact their local congressional representatives to voice their support for equipping the Ukrainian army with up-to-date weaponry.

Community members in attendance were very much impressed by the energy and thoughtfulness displayed by these young and newly elected national deputies (all were elected in 2014), and for the love they have for a united Ukraine.

The national deputies said the Ukrainian American community's activities and resoluteness in support of Ukraine was an inspiration for them. They pledged to return home more determined than ever to reform and rebuild Ukraine.

On Sunday, June 26, the host families bid the entire delegation a fond farewell at Albany International Airport, wishing them safe travels back home and future success in their work in Ukraine.

The U.S. Congress established **Open World** in 1999 to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and Russia. In 2003, Congress made all post-Soviet states eligible for the program. **Open World** is managed by the **Open World Leadership Center**, a

separate entity within the U.S. legislative branch with offices at the Library of Congress that aims to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the people of the United States and the countries of Eastern Europe, Eurasia and the Baltic states, by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, first-hand exposure to democratic government, the free-market system and nongovernmental sector in the U.S.

Open World focuses both on assisting the Congress in its oversight responsibilities and on conducting exchanges that establish lasting relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of **Open World** countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions.

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