



OPEN WORLD
D
LEADERSHIP CENTER

Budget Justification for the

Fiscal Year 2019

Board of Trustees



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OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER

Budget Justification for Fiscal Year 2019

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Tab 1
FY2019 Budget Justification

Fiscal 2019 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 2017 enacted appropriation.

Resource Summary (Actual Dollars)

| Appropriation | Fiscal 2017 | | | | Fiscal 2018 | | Fiscal 2019 | | Fiscal 2017/2018 | |
|--|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| | Operating Plan | | Actual Obligations | | Operating Plan* | | Request | | Net Change | |
| | FTE | \$ | FTE | \$ | FTE | \$ | FTE | \$ | FTE | \$ |
| \$ 5,600,000 | 7.0 | 5,600,000 | 5.0 | 5,600,000 | 7.5 | 5,600,000 | 7.0 | 5,800,000 | 7.0 | 200,000 |
| Recovered Obligations | | 998,891 | | 1,278,396 | | 375,000 | | 465,000 | | |
| Revenue | | 80,000 | | 76,010 | | 65,000 | | 87,527 | | |
| Prior Year Carryover Funds | | 71,526 | | 71,526 | | 42,933 | | 61,573 | | |
| USAID/DOS - Serbia ¹ | | 0 | | 51,000 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| USAID - Ukraine ² | | 204,351 | | 204,351 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| USAID - Regional ³ | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Subtotal Avail Funds | | 6,954,768 | | 7,281,283 | | 6,082,933 | | 6,414,100 | | |
| 11.0 Personnel Salary | | 742,585 | | 814,861 | | 716,000 | | 630,000 | | |
| 12.0 Personnel Benefits | | 199,620 | | 233,936 | | 230,000 | | 189,000 | | |
| 21.1/22.1/23.1 Travel, Transp, Utilities | | 49,006 | | 48,858 | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | |
| 25.1 Other Services, Misc | | 9,891 | | 22,969 | | 15,000 | | 15,000 | | |
| 2515 Services, Other Agencies ⁴ | | 948,194 | | 1,143,300 | | 765,360 | | 870,000 | | |
| 2550 Contracts ⁵ | | 2,442,491 | | 2,506,643 | | 2,000,000 | | 2,165,000 | | |
| 2572/2583 Entertainment/Subsistence ⁶ | | 116,303 | | 229,922 | | 230,000 | | 230,000 | | |
| 26.1/31.0 Supplies, Equipment | | 6,986 | | 14,633 | | 15,000 | | 20,000 | | |
| 41.0 Grants | | 2,371,715 | | 2,229,353 | | 2,000,000 | | 2,180,000 | | |
| Subtotal Obligations | | 6,886,791 | | 7,244,475 | | 6,021,360 | | 6,349,000 | | |
| Total Funds Balance | | 67,977 | | 36,807 | | 61,573 | | 65,100 | | |

* This amount is the Center's fiscal 2017 enacted level.

¹ The US Embassy in Belgrade transferred funds directly to Open World for specific programs in 2017.

² There were no transfers for Ukraine in 2017: the amount shown is the unobligated trust fund balance from fiscal 2016. In 2017, the Center was notified that an interagency transfer of \$1.2 million for specific programs for Ukraine had been forwarded to the appropriate committee for Congressional approval. As of this date, the Center has not received any funds as a result of this and other notifications.

³ In 2017, the Center was notified that an interagency transfer of \$188,000 for Regional programs, \$77,000 for Moldova, and \$38,640 for Uzbekistan had been forwarded to the appropriate committee for Congressional approval. As of this date, the Center has not received any funds as a result of this notification.

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

⁵ Most of the requested increase is needed to cover part of an expected shortfall in the overall cost of operations. 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 order to save money, the Center purchases services for food and accommodation directly from the vendors. Under the logistical contract, these costs are subject to a 17% indirect charge.

Total Funds - All Sources

(Actual Dollars)

| | Fiscal 2017 Actual | | Fiscal 2018 Projected | | Fiscal 2019 Projected |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Appropriated Funds | 5,600,000 | | 5,600,000 | | 5,800,000 |
| Recovered Funds | 1,278,396 | * | 375,000 | | 465,000 |
| Revenue | 76,010 | | 65,000 | | 87,527 |
| Carry Over Funds | 71,526 | | 42,933 | | 61,573 |
| USAID - Serbia | 51,000 | | 0 | | 0 |
| USAID - Ukraine | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| USAID - Regional | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| Total Funds Available | 7,076,932 | | 6,082,933 | | 6,414,100 |
| <p>*The high level of recovered funds in fiscal 2017 reflects an interagency transfer late in fiscal 2016.</p> | | | | | |

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 program and the continued importance of the Center's 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 27,000 young global leaders to engage in and interact with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and thousands

¹ Current Open World countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Last year the Center renewed programs for Belarus, Moldova, and Uzbekistan and started a pilot program in Perú.

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 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 Center has brought rising leaders who have become influential in the national arena and within their communities. The Center has also built substantial expertise in conducting exchange programs tailored to support 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 their constituencies. Another powerful element of the program 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 within and among their communities with profound results.



Kazakh Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff meet Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07) in her Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C. prior to their travels to Birmingham, AL. (April 2017)

Program Objectives

The Open World Leadership Center is committed to a strategy designed to strengthen our work in support of 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. In addition, delegations of legislators at the national and local levels comprise a substantial portion of the total number of participants. Finally, 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 engage emerging leaders of strategically important countries.
- *Operate as a model, cost-effective, responsive agency:*
The Center is keenly aware of the importance of being an effective and efficient fiscal steward. In that capacity, interagency agreements, low overhead and responsible grant-making are hallmarks of the Center's high impact, low cost operations.

Measures of Success

Open World continues to focus its programming 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 every political region of Russia and Ukraine.
- More than 10,500 federal, regional, and local government officials have participated, including 354 members of parliament and 1,972 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.
- Since 2012, approximately 40% of all Open World delegates are age 30 and under.
- The average cost per participant of the Open World program is \$8,800-9,200, depending on the country, compared to approximately \$19,000 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 state capitals and other large cities, small towns, and rural communities throughout the United States.



Ukrainian parliamentary staff on the theme of Legislative Development were hosted by the Palmetto Council for International Visitors in Columbia, SC. (February 2017)



Local hosts in Sacramento, CA eagerly wait for a delegation of legislative staffers and health professionals from Ukraine. (February 2017)

The Open World Parliamentary Program in 2017

In developing its latest strategic plan, the Center's Board of Trustees emphasized the importance of parliamentary programs that link Members of Congress to their counterparts from Open World countries. A goal was then set that 15% of delegates would be parliamentarians, staff or regional legislators. We met that goal in 2017.

The interaction between our Parliamentarians and Members of Congress created opportunities for unfiltered dialogue of interest to both sides, including supplying lethal weapons, particularly anti-tank missiles, to Ukrainian forces. It also provided timely discussion of the political and economic conditions affecting these countries. Overall, 14 parliamentary delegations consisting of 82 participants from ten countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Perú, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan) traveled to the United States for home stays from Homer, Alaska to Atlanta, Georgia and 12 states in between. They stayed with American families, some at first reluctantly, but all in the end enthusiastically, so much so that parliamentary alumni tout to colleagues planning travel on Open World how they can only understand America, its people, and its values by staying with families.

These MP alumni also help in nominating colleagues, in guiding future themes for Open World programs, and in some instances supporting critical U.S. initiatives. One other result lies in opening the dialogue, and seeing the perceptions and positions directly from both sides. We will continue this productive program in 2018 and 2019.



Members of Parliament from Uzbekistan visit Mississippi's State House in Jackson, MS. (November 2017)

Calendar Year 2017 Highlights & 2018 Plans

Overview

In 2017, the Open World Leadership Center hosted a total of **858** 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 of unvarnished information for Members of Congress and their constituencies throughout the United States. Our three signature 10-day exchanges – Members of Parliament, Judicial Rule of Law, and Civic Programs – have resulted in the creation of a vital network of more than 27,000 emerging leaders that have had first-hand, peer-to-peer exposure to the United States. With assistance from the Department of State and USAID, the Center hopes to bring nearly 900 emerging leaders to communities throughout the United States in 2018. Country highlights from 2017 follow the chart below.

Participation by Country

| | Through 12/31/2017 | 2017 Completed | 2018 Scheduled | Fiscal 2019 Projected |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Armenia | 107 | 25 | 6 | 6 |
| Azerbaijan | 284 | 20 | 12 | 12 |
| Belarus | 24 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| <i>Egypt</i> | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estonia | 20 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Georgia | 635 | 63 | 24 | 24 |
| Kazakhstan | 471 | 44 | 18 | 18 |
| Kosovo | 134 | 30 | 12 | 12 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 481 | 44 | 18 | 18 |
| <i>Lithuania</i> | 104 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 442 | 13 | 6 | 6 |
| Mongolia | 85 | 28 | 12 | 12 |
| Russia | 19,473 | 224 | 216 | 216 |
| Serbia | 457 | 42 | 24 | 24 |
| Tajikistan | 499 | 39 | 18 | 18 |
| <i>Turkey</i> | 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Turkmenistan | 196 | 13 | 6 | 6 |
| Ukraine | 3,394 | 239 | 306 | 306 |
| Uzbekistan | 128 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Other programs | 41 | 10 | 26 | 26 ¹ |
| | 27,084 | 858 | 726 | 726 ² |

¹ Other programs include the Rumsfeld Foundation Fellows from most Open World countries; House Democracy Partnership delegations; and special requests from Members of Congress.

² This number is the most that can be hosted with appropriated funds only (including recovered funds, revenue, and other offsets). The number will grow if USAID funds are transferred later this year.

* Countries in *italics* are inactive.

Russia

From 1999 to 2017, Open World hosted more than 19,400 young Russian leaders. In calendar year 2017, the Center hosted 224 Russian participants in 35 exchanges. Delegates came from 53 of Russia's 83 regions, included a wide range of ethnic groups, and were hosted in 30 host communities in 24 U.S. states. Women made up 61 percent of the delegates.



A delegation from Russia meets Rep. Mark Meadows (NC-11) to discuss issues concerning Finno-Ugric Indigenous Peoples in his Capitol Hill office prior to traveling to Hendersonville, NC. (October 2017)

Open World is one of the few remaining U.S. exchange programs in Russia, and the only one operating with such engaged alumni and partners throughout the country. The Center's objectives are to have participants return to Russia with a more positive view of America, to add to their professional skills through direct contact with their American counterparts, and to counter the Russian information war by providing an objective view of the American people and our society. Its work is important to the U.S. Mission as it continues to forge professional links between the rising young leaders of Russia and their counterparts in the U.S. The Open World program is uniquely positioned to expose emerging Russian leaders in civil society to the American system and their American counterparts, strengthening relationships, building partnerships and dispelling stereotypes spread by Russian media.

Open World alumni have proved to be a strong asset and partner to the U.S. Embassy and Consulates throughout the country, with over 19,400 alumni spread among all regions of the

country and a roster of some 70 dependable Open World facilitators covering about 20 regions. Former U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2014-2017), and to Georgia (2005-2009) and Ukraine (2009-2013), John Tefft indicated that he had personally seen firsthand how Open World alumni play a critical role in helping improve ties between our countries. We are excited to provide newly appointed Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman our insight as to the country and where accessible and open-minded Russians would be located.



The Tooele Sister City Committee in Utah hosted a Russian delegation of mental health professionals traveling on the theme focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder. (September 2017)

One unique strength and asset to our mission is the position of the Open World Leadership Center in the legislative branch. For example, in April 2017, we were able to send several high level Russian Middle East experts on an Open World program to meet with their U.S. counterparts. As a result, they developed a stronger understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is made, and established a strong network for future efforts. These were the top experts in their field who regularly engage with policy-makers and academics at the highest levels and who would not have participated in any other U.S. government program. The Center's placement in the legislative branch, where it is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting primarily of Members of Congress, provides a level of comfort for our delegates who otherwise would not elect to travel on a program administered by the executive branch.

The Center's 2017 Russia program emphasized such themes as media, women's issues, sister city/partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation, civic education, the environment, agriculture, education and civil rights. 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.

To highlight some programmatic results:

- The Deputy Editor of the Echo Severa (Echo of the North) newspaper, wrote an article, “What Unites Firemen of Russia and America?” During his Open World program in Portland, Maine, the author and his delegation visited the Westbrook Fire Department and learned about American first responders from the Fire Chief, who also told the delegation about his visit to Arkhangelsk as part of a Portland-Arkhangelsk Sister Cities Exchange. The alumnus indicated that fire departments in Portland and Arkhangelsk have more things in common than differences. The atmosphere of family and brotherhood is very strong in both places. “Although we are separated by thousands of miles, fires burn equally...And when the alarm sounds, in Arkhangelsk and in Portland, firefighters leave the call immediately, without any excuses” explains the alumnus, who also indicated that both sides learned a lot from each other, particularly about tactics and strategy during firefighting.
- One alumna and her colleagues at the Institute of Distance Learning Education, National Research Tomsk University, launched a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) about the principals of evolution and ecology. Additionally, their research paper, *MOOC Quality Evaluation System: Tomsk State University Experience* was published by Springer, a leading scientific, technical and medical publisher. This result was generated from the alumna’s program in Boise, Idaho. This initiative and the contacts were shared by Boise State University during a program highlighting technology, entrepreneurship and distant learning.
- Another alumna spent the 2016-2017 academic year at Bluefield State College (BSC) in Bluefield, WV teaching chemistry and biotechnology as a Fulbright Scholar in Residence. She learned about the Fulbright Scholar program during her Open World program on the environment and energy efficiency from her local host coordinator. During the Fulbright scholar year, this alumna visited local high schools, where she spoke about her work in biology and her home country of Russia.
- An Open World delegation from Russia visited the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) under Open World’s Senator Ben Nelson Fellow’s Program created to honor the Senator’s contribution to Open World and to improve ties between the United States and Russia. The delegation consisted of researchers who work on mosquito and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and Zika. During their visit to Nebraska they met with many experts, including the interim associate vice chancellor for global student support at UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, who said “What I've learned from meeting with this very talented group of people is that we're working on similar problems, so it makes a lot of sense for us to work together. They want to work with us, and it's a real opportunity for us to expand our reach and connections around the world. We're talking about opportunities for some students from the U.S. to go work with our collaborators in Russia around the same kind of problems we're working on here.”

- One of the Russian Middle East experts who participated in Open World in April 2017 published an analysis with the Middle East Institute on Russia's involvement in the Libya conflict. The expert wrote on Facebook that publishing the article was a "result of the recent trip to DC and a milestone in my career." During the Open World program in Washington, DC, this delegate visited numerous high level think tanks and policy makers. In a joint statement the delegation had this to say about their Open World program: "Open World appealed to the members of our delegation by being nonpartisan, politically neutral, and outside of executive branch politics. The program fosters a free, open, deep and meaningful exchange of ideas between peers."

Despite obstacles such as the current low point in U.S.-Russia relations and the drawdown of U.S Mission staff in Russia, Open World has managed to maintain robust programming in Russia 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

Open World's 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 and while it faces aggression in its South and East. 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 2017, 40 U.S. communities in 30 states hosted Ukrainian delegations, providing 239 emerging leaders from Ukraine with broad exposure to American democratic and free-market institutions. As part of these 40 programs, ten were aimed to not only assist Ukraine during these trying times, but also to further existing partnerships to support long-term sustainability. Open World's 2017 programming included Ukrainians from all of Ukraine's current 25 regions (not counting the two regions in Crimea). Their U.S. programs provided them with great insight into 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. Thematic programs were held in the areas of: legislative processes and serving the public, decentralization, anti-corruption, support services for those affected by the war (including strategies for treatment of PTSD and policies for IDPs), the development of accurate and strong investigative journalism (in part, to counter the information war waged by Russia), support for civil society organizations, and reform initiatives in education, health and social infrastructure for those less fortunate (including such issues as combatting trafficking, inclusion of handicapped, and the expansion of civil rights).

Much of Open World's Ukraine program was aimed at providing Ukraine the tools it needs for self-governance, democratization, decentralization and to continue with progressive development aimed at eliminating corruption while it counters Russian aggression and use of disinformation and propaganda. To be responsive to the current needs in Ukraine, Open World's exchange programs have been expanded in areas that: focus 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, further the development of a robust and pro-active civil society with the tools and skills needed to serve stakeholders and improve the lives of those they serve. Open World also works assiduously to assist our Ukrainian partners to handle the hardships caused by the aggression to the East and South (such as servicing those with battlefield injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder and helping with programs aimed at providing support for internally displaced persons).



An all-women delegation from Ukraine, focusing on Issues of Internally Displaced Persons, meet with the Mayor and City Council of Akron, OH (March 2017)

Through our 3,400 alumni, the Open World Leadership Center plays an important role for the U.S. Mission in Ukraine's development efforts. Our network of rising star alumni in key government agencies and throughout the private sector has helped move forward the reforms that the Ukrainian people, its government, its partners and international donors/investors seek. For example, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Youth and Sports at a Peace Corps swearing in ceremony expressed his effusive thanks for Open World's programming focusing on youth development in Ukraine. Ukraine's Minister of Health Dr. Uliana Suprun has been a regular nominator for Open World, and selects much of her top staff from Open World alumni, including three of her Deputy Ministers. Dr. Surpun has praised the Center's efforts to address the growing issue of PTSD, among its other contributions to Ukraine. She also is eager to work with Open World to train a cadre of professionals that are ready to implement the recent sweeping legislative changes to Ukraine's healthcare system.

Other illustrative Ukrainian alumni include:

- Two members of the Cabinet of Ministers. 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.
- Currently, thirteen members of the Parliament are Open World alumni and several are among the leadership. This includes:
 - the Chair of the Subcommittee on National Security and Defense Spending
 - the Chair of the Subcommittee on Cooperation between Ukraine and European Union members
 - the Chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Service in Local Government
 - the Chair 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 alumni also serve as key staff members (some 100 Parliamentary staffers and advisors are Open World alumni), including the Special Adviser on Foreign affairs to the Speaker. These dedicated alumni are eager to work with Open World to expand this element of programing.

Illustrative program results include:

An Open World host from Omaha, NE, traveled with several of his professional colleagues to Ukraine in the fall of 2017 at the invitation of an Open World Alumna who works for the NGO "Ukraine Without Orphans" to conduct trainings on child and family services in Kyiv and Kherson. Another Open World alumnus, who is now the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights, also helped to organize a roundtable discussion with the American delegation. Representatives from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, and the U.S. Consulate in Ukraine attended the roundtable which is highlighted at <https://www.facebook.com/up.z.prav.dytyny/posts/1277641249007657>.

Five Open World alumni were included in the list of Top 20 Most Innovative Mayors in Ukraine. The project was organized by *Ukrainskaya Pravda* newspaper and the list was announced at an International Mayors Summit in Kyiv in late November 2017. Both a professional jury and ordinary Ukrainians nominated mayors that were introducing innovations in their cities. The professional jury than chose the top 20 mayors out of 400 applications that were received based on innovations in all areas of city residents' life, urban planning, public services, cultural centers, healthcare, environment, safety and security, communication, entrepreneurship, startup ecosystem, and city brand. The jury then selected the top five finalists, based on transparency, impartiality, honesty, and reputation among city residents. Two of Open World alumni were named in the top five.



Delegates from Ukraine visit the State House in Louisville, KY while participating on a program focusing on Combatting Human Trafficking (March 2017)

Finally, in the business and partnership field, one Open World alumnus returned to Birmingham in 2017 with a delegation led by the Mayor of Vinnitsa to launch an innovative mobile platform for peer to peer car sharing with his new partner from Birmingham. During this visit, Open World's alumnus registered this company in the United States and it can be found at www.sizecar.com.

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 a 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. Open World is well-positioned in 2018 and 2019 to help Ukraine make real gains as it matures as a nation and prepares to face the challenges of corruption and transparent development.

Remaining Open World Countries

Armenia

From 2011 through 2017, the Center hosted 107 delegates from Armenia on themes such as women in politics, elections, civic and judicial rule of law, and urban development. Many young Armenian leaders have been introduced to their American counterparts and observed firsthand the power of civic engagement and accountable governance.

The Center's rule of law program for judges has been a highlight:

- In 2017, Armenia's Chamber of Advocates developed a ranking system for judges based on scores given by lawyers who argued in a particular judge's courtroom. One Open World alumnus was ranked #2 out of 230 total judges scored. Of the 16 Armenian judges who have participated in the Open World program since 2014, six were ranked in the top 20.
- U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge Mark Hornsby commented on the benefit to the local community of having Armenian Judges visit: "The host judges, host families, and members of the local bar were all beneficiaries of the Armenian Judges' visit. The Chief Judge made a detailed presentation to the members of the Shreveport Bar Association regarding the legal system, history, and culture of the Republic of Armenia. Throughout their visit the delegates met with local legal, judicial, and civic leaders during which the delegates shared their laws, policies, and procedures, and discussed the differences between the Armenian and American governments and law. We all benefit when we learn about different ways of accomplishing the same societal goals."

As Armenia holds a national dialogue about legal reform, Armenian judges had the opportunity to observe local juvenile courts, jury trials, and discuss the difference and overlap between the state and federal court systems, all of which are under discussion but not yet implemented in the Armenian system.



An Armenian judicial delegation meets Judge Jeff R. Thompson and staff of the 26th Judicial District Court for Bassier and Webster Parishes outside of Shreveport, LA. (April 2017).

Azerbaijan

From 2007 through 2017, the Center hosted 284 delegates from Azerbaijan. This year we will host 12. These two delegations will focus on Disability Advocacy and Reform and Cyber-Intellectual Property Rights. Delegates from Azerbaijan benefit immensely from participating in Open World. For example, Open World is working to promote women’s equality and their increased role in society by creating opportunities for women as they face numerous social barriers in that country. We are also recognizing those that are underserved and underrepresented by providing programming that includes the disabled, refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons.

An Open World host of September 2017 Azerbaijani delegation focusing on combatting domestic violence described a picture that she submitted as follows: “Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Kansas, Suzanne Valdez, shaking hands with Azerbaijani attorney Rovshana Rahimova. Now Rovshana, an attorney who defends victims of domestic violence in Azerbaijan and has played an important role in drafting legislation that is now in place, can return to her country with information, resources, and support that will continue to improve the lives of victims in Azerbaijan.” This Open World host (the Lenexa/Overland Park, KS Rotary Club) is now working with the Tamas Shelter for victims of domestic violence to continue to assist in the battle against domestic violence in Azerbaijan.



STEM professionals from Azerbaijan meet State Senator Eric Kock at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis, IN. Delegates were hosted by Bedford Rotary Club of Bedford, IN. (March 2017)

Belarus

From 1999 through 2017, the Center hosted 24 delegates from Belarus. After not hosting delegates from Belarus since 2004, the Center welcomed two delegations in 2017, one focused on ophthalmology and rehabilitation, and the other on intellectual property rights.

The ophthalmology and rehabilitation delegation was made up of both doctors and rehabilitation practitioners, including the Head of the Medical Expertise and Rehabilitation Department at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus. This official, upon her return to Minsk, was eager to share and apply the knowledge gained to develop improvements to the Belarus national rehabilitation system. This delegate also is working with her American counterparts to create a pilot system of outpatient rehabilitation services in Belarus for severely ill and/or bed-ridden patients. This system would be based upon the American approach of individualized services and volunteer engagement that she experienced in Salt Lake City on the Open World program.

Another highlight of the professional program included a visit to the Moran Eye Center, where delegates were impressed by the quality of equipment and facilities as well as the professional approach to research and care. As a result of this visit, one of the Belarussian doctors plans to return to the Center for an extended training program, and another has invited American researchers to participate in a conference in Belarus.

Exemplifying the success of this program, those who interacted with the Belarus Intellectual Property Rights delegation remarked on their professionalism and dedication to the subject and its enforcement. A meeting with the Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section resulted in an important discussion about international enforcement and key areas of cooperation to preserve evidence and prevent intellectual property crimes. In addition to an exemplary program that allowed the Belarus delegation to discuss important enforcement and other issues surrounding new and emerging technologies, the cultural program and home stay experience gave the participants a greater understanding and appreciation for "real" America.



Intellectual Property Rights professionals from Belarus walk to congressional meetings prior to their departure for New Haven, CT hosted by Rotary of New Haven. (October 2017)

Estonia

From 2013 through 2017, the Center hosted 20 delegates from the Estonian judiciary. This year Open World's program for Estonia will feature a delegation of four judicial professionals that will be hosted by a representative of the U.S. federal judiciary identified in cooperation with the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Judicial Training Department of the Supreme Court of Estonia supports 90% of the cost of the program. To date, Federal district judges in Nevada, Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, and Mississippi have hosted their Estonian counterparts.

Estonia's 2017 judicial delegation reported that "Our visit provided participants with ideas concerning what is better in the U.S. legal system. At the same time it provided insight into what is already good in our system and should not be changed."



Estonian judges meet a group of magistrate and bankruptcy judges in Jackson, MS. (April 2017)

Georgia

From 2007 through 2017, the Center hosted 635 delegates from Georgia. This year we will host 24, including one delegation of Parliamentarians and one of Parliamentary Staffers, one delegation of judges, and one delegation working to make the Abkhas Enguri Dam an economically successful project. Open World has a robust record in Georgia: alumni have risen to leadership positions such as Deputy Chief of Mission of their Embassy 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.

Open World’s 2017 Georgia program provided emerging leaders of that country with extensive exposure to the United States and the best practices of colleagues sharing similar careers and interests. Open World hosted Members of Parliament (two groups), local legislators, entrepreneurs, environmentalists and those working to develop sustainable tourism, media professionals working to combat fake news, two groups of judges (one that was hosted in Oklahoma and one in the D.C. metropolitan area), and museum curators. This last delegation featured professional development on a project that produced an historic Edward Curtis exhibit available throughout the Republic in collaboration with the Library of Congress. The U.S. Ambassador to Georgia Ian Kelly stated, “Embassy Tbilisi’s cooperation with the Library of Congress began with the Open World exchange program for members of parliament and civil society leaders. Through this partnership, we were able to send Georgian museum experts to the United States for training in June, and bring this incredible collection of artwork to Georgia.” Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden indicated that “It is our honor to be partners with the Open World Leadership Center and the U.S. Embassy Tbilisi in presenting the wonderful work of Edward Curtis.”



Georgian entrepreneurs visit the Cherokee Office of Economic Development in Woodstock, GA to look at entrepreneurship initiatives. (March 2017)

One of the two groups of Judges that came in late 2017 was hosted in Baltimore-D.C.-Northern Virginia area by federal district judges Richard Bennett and Anthony Trenga, while the second was hosted in Oklahoma City by federal magistrate judge Suzanne Mitchell and the judiciary of Oklahoma City, a city in which Open World's judicial program has been particularly successful. A highlight of this program was a host recognition ceremony attended by Senator James Lankford (R-OK), who then spent considerable time with the visiting Georgian judges to better understand their challenges. A highlight of the D.C. area judge program was a joint dinner that the judges had with a delegation of Ukrainian Members of Parliament who were very pleased to learn about their fight against corruption from the Georgian judges.



Members of the Georgian Parliament attend a town hall held by Rep. David Price in Raleigh, NC. (March 2017)

Exemplifying our 2018 planning is a project that will be fielded in cooperation with USAID as part of the effort to help the Georgians develop the Enguri Dam. This project furthers U.S. policy by strengthening Georgia's energy security and economic development and by encouraging economic engagement with Georgia's occupied territories. The program will help to develop the technical expertise of Enguri personnel by exposing them to the best modern practices of large scale hydro power plants in the United States. It will also encourage the development of a tourism facility at Enguri similar to the Hoover Dam. Furthermore, it will set a precedent for cooperation that can lead to additional energy-related engagement in Abkhazia by the United States and the international community.



A delegation of Georgian judges celebrate the end of their program at a host recognition ceremony at Oklahoma City University with Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell (back, green dress) and Senator James Lankford (OK) (center) on Friday October 27, 2017.

Kazakhstan

From 2008 through 2017, the Center hosted 471 delegates from Kazakhstan. This year we will host 18 delegates focused on the themes of parliamentarians, support for small and medium enterprises, and prison reform. Open World has introduced many young Kazakh leaders to their professional counterparts in scientific, legislative, academic, and innovative industries to facilitate the development of cross-cultural communication, citizen diplomacy, and economic development. Illustrative of this is the strong sister city relationship between the Kazakh city of Pavlodar and Mauston, WI with a wide range of entrepreneurial follow-up projects and privately funded reverse travel.



Members of the Parliament of Kazakhstan on the floor of the Alabama House in Montgomery. (April 2017)

Highlights from 2017 programming include:

- One alumna from the Asian Credit Fund (ACF), a delegate in an Open World Women Entrepreneurs program, created a Business Academy for ACF clients following her return to Kazakhstan. The Business Academy has trained more than 200 rural households from 56 villages of Kazakhstan on “How to start your own business.” Training was conducted by professional trainers of ACF, along with local successful practitioners. The combination of theory and practice the alumna brought back from her Open World experience helped the rural population to gain valuable knowledge and practical advice on vegetable and livestock production. ACF currently plans to expand its list of training courses with such business ideas as poultry-breeding and dairy production, to opening a small bakery, introducing veterinary services, and organizing a club of ACF clients.
- A delegate said that the Open World program changed her attitude towards the U.S. and American people. She admitted that at in the beginning she was skeptical about why the U.S. government would fund such a program, but she was tremendously impressed with the openness and willingness of the American people to help and serve as volunteers to solve community problems.
- After participating in a program on school-based drug prevention programs and observing the significant role played by NGOs in the U.S., the Deputy Director of the Department of Education for the capital city of Astana was so impressed that she proposed a separate funding stream for NGOs working with kids for the 2018 budget. This proposal is currently being considered by the city budget committee.

Kosovo

From 2014 through 2017, the Center hosted 134 delegates from Kosovo. This year we will host 12 delegates, focusing on Preventing/Combating Corruption and Agricultural Subsidies.

While participating on the Open World Program, delegates from Kosovo were able to meet with Members of Congress who have had and continue to have an active role in supporting the establishment of creating and developing Kosovo. These members include Sen. Joni Ernst (IA) and Rep. Eliot Engel (NY).



Delegates from Kosovo, focusing on Improving Election Processes and Election Management, meet with Iowa Senator Joni Ernst before traveling to Des Moines. (February 2017)

Open World’s successful hosting of our colleagues from Kosovo can be exemplified by the new life the program continues to bring to the Iowa-Kosovo sister state partnership, featuring close ties between the state’s and the country’s national guards. A recent reciprocal visit by members of the Iowa Sister State Committee involved talks with the Ministry of Education to organize a structured community college in Kosovo that would offer education on healthcare, welding, and auto-mechanics.

Kyrgyzstan

From 2007 through 2017, the Center hosted 481 delegates from Kyrgyzstan. This year we will host three programs, including Tourism Destination Management, Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staff focusing on the Budget Process, and Judges focusing on Judicial Practices and Procedures for International Adoptions.

Members of Parliament from Kyrgyzstan participate in Open World to meet with their American counterparts and to witness accountable governance and transparency first hand. The tourism program helps our delegates to enhance the tourism sector in Kyrgyzstan by focusing on aspects of tourism development and destination management.

The Center also continues to focus on young entrepreneurs. Using the knowledge gained during their Open World experience, three Open World alumni created “Launch Yourself”, a project to attract more successful businessmen and share experiences with young and active leaders. The “Launch Yourself” program matches successful entrepreneurs who share their knowledge with the participants of the program. In the first month of the program, the training sessions were conducted by the founder of the program and a trainer both of whom are Open World alumni.

Each of the speakers shared invaluable knowledge and experience with the project participants. All participants had an opportunity to ask questions.



Young Entrepreneurs from Kyrgyzstan learn about the workings of the Rocky Reach Dam during their program in Wenatchee, WA. (April 2017)

The program's third session was led by a coach of positive thinking and motivation, who is a graduate of American University in Central Asia and a successful hotelier and restaurateur. During her presentation on "The Magic Keys of Your Future," this Open World alumna talked about the importance of positive thinking and of drawing up a wish list, shared examples from her life and advised attendees on useful literature to read. In the afternoon, the participants met with a young businessman, an Open World alumnus, who shared how he started his business, his successful and unsuccessful projects, and his new plans and ideas.



Members of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan meet with Rep. John Moolenaar (MI). (February 2017)

Moldova

From 2007 through 2017, the Center hosted 442 delegates from Moldova. This year we will host 6 delegates that are pharmacy school administrators and professors. After not hosting programs for Moldova in 2016 due to limited funds, we resumed programming in 2017 at the request of the U.S. Embassy's newly arrived officers who were impressed by the breadth and quality of Open World alumni throughout the country. Program themes in 2017 focused on ophthalmology and rehabilitation, and intellectual property rights.



Educators from Moldova traveled to Raleigh, NC to visit schools and to explore education partnerships. (September 2017)

Programming highlights include:

- The current Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament is an Open World alumnus.
- One delegate wrote: “Inspired by my Open World visit, I decided to launch the "Closer to European Union" Project, which aims to create a series of shows on my local TV station - ALBASAT from Nisporeni to promote closer relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. The project explains to Moldovan viewers what it means to become an EU member and what impact it will have on the social, economic, and cultural development of our country. I will also tackle the issue of benefits of EU integration and the responsibilities resulting from it. My project will play an important role in the process of signing and implementing the EU-Moldova association agreement and thus, contributing to a more democratic and open minded Moldova.”
- In cooperation with the North Carolina-Moldova Bilateral Partnership and the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office, in 2017 Open World hosted a delegation of Moldovan teachers who were participating in the North Carolina-Moldova Service

Learning School Partnership Project, which is a classroom to classroom initiative. As a result of the program, more North Carolina school classrooms will be linked with Moldovan classrooms. The Moldovan teachers who participated are actively sharing their experience and knowledge gained through workshops for teachers and school counselors around the country.

Mongolia

From 2011 through 2017, the Center hosted 85 delegates from Mongolia. This year we will host 12 judges from Mongolia. Open World's rule of law program is a cost-share partnership with the Judicial General Council of Mongolia, which supports 60% of the cost.

Highlights from programming in Mongolia:

- Mongolian judges have been most impressed by the transparency and openness of U.S. courts. As a result of Open World's rule of law programs with Mongolian judges, court decisions in Mongolia have become public and accessible and the courts now offer more ways for the public to observe and reply to video records of trials.
- Mongolian MPs who visited Homer, Alaska discussed constituent relations and local governance with their hosts to identify similarities and areas of potential improvement for their own constituents. One delegate learned of the High Tunnel System used in agriculture that could be very beneficial for local farmers in his region. Others noted the system of including highway taxes in the cost of gasoline and the proportionality of taxes paid to highway use as something they wanted to implement back home.



Members of Parliament from Mongolia meet with Senator Martin Heinrich (NM) in Washington, D.C. (March 2017)

Peru

In 2017 the Center brought its first delegation from Peru. This program was initiated due to Peru's membership in the House Democracy Partnership. This pilot program included bringing a delegation of five members of the Peruvian Congress and was met with great interest and involvement of U.S. Members of Congress. As a result of the pilot program's success, we will bring another delegation of Members of the Peruvian Congress in 2018.

The facilitator for the 2017 delegation commented that, "The most significant lesson Open World delegates learned during their experience was the importance of elected officials knowing their electorate. From their Open World experience, delegates have new ideas on how to improve communication and respond to constituents which was highly useful."



Members of Congress from Peru meet with Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (NE), (center,) and Chairman Kevin Yoder (KS), (far right), before their trip to Austin, TX. (July 2017)

Serbia

From 2012 through 2017, the Center hosted 457 delegates from Serbia. This year we will host 24. Programming in 2018 for Serbia includes Higher Education Reform, English Access Program, one delegation of Members of Parliament, and a delegation of six judges and law enforcement officials that will participate in programming to further the Serbian judicial initiative to aid in the application and enforcement of newly adopted legislation on combating domestic violence.

As a follow-up to the Open World program for Judges conducted in order to assist Serbian judges implement the new Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, one judge alumna organized a panel discussion to disseminate the information that the delegation had learned during their Open World program. The judge is a member of the Working Group for the Updated

Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. The law was adopted by the National Parliament in September 2016, and came into being in June 2017.

Inspired by her U.S. experience, the judge gathered together a first responder team, where each member explained their area of activity and legal tools to help the victims, with a special attention being paid to updates in the new law. Starting with an NGO sector representative, through police and social services, the panelists gave an introduction on the general forms of domestic violence, how it develops and escalates, and what are the mechanisms to react to it as a victim or as a citizen witnessing it. They explained how the system is helping the victims and their families. The panel continued with presentations by the public prosecutor and a judge, who described where significant changes will take place that provide better protection to the victims.



Delegates from Serbia meet with Governor of Arkansas Asa Hutchinson during their program in Little Rock. The delegation was focusing on Food Security and Food Safety (May 2017)

Tajikistan

From 2011 through 2017, the Center hosted 499 delegates from Tajikistan. This year we will host 18, including parliamentarians, and delegations focusing on entrepreneurship and small business development, and NGO development. In June 2017, Open World received a letter from U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan, Elizabeth Millard, expressing her support for Open World programs and pointing out some of the highlights she had witness with Open World alumni.

Highlights from programming in Tajikistan:

- While traveling in southern Tajikistan, Ambassador Millard met a young Open World alumna who recently participated in a Women Entrepreneurship program and is now the

owner of a Feed the Future women's sewing training center. She is paying her Open World experience forward by partnering with the National Association of Business Women in Tajikistan to empower more women to start their own business.

- Ambassador Millard also had high praise for a delegation of Members of Parliament. He met with the group before they travelled to the U.S. and mentioned that they were timid and skeptical. However, having met with the group after the program, Ambassador Millard noted that the group was transformed by their Open World experience and eager to engage and train youth in legislative affairs.



Delegates from Tajikistan, a predominantly Muslim country, working to combat violent extremism meet with the first U.S. legislator from Somali, Ilhan Omar, at the Minnesota state legislature. (March 2017)

Turkmenistan

From 2008 through 2017, the Center hosted 196 delegates from Turkmenistan. This year discussions are underway to host 6 participants through a cost-share with the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat. The program will focus on building the sister city relationship with Albuquerque and Ashgabat through the arts.

Highlights from programming in Turkmenistan:

- In 2017, the Albuquerque-Ashgabat Sister City Committee hosted a delegation of women entrepreneurs. One of the delegates had recently started her own textile and interior decorating business in Turkmenistan and mentioned that the opportunity to discuss best practices and ideas with her American counterparts was very useful for her business.

Additionally, the Americans were very interested in her designs and they are in discussion to collaborate on future projects.

- As a result of Open World programs, the Central New Mexico Community College is working to set up a faculty and student exchange with universities in Ashgabat. One professor has already travelled to Turkmenistan as a guest lecturer.



Entrepreneurs from Turkmenistan meet Mayor Richard J. Berry in Albuquerque, NM. (March 2017)

Uzbekistan

From 2003 through 2017, the Center hosted 128 delegates from Uzbekistan. This year we plan to host six, a delegation of parliamentarians. Open World had not hosted Uzbek delegates since 2012, however, with support from the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, and thanks to a newfound openness and reform efforts by President Mirziyoyev, the Center was able to host members of the Senate and Legislative Chambers in 2017.

Open World's 2017 Uzbekistan program featured a delegation of impressive members of that country's parliament, including the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Economic Relations, Investments and Tourism, who many believe is next in line to become Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During their time in Washington, DC, the MPs were able to give Members of Congress firsthand actionable information about key developments in Uzbekistan over the past year since the death of longtime ruler Islam Karimov and the election of new President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Furthermore, the program coincided with the terrible terrorist attack in New York City, which was perpetrated by an Uzbek citizen. The delegation was able to speak with people about the incident, share condolences and discuss common misunderstanding about Uzbek life.

Under President Mirziyoyev, the Parliament of Uzbekistan has been called upon to take on more responsibility. For the younger MPs in the delegation, the chance to see how Members of the U.S. Congress interact with their constituencies, how the system of checks and balances works, and how federalism and decentralization serves the people more directly was an invaluable experience. This was enhanced by a visit to Uzbekistan's Sister State, Jackson, Mississippi, where the delegation observed local elections and government accountability on the state and local level.

Uzbekistan's Parliament is also in the process of setting up an independent research institute to serve the Parliament. A visit with representatives of the U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) included a broad discussion on the structure and ways CRS serves Congress that resulted in several key points the delegates will implement. Additionally, the two sides agreed to work together next year on further developing the Uzbek research service, with a potential visit by CRS staff.

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request

The Open World Leadership Center’s Budget Request of \$5.8 million for fiscal year 2019 is an increase of \$200,000 (3.6 percent) over fiscal year 2017 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 maintaining 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 2019 at the request level remains far below the limit of 3,000 set in the Center’s authorizing legislation.

| Total Funds Available - All Sources | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| (Actual Dollars) | | | | | |
| | Fiscal 2017 Actual | | Fiscal 2018 Projected | | Fiscal 2019 Projected |
| Appropriated Funds | 5,600,000 | | 5,600,000 | | 5,800,000 |
| Recovered Funds | 1,278,396 | * | 375,000 | | 465,000 |
| Revenue | 76,010 | | 65,000 | | 87,527 |
| Carry Over Funds | 71,526 | | 42,933 | | 61,573 |
| USAID - Serbia | 51,000 | | 0 | | 0 |
| USAID - Ukraine | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| USAID - Regional | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| Total Funds Available | 7,076,932 | | 6,082,933 | | 6,414,100 |
| *The high level of recovered funds in fiscal 2017 reflects an interagency transfer late in fiscal 2016. | | | | | |

The budget request maintains hosting and other programmatic activities at a level of approximately 725-800 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 | \$ | 819,000 | (split: part prog/part admin costs) |
| Contracts, interagency agreements | \$ | 3,035,000 | (100% program) |
| Grants/Other direct program costs | \$ | 2,419,900 | (100% program) |
| Administrative/Office costs | \$ | 75,100 | (100% administrative) |
| | \$ | 6,349,000² | |

Currently the Center staff includes:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Executive Director | EX |
| Congressional Relations Specialist | GS-14 |
| Senior Program Manager | GS-14 |
| Program Manager | GS-13 |
| Public Affairs Assistant | GS-07 |
| Program Assistant | GS-07 (possibly two depending on workload) |

Projected 2018/2019 FTE: 6.5/6.5

Since the Center began working with our U.S. Embassies directly in 11 countries, this is the minimum program staff level required to manage 725-800 participants in a program year. Each Program Manager handles between five and seven grantees and between 325 and 400 participants. The program assistant provides much needed backup and other support. 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 Center seeks every opportunity 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 also conduct periodic reviews 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 11 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 2019 budget request breaks down as follows:

A. Direct Program — \$ 5,954,490

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Logistical Contract | 2,165,000 |
| 2. | Grants/Other Hosting Costs | 2,419,900 |
| 3. | Embassy Agreements | 870,000 |
| 4. | Salary/Benefits (Program) | 499,590 |

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 directly with 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 — \$ 394,510

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Salary/Benefits (Admin) | 319,410 |
| 2. | All Other Operating Expenses | 75,100 |

The salaries/benefits of the Executive Director (at 75%) 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: \$6,349,000

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

Summary of Costs by Category

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Direct Program Costs | \$ | 5,954,490 |
| Logistical and other Contracts | | 2,165,000 |
| Grants/Other Program Costs | | 2,419,900 |
| Embassy and Other Agreements | | 870,000 |
| Salary/Benefits | | 499,590 * |
| Administrative Costs | \$ | 394,510 |
| Salary/Benefits | | 319,410 * |
| All Other Operating Expenses | | 75,100 |
| TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS | \$ | 6,349,000 |

*Allocated between Program and Administrative Costs (61%/39%)

Overhead Rate 7%

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 27,000 participants would have been substantially higher. In 2017, 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 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 continuing participation of Russian and Ukrainian delegates once their 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. Ukraine is entering its third year of unrest and the world watches how it reckons with its frozen conflict. While relations with and within these countries

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.

Kremlin control of media within Russian borders, and the very effective information campaign in neighboring states, has brought the intended results – strong internal support for the Russian president and for his policies, 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 had more than 300 active exchange programs with Russia. Today there are just a few, and only one, the Open World program, has the means to reach throughout this vast country and to attract rising leaders who might otherwise eschew a U.S.-sponsored program.

These Russian and Ukrainian 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.

“Open World appealed to the members of our delegation by being nonpartisan, politically neutral, and outside of executive branch politics. The programming fosters a free, open, deep and meaningful exchange of ideas between peers.” –A joint statement from our delegation of Russian Middle East Experts who participated on Open World Program in April 2017

Open World, in some ways, is the last hope for cooperation with Russia and is a lifeline to democratic processes for Ukraine. As a resource for Congress and the nation, we may now be the most important program in Russia. Our alumni, 19,000 strong, fill important positions in all regions, crossing many classes and professions of Russia. In Ukrainian and Eurasian society, we have bolstered relations with Congress and supported critical reform efforts. 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.

Russia and Ukraine are keys to the future of the region. By supporting reformers and Euro-integrationists in Ukraine, by supporting those engaged in countering disinformation, and by helping committed officials use the laws on decentralization, health, and educational reform succeed, we in a small way help balance the overwhelming advantage Russia enjoys at this moment.

Our intertwined interests and rivalries with Russia will not fade, and we need to be smart enough to engage the post-Putin generation for they will soon enough be influencing whether their country continues its role as a destabilizing force or works with the community of nations in Europe and Eurasia.

To that end, the Committee's interest and support of the Open World Leadership Center 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
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, 11th Circuit
University of Alabama Huntsville, Office of International
Programs and Services

Federal and State Host Judges

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

ALASKA

National Grantee

Alaska State Legislature – Juneau

Local Host Organizations

Alaska/Khabarovsk Rule of Law Partnership – Anchorage
Anchorage International Rotary Club
Anchorage Sister Cities Commission
City of Homer
Pacific Environment
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council
– Valdez
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 and State Host Judges

Harry Branson, *Magistrate Judge* – Anchorage

ARIZONA

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women, East Mesa Branch
Arizona Supreme Court
Corporate Education Consulting, Inc. – Phoenix
Empower International – Phoenix
Flagstaff Sister Cities Organization
Friendship Force – Central Arizona
Friendship Force – Tucson
Friendship Force – Phoenix
International Training and Consulting, Inc. – Tucson
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 – Westminster 7:10
Rotary Club – Yuma
Rotary District 5510
Southern Arizona Council for International Visitors – Tucson
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 – Phoenix
U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona – Phoenix

Federal and State Host Judges

Eileen Hollowell, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Tucson
John Roll, *District Judge* – Tucson
Murray Snow, *District Judge* – Chandler

ARKANSAS

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women, North Little Rock Chapter
Arkansas River Valley Regional Library – Dardanelle
Arkansas State University Mountain Home
Garland County Community College – Hot Springs
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 – Fort Smith
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 – Fayetteville

Federal and State Host Judges

Robert T. Dawson, *Bankruptcy Judge* – El Dorado
Richard D. Taylor, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Little Rock
Susan Webber Wright, *District Judge* – Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

National Grantees

Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific – Stockton
Center for Safe Energy – Berkeley
Earth Island Institute – San Francisco
Independent Television Service (ITVS) – San Francisco
Pacific Environment – San Francisco
Sonoma City Opera
Tahoe-Baikal Institute – South Lake Tahoe

Local Host Organizations

49'er Breakfast Rotary Club – Nevada City
Alushta-Santa Cruz Sister County Support
Azerbaijani-American Council – Irvine
American Foreign Policy Council – Fresno
American Foreign Policy Council – Huntington Beach
Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific – Stockton
Center for Safe Energy – Berkeley

City of Livermore
City of Santa Cruz Sister Cities Committee
Congress of Russian Americans, Stanford University – Palo Alto
County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission – San Jose
Earth Island Institute: Baikal Watch – San Francisco
Episcopal Church – Berkeley
Estate Financial, Inc. – Santa Barbara
Friendship Force – Kern County
Friendship Force – Sacramento
Greater L.A. Chapter of People to People – Granada Hills
Hartnell College Foundation – Salinas
Independent Television Service (ITVS) – San Francisco
International Visitors Council – San Diego
International Visitors Council – Los Angeles
International Relations Council of Riverside
Kidsave International – Culver City
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 – Turlock
Northern California World Trade Center – Sacramento
Oakland/Nakhodka Sister City Association
Pacific Environment – San Francisco
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 – Orange County
Russian American Business and Arts Council – Los Angeles
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 – South Lake Tahoe
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 – Sacramento

Federal and State Host Judges

Louise Adler, *Bankruptcy Judge* – San Diego
Peter Bowie, *Bankruptcy Judge* – San Diego

Samuel Bufford, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Los Angeles
Marilyn L. Huff, *District Judge* – Los Angeles

Christopher M. Klein, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Sacramento
Ronald S.W. Lew, *District Judge* – Los Angeles
Consuelo B. Marshall, *District Judge* – Los Angeles
Margaret McKeown, *Circuit Judge* – San Diego
Michael McManus, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Sacramento
Louisa Porter, *Magistrate Judge* – San Diego
Ronald H. Sargis, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Sacramento
William Shubb, *District Judge* – Sacramento
Dickran Tevrizian, *District Judge* – Los Angeles

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 – Arvada
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. – Golden
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 and State Host Judges

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

CONNECTICUT

Local Host Organizations

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

Federal and State Host Judges

Peter Dorsey, *District Judge* – New Haven
John Walker, *Circuit Judge* – New Haven
Robin Tabora, *Clerk of Court* – New Haven

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 – Newark
University of Delaware, Institute for Global Studies – Newark
Vital Voices Global Partnership

Federal and State Host Judges

Sue Robinson, *District Judge* – Wilmington

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
Thelonious 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 – Jacksonville
Stetson University School of Law – Gulfport

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Sarasota
American Foreign Policy Council – Melbourne
American Foreign Policy Council – Sarasota
Eckerd College – St. Petersburg
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
Enter-Met Thermochemical Engineers, Inc.
Florida Suncoast Friendship Force Club – Tampa Bay
Friendship Force – Greater Orlando
Friendship Force – Sarasota
Friendship Force of Tallahassee
Global Ties Miami
GlobalJAX – Jacksonville
Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council – Pensacola
International Council – Central Florida, Inc. – Orlando
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 Village
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
Rotary District 6970 – Jacksonville
Sister City Program – Gainesville, Inc.
St. Petersburg College
Stetson University College of Law – Gulfport
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 – Tampa

Federal and State Host Judges

David Baker, *Magistrate Judge* – Orlando
Rosemary Barkett, *District Judge* – Miami
A. Jay Cristol, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Miami
Patricia Fawsett, *District Judge* – Orlando
James Glazebrook, *Magistrate Judge* – Orlando
Alan S. Gold, *District Judge* – Miami
Elizabeth Jenkins, *Magistrate Judge* – Tampa
Elizabeth Kovachevich, *District Judge* – Tampa
Stephan P. Mickle, *District Judge* – Gainesville
Harvey Schlesinger, *District Judge* – Jacksonville

GEORGIA

National Grantees

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

Local Host Organizations

Addiction Recovery Institute
Alston and Bird – Atlanta
Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League – Augusta
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 – Atlanta
GA2GE Foundation (Georgia to Georgia Foundation) – Atlanta
Greater Savannah International Alliance
Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. – Atlanta
Juvenile Court of Clayton County
League of Women Voters of Atlanta – Fulton County
Northminster Presbyterian Church – Roswell
Office of International Affairs, Emory University – Atlanta
Peace Links – Cleveland
Rotary Club – Atlanta
Rotary Club – Duluth
Rotary Club – Gwinnett County
Rotary District 6920 – Savannah
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 – Atlanta

Federal and State Host Judges

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

HAWAII

Local Host Organizations

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

Federal and State Host Judges

David Ezra, *District Judge* – Honolulu

IDAHO

National Grantee

Lionel Hampton Center at the University of Idaho – Moscow

Local Host Organizations

Boise State University, International Programs

Idaho Council for International Visitors – Boise

University of Idaho International Jazz Collections – Moscow

Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, University of Idaho –
Moscow

Rotary Club – Boise Metro

Rotary Club – Idaho Falls

Federal and State Host Judges

B. Lynn Winmill, *District Judge* – Boise

ILLINOIS

National Grantees

Columbia College Chicago

Rotary International – Evanston

Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association – Normal

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Carbondale

Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Columbia College

Chicago Sister Cities International

CHP International – Oak Park

Citizen Bridges International – Chicago

College of Du Page – Glen Ellyn

Columbia College Chicago

Council of International Programs – Chicago

Episcopal Church – Peoria

Friendship Force – Northern Illinois

Geneseo International Thanksgiving Fellowship Program

Heartland Alliance International – Chicago

Illinois Central College – East Peoria

International Cultural Educational Association – Chicago

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. – Chicago

Otto and Associates – Park Ridge

Peoria Area World Affairs Council
Rock River Valley International Fellowship Committee
Rotary Club – Carbondale
Rotary Club – Chicago
Rotary Club – Springfield
Rotary District 6450 – Chicago
Rotary District 6640 – Hoffman Estates
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. – Chicago
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 and State Host Judges

Marvin Aspen, *District Judge* – Chicago
Collins T. Fitzpatrick, *Circuit Executive* – Chicago
Phil Gilbert, *District Judge* – Benton
David Herndon, *District Judge* – East St. Louis
Charles Kocoras, *District Judge* – Chicago
George Marovich, *District Judge* – Chicago
Michael McCuskey, *District Judge* – Lacon
Michael Mihm, *District Judge* – Peoria
Richard Mills, *District Judge* – Springfield
James Moran, *District Judge* – Chicago
James Shadid, *District Judge* – Peoria
Diane Wood, *Circuit Judge* – Chicago

INDIANA

National Grantee

Charitable Resource Foundation – New Albany

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Fort Wayne

Beyond Borders Global Connections

Elkhart Sister Cities Association

Indiana Government Center South – Indianapolis

Indiana Judicial Center – Indianapolis

Indiana Supreme Court – Indianapolis

Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs –
Bloomington

International Center – Indianapolis

Marion County Law Library

National Peace Foundation – Indianapolis

Office of the Indiana Attorney General – Indianapolis

Peace Links – Elkhart

Resource Foundation, Inc. – Greenwood

Rotary Club – Bedford 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 –
Indianapolis

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 and State Host Judges

Michael Kanne, *District Judge* – Fort Wayne

IOWA

National Grantees

Iowa Sister States – Des Moines
United States District for the Southern District of Iowa
University of Iowa International Writing Program – Iowa City

Local Host Organizations

Community Sister City Organization – Osage
Council Bluffs Tobolsk Sister City Association
Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities
Creating Great Places – Coon Rapids
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 – Davenport
Grinnell Renaissance
International Training, Education and Business Services and Associates, LLC (ITEBS & Associates, LLC) –
International Writing Program at the University of Iowa – Iowa City
Iowa Central Community College – Fort Dodge
Iowa Council for International Understanding – Des Moines
Iowa Sister States – Des Moines
League of Women Voters – Ames
Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center
Marshalltown Sister Cities
Mary Greely Medical Center – Ames
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
Mt. Pleasant Public Library
Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc.
Myrtue Memorial Hospital – Harlan
National Peace Foundation – Cedar Rapids
OPEN (Organization Promoting Everlasting Neighbors) – Newton
People to People International, Oscaloosa Chapter
Rotary Club – Des Moines
Rotary Club – Iowa City
Siouxland Community Health Center – Sioux City
Skiff Medical Center – Newton
Southeastern Community College – West Burlington
St. Luke's Hospital – Sioux City
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 – Keosauqua

Federal and State Host Judges

Robert Pratt, *District Judge* – Cedar Rapids
Larry Eisenhower, former *State Court of Appeals Judge* – Des Moines

KANSAS

Local Host Organizations

University of Kansas Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies – Lawrence
Dodge City Public Library
Emporia State University
Friendship Force of Kansas – Wichita
Global Ties – Kansas City
Honors Leadership Academy, Neosho County Community College – Chanute
International Visitors Council – Greater Kansas City
Johnson County Library – Overland Park
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 – Hutchinson
Rotary Club – Lenexa
Rotary Club – Overland Park
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

University of Kansas Center for Russian, East European &
Eurasian Studies – Lawrence
U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 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
Friendship Force – Baton Rouge
Louisiana State University, Department of History and Social
Sciences – Baton Rouge
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 – Baton Rouge
Tulane University – New Orleans
Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation – Shreveport
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 and State Host Judges

James Brady, Sr., *District Judge* – Baton Rouge
S. Maurice Hicks, *District Judge* – Shreveport
Mark Hornsby, *U.S. Magistrate Judge* – Shreveport
Roy Payne, *Magistrate Judge* – Shreveport
Donald Walter, *District Judge* – Shreveport

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 – South Portland
Greater Portland Russian Sister City Project (Archangel
Committee) – Portland
Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine – Augusta
Kotlas-Waterville Area Sister City Connection
Maine Supreme Judicial Court – Portland

Maine/Arkhangelsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee
– Portland
Rotary Club – Portland
U.S. District Court for the District of Maine
University of Maine School of Law – Portland
University of Southern Maine, American–Caucasus Workgroup –
Portland
Verill & Dana, LLP – Portland
World Affairs Council of Maine – Portland

Federal and State Host Judges

Margaret Kravchuck, *Magistrate Judge* – Bangor

MARYLAND

National Grantee

Foundation for International Arts and Education – Bethesda
Maryland Leningrad Sister State Committee of Sister States of
Maryland, Inc. – Annapolis

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 – Baltimore
Cultural Vistas – Columbia
Director of International Affairs/Mayor’s Office, City of Baltimore
Ferguson Foundation – Accokeek
Frederick Community College
Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS) – Bethesda
Harford Community College – Bel Air
Howard Community College – Columbia
International Education Associates – Bethesda
League of Women Voters – Baltimore City
League of Women Voters – Baltimore County
League of Women Voters – Calvert
Maryland/IROLC Steering Committee – Annapolis
Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of Law Partnership – Annapolis
Maryland Sister States Program – Annapolis
Montgomery County Sister Cities
National Council for the Traditional Arts – Silver Spring
National Peace Foundation – Potomac
Prince George's County Circuit Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit

Rotary Club – Annapolis
Rotary Club – Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rotary Club – Frederick
Rotary Club – Parole
Rotary Club – Towsontowne
Rotary District 7620 – Mount Airy
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 – Westminster
World Trade Center Institute – Baltimore

Federal and State Host Judges

Richard Bennett, *District Judge* – Baltimore
Andre Davis, *District Judge* – Baltimore
Cathy Serrette, *County Circuit Court Judge* – Upper Marlboro

MASSACHUSETTS

National Grantee

University of Massachusetts–Amherst Institute of Global Health
Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA)

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Holyoke
Berkshire Community College
Bristol Community College
Cairdes Foundation – Plymouth
Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA)
Cape Cod Community College
International Center of Worcester
Jacob’s Pillow Dance – Becket
Kanfer Legal LLC – Boston
Massachusetts RAROLC Rule of Law Committee – Boston
Massachusetts Superior Court – Boston
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court – Boston
Massachusetts Trial Court, Probate and Family Court Department
– Boston
Massachusetts/Tomsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee –
Boston
Mount Holyoke College – South Hadley
Peace Links – Framingham

Peace Links – Medford
Rotary Club – Scituate
Rotary Club – West Springfield
Rotary International District 7950 – Cape Cod
The Altai Project
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts –
Worcester
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit – Boston
U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts – Boston
University of Massachusetts Medical School – Worcester
University of Massachusetts Amherst Institute for Global Health
WorldBoston

Federal and State Host Judges

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

MICHIGAN

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Dearborn,
American Foreign Policy Council – Detroit
American Foreign Policy Council – Grand Rapids
Andrews University, Berrien Springs
Colleagues International, Inc, Kalamazoo
Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Detroit
Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work - Ypsilanti
Ellen Thompson Women’s Health Center - Ypsilanti
Friendship Force – Greater Lansing
Grand Rapids Public Schools - Grand Rapids
Hillsdale Community Library - Hillsdale
Interlochen Center for the Arts, Education Department
- Interlochen
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 - Houghton
Rotary Club – Downtown Grand Rapids

Rotary Club – Livingston Sunrise
Rotary Club – Kalamazoo Sunrise
Rotary Club – Lynchburg
Rotary Club –Marquette Breakfast
Rotary District 6360 - Charlotte
Sister Cities of Flint
Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Detroit
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan
- Detroit
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan - Detroit
United Methodist Church – Evart
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, Ann Arbor
Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Office

Federal and State Host Judges

Virginia Morgan, *Magistrate Judge* - Ann Arbor
Gordon Quist, *District Judge* - Grand Rapids
Gerald Rosen, *District Judge* - Detroit

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 - St. Paul
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers - Minneapolis
Minnesota International Center - Minneapolis
Minnesota State Bar Association, Minneapolis
Minnesota State University - Mankato
Minnesota State University – Moorhead
Minnesota Supreme Court, St. Paul
North Country Health Services
North Country Regional Hospital
Plymouth Church Global Connections Committee, Minneapolis
Rainy River Community College, International Falls
Rotary Club – Arden/Shoreview
Rotary Club – Hibbing
Rotary Club – North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale
Rotary Club – White Bear Lake
Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN), St. Cloud
Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health
Sanford Health of Northern Minnesota, Alexandria
United Methodist Church – Owatonna
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota - Minneapolis
U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota - Minneapolis
Women in Business - Minneapolis
World Services – Minneapolis

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 - Madison
Metier Professionals - Jackson
Mississippi Consortium for International Development
Mississippi State University, Mississippi State
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, Mississippi State

Federal and State Host Judges

Jerry David, *Federal Magistrate Judge*, Jackson
Leslie H. Southwick, *Federal Circuit Judge (5th Circuit)* – Jackson

MISSOURI

National Grantee

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc

Local Host Organizations

All Species Project, Kansas City
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 - Columbia
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, Jefferson City
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
St. Louis Sister Cities
St. Louis – Samara Sister Cities Committee
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc., St. Louis
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 and State Host Judges

Catherine Perry, *District Judge* - St. Louis

Jerry Venters, *Bankruptcy Judge*, Kansas City

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 - Helena

Federal and State Host Judges

Robert Holter, *Magistrate Judge* – Butte

Donald Molloy, *District Judge* – Missoula

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 – Omaha

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, Omaha

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing
– Omaha

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 – Las Vegas
U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada – Las Vegas

Federal and State Host Judges

Valerie Cooke, *Magistrate Judge* – Reno
Lloyd D. George, *District Judge* – Las Vegas
Howard McKibben, *District Judge* – Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Local Host Organizations

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

NEW JERSEY

Local Host Organizations

American Foreign Policy Council – Cherry Hill
Camden County Library – Atco
City of New Brunswick
Cross Cultural International Institute, New Milford
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 – Princeton
Rider University – Lawrenceville
Rotary Club of Branchville
Rotary District 7470 – Morristown
Rutgers University School of Law – Newark
Rutgers University School of Communication and Information,
Brunswick
United Methodist Church – Hackettstown
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey – Brunswick

Federal 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 – Santa Fe
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 – Albuquerque
Santa Fe Council on International Relations*
SRIC Southwest Research and Information Center – Albuquerque
Thomas Branigan Memorial Library – Las Cruces
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Mexico

– Albuquerque
U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico – Albuquerque
United Methodist Church – Los Alamos

Federal and State Host Judges

Carmen Garza, *Magistrate Judge* – Albuquerque
Leslie C. Smith, *Magistrate Judge* – Albuquerque
James S. Starzynski, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Albuquerque

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
Albany-Tula Alliance
American Foreign Policy Council – Albany
American Dance Festival – New York City
Brooklyn College Library – Brooklyn
Buffalo-Niagara World Connect
Buffalo-Tyler Sister Cities, Inc
CDS International, Inc. – New York City
CEC ArtsLink – New York City
Cornell University – Ithaca
Criminal Court for the Seventh Judicial District – Rochester
Doctors of the World-USA – New York City
Episcopal Church – East Aurora – 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 – Hempstead
International Institute of Buffalo
International Center of the Capital Region – Albany
International Center of Syracuse
International Film Seminars, Inc. – New York City
International Institute of Buffalo
Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities – Rochester
League of Women Voters – Oneonta Area
League of Women Voters – Rochester Metropolitan Area

League of Women Voters – Saratoga County
Lincoln Center Directors' Lab – New York City
Linkages of Rochester, Inc.
Multicultural Resource Center – Binghamton
Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry
New York State Unified Court System, Office of Court
Administration
Newcomb Central School District
Nixon Peabody, LLP – New York City
Peace Links – Interlaken
Public Relations Kingsborough Community College – Brooklyn
Rochester Global Connections
Rotary Club District 7120 – New York City
Rotary Club District 7190 – New York City
Rotary Club District 7230 – New York City
Rotary Club – Fayetteville-Manlius
Rotary Club – Liberty
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 Johnsburg 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 – New York City
Yeshiva University School of Law – New York City
Western New York/Novgorod Rule of Law Partnership Committee

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 (formerly International Affairs Council of
North Carolina/Research Triangle)
International House of Charlotte
University of North Carolina/PEN – Chapel Hill

Local Host Organizations

Addiction Recovery Institute – Tyron
American Dance Festival – Durham
American Foreign Policy Council – Asheville
Asheville Sister Cities, Inc.
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Glendale Springs
The Brown Angel Center – Charlotte
Charlotte Sister Cities
Charlotte Council for International Visitors
DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism –
Duke University, Durham
Durham-Kostroma Sister Cities Association
Friendship Force – Central North Carolina
Friendship Force – Charlotte
Friendship Force – Raleigh
Friendship Force – Western North Carolina
Global House – Sanford
Health Equity Inc. – Chapel Hill
Hendersonville Sister Cities, Inc. – Hendersonville
Institute for Global Collaboration, Forsyth Technical Community
College – Winston-Salem
International Focus (formerly International Affairs Council of
North Carolina/Research Triangle) – Raleigh
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, Asheville
SCIAN-Institute for Scientific Policy Analysis – Raleigh
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 – Rocky Mountain

Federal and State Host Judges

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

NORTH DAKOTA

Local Host Organizations

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

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 – Athens
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 (CIP/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 – Kent
Rotary Club – Dublin-Worthington
Rotary Club – Boardman
Rotary Club – Cincinnati
Rotary Club – Wooster
Rotary District 6600 – Toledo
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 – Akron
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio – Akron
Wright State University – Fairborn

Federal and State Host Judges

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

OKLAHOMA

National Grantees

Rotary Club – Oklahoma City

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Tahlequah
City of Enid
Friendship Force – Oklahoma
Habitat for Humanity – Tahlequah
International Visitors Committee – Oklahoma City
League of Women Voters – Bartlesville
National Peace Foundation – Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Supreme Court, Oklahoma City
Redlands Community College – El Reno
Rotary Club – Guymon
Rotary Club – Oklahoma City
Rotary Club – Tahlequah
Rotary District 6110 – Tulsa
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 – Tulsa
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 – Norman

Federal and State Host Judges

Stephen Friot, *District Judge* – Oklahoma City
Robert Henry, former *District Judge* – Oklahoma City
Vicki Miles-LaGrange, *District Judge* – Oklahoma City
Ronald White, *District Judge* – Oklahoma City
Suzanne Mitchell, *Federal Magistrate Judge* – Oklahoma City

OREGON

Local Host Organizations

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

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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) – Reading
American Institute of Finance and Technology – Bryn Mawr
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 – Pittsburg
Media Sunrisers Rotary Club, Pittsburg
Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council – Philadelphia
Northampton Community College – Bethlehem
Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd – Philadelphia
Pacific Environment
Peace Links – Harrisburg
PEHT – Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania College of Technology – Williamsport
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
– Harrisburg
Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences,
International Programs – University Park
Rotary Club – Altoona
Rotary Club – Blue Bell
Rotary Club – Emmaus
Rotary Club – Greenville
Rotary Club – Meadville
Rotary Club – Redding
State College Rotary Evening Club – State College
Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute
Ukrainian Federation of America – Carnegie
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
– Philadelphia
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
– Philadelphia
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
– Philadelphia
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Historical Society – Philadelphia
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
– Allentown
West Chester University Poetry Center – West Chester
West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club
World Affairs Council – Harrisburg
World Affairs Council – Greater Reading

Federal and State Host Judges

Harvey Bartle, III, *District Judge* – Philadelphia
Richard Fehling, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Philadelphia
D. Brooks Smith, *Circuit Judge* – University Park

RHODE ISLAND

Local Host Organizations

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

Federal and State Host Judges

Ernest Torres, *District Judge* – Providence

SOUTH CAROLINA

Local Host Organizations

American Association of University Women – Aiken Branch
Clemson University
Charleston Council for International Visitors – Charleston
Friendship Force – Florence
League of Women Voters – Bluffton Area
National District Attorneys Association
National Peace Foundation – Columbia
Palmetto Council for International Visitors – Columbia
Richland School District Two – Columbia
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 – Columbia

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 and State Host Judges

Charles B. Kornmann, *District Judge* – Aberdeen
Karen Schreier, *District Judge* – Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE

National Grantees

Nashville Health Care Council – Nashville
Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization – Oak Ridge

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 – Chattanooga
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,
Nashville
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee
– Nashville
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
– Nashville

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture International
Programs – Knoxville
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Vanderbilt University Public Affairs Office – Nashville

Federal and State Host Judges

Jennie D. Latta, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Jackson
Jon Phipps McCalla, *District Judge* – Memphis
George Paine, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Nashville
Thomas A. Varlan, *District Judge* – Knoxville
Thomas A. Wiseman, Jr., *District Judge* – Nashville

TEXAS

National Grantees

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

Local Host Organizations

Alamo Colleges, Houston
American Foreign Policy Council – Fort Worth
Baylor College of Medicine Chronic Disease Prevention and
Control Research Center – Waco
Carter Blood Care – Dallas
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, La Grange
Friendship Force – Austin
Global North Texas – Dallas
Houston Baku Sister Cities Association
International Hospitality Council of Austin
J. M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies – Baylor
University, Waco
Kilgore College Small Business Development Center – Longview
Knowledge Management and Data Resources, Office of
Community Outreach, University of Texas Medical Branch
at Galveston
Lamar University – Beaumont
League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County
North Harris College – Houston
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs – U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 – Dallas
Palo Alto College – San Antonio

Panola Community College – Carthage
Peace Links – Austin
Peace Links – Temple
Plano-Ivanovo Sister City Program
Redeemed Ministries – Spring
Richland College – Dallas
Rotary Club – Burleson
Rotary Club – Fredericksburg Morning
Rotary Club – Friendswood
Rotary Club – Frisco Noon
Rotary Club – Grapevine
Rotary Club – Hurst-Euless-Bedford
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
– College Station
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 – Houston

Federal and State Host Judges

Leif M. Clark, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Austin

Ricardo H. Hinojosa, *District Judge* – Corpus Christi

Frank Montalvo, *District Judge* – Austin

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., North Salt Lake

Friendship Force of Utah, Salt Lake City

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 – Park City

Tooele Sister Cities, Inc. – Toole County

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit – Salt Lake City

U.S. District Court for the District of Utah – Salt Lake City

Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy – Salt Lake City

Utah State Legislature – Salt Lake City

Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities – Logan

Utah Valley University, Office of International Affairs &
Diplomacy – Orem

Federal and State Host Judges

Dee V. Benson, *District Judge* – Salt Lake City

Leif M. Clark, *Bankruptcy Judge*

David O. Nuffer, *Magistrate Judge* – Salt Lake City

VERMONT

National Grantee

International Rule of Law Consortium

Local Host Organizations

Ecologia, Middlebury

Lakenet

Russian American Rule of Law Consortium – Colchester

School of International Studies, St Michael's College – Colchester

Vermont Council on World Affairs – Burlington

Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project, Inc. – Colchester

Vermont Law School – South Royalton

Vermont Supreme Court – Montpelier

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 – Blacksburg

Eastern Mennonite University Center for Justice and
Peacebuilding – Harrisonburg

FHI360*, Arlington

Fredericksburg Sister City Association, Inc.

Friendship Force – Central Virginia

Friendship Force – National Capitol Area

James Kent Inn of Court, Virginia Beach

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, Christiansburg

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 – Fairfax
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, Richmond
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond
World Music Folklife Center – Galax
Zonta Club – Alexandria

Federal and State Host Judges

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

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 – Vancouver
Community Colleges of Spokane
EarthCorps, Seattle
Episcopal Church – Pasco
Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation – Seattle
Friendship Force of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
Global Education Service – Seattle
Governor’s Interagency Committee of State-Employed Women
(ICSEW) – Seattle
League of Women Voters – Washington
Lower Columbia College – Longview
Nakhodka Sister City – Bellingham
Nuclear Oversight Program, Government Accountability Project

Rotary Club – Anacortes
Rotary Club – Bremerton
Rotary Club – Columbia Center
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 – Wanatchee
Rotary Club – West Seattle
Seattle-Tashkent Sister Cities Association
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
Whatcom Community College – Bellingham
World Affairs Council – Seattle
World Affairs Council/World Trade Center West – Seattle

Federal and State Host Judges

John C. Coughenour, *District Judge*, Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA

Local Host Organizations

Center for International Understanding, Inc – Princeton
Friendship Force – Charleston
Grapevine Rotary Club – Martinsburg
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
– Bluefield

Federal, District, and State Host Judges

Omar J. Aboulhosn, *Federal Magistrate Judge* – Bluefield
David Faber, *District Judge* – Charleston
Ronald G. Pearson, *Bankruptcy Judge* – Charleston

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) – Green Bay
Center for International Education, St. Norbert College – De Pere
Center for International Understanding, Inc. – Milwaukee
Economic Development Corp of Manitowoc County Foundation
Fox Cities – Kurgan Sister Cities Program, Inc. – Appleton
Fox Valley Technical College – Oshkosh
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 – Wisconsin Rapids
Hedberg Public Library – Janesville
Hudson Daybreak Rotary Club – Hudson
Institute of World Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
International Crane Foundation – Baraboo
International Institute of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
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 – Milwaukee
Marshfield Rotary Noon Club, Marshfield
National Peace Foundation – Madison
New London Medical Center – New London
Northcentral Technical College – Wisconsin
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) – Shawano

Sigurd Olson Environment Institute – Northland College
Sparta Area School District
Stevens Point-Rostov Veliky Sister City Project
ThedaCare – Shawano
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 – La Crosse
World Services of La Crosse, Inc

Federal and State Host Judges

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

WYOMING

National Grantee

Vista360°, Inc. – Jackson

Local Host Organizations

Brown, Drew & Massey, LLP – Casper
Friendship Force – Cheyenne
Rotary Club – Kemmerer
Vista 360°, Inc. – Jackson
U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming – Casper
Wyoming Global Leadership Exchange – Jackson

Federal and State Host Judges

William F. Downes, *District Judge* – Casper

Tab 3
Open World Delegations by Date – CY2018



OPEN WORLD

LEADERSHIP CENTER

2018 Open World Program

| U.S. Arrival Date | Theme/Subtheme | Country | Number of Delegates |
|-------------------|---|------------|---------------------|
| 31-Jan | Nelson Fellows (Cardiology) | Russia | 6 |
| | Social Integration of Children and Adults with Disabilities | Russia | 6 |
| | Indigenous Groups | Russia | 12 |
| | National Parks/Nature Preserves | Russia | 6 |
| 7-Feb | Role of Local Legislators/Staff | Ukraine | 30 |
| 7-Mar | Support for Small and Medium Enterprises | Kazakhstan | 6 |
| | STEM for Women Leaders | Russia | 12 |
| | Small and Medium Business and e-Commerce | Russia | 6 |
| | Women Business Leaders | Russia | 6 |
| | Women Civic/Political Leaders | Russia | 6 |
| | Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development | Tajikistan | 6 |
| | NGO Development | Tajikistan | 6 |
| 14-Mar | Fire Department/EMT Management/Volunteerism | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Community Relations with Law Enforcement | Ukraine | 6 |
| | Community Development/Community Activism/Volunteerism | Ukraine | 18 |
| | Social Entrepreneurship | Ukraine | 12 |
| 19-Mar | Parliamentary Staff | Georgia | 6 |
| 10-Apr | Members of Parliament | Tajikistan | 6 |
| 11-Apr | Serving Veterans/Veterans Affairs | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Treating PTSD and Reintegration | Ukraine | 12 |
| | IDP Issues, Including Crimean Tatars | Ukraine | 6 |
| | Pharmacy School Partnership | Moldova | 6 |
| | Abkhaz-Enguri Dam | Georgia | 6 |
| 18-Apr | Judicial Rule of Law | | |
| | Ukraine – Court Automation | Ukraine | 12 |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|----|
| | Judges | Estonia | 4 |
| | Judges | Georgia | 6 |
| 21-Apr | Rumsfeld Fellows | Other | 10 |
| 24-Apr | Members of Parliament | Kazakhstan | 6 |
| 1-May | Free Russia Foundation | Russia | 6 |
| 2-May | Preventing and Combatting Corruption of Public Funds | Kosovo | 6 |
| | Agricultural Subsidies | Kosovo | 6 |
| | Disability Advocacy and Reform | Azerbaijan | 6 |
| | Cyber-Intellectual Property Rights | Azerbaijan | 6 |
| 9-May | Child Welfare, including Adoption/Foster Care | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Combatting Human Trafficking | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Citizen Engagement in Legal Reform | Ukraine | 6 |
| 9-May | Parliamentary Staff | Armenia | 6 |
| 15-May | Members of Parliament | Serbia | 6 |
| 31-May | Ecological Protection of Seaports | Russia | 6 |
| | Sustainable Fishery Development and Management (Alaska) | Russia | 6 |
| | Tourism Destination Management | Kyrgyzstan | 6 |
| 6-Jun | Local Legislators | Belarus | 12 |
| 19-Jun | Members of Parliament | Georgia | 6 |
| 10-Jul | Members of Parliament | Other | 6 |
| 18-Jul | Judicial Rule of Law | | |
| | Judges | Mongolia | 12 |
| 23-Jul | Members of Parliament | Ukraine | 6 |
| 4-Sept | Members of Parliament | Uzbekistan | 6 |
| 5-Sept | Decentralization/Intergovernmental Relations | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Health Care Management and Quality Assurance | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Sister City Relations – Cultural Diversity | Turkmenistan | 6 |
| 12-Sept | Young Arms Control Experts | Russia | 6 |
| | Countering Violent Extremism in Muslim Communities | Russia | 6 |
| | Prison Officials and Prison Rights Activists | Russia | 6 |
| | Public Defenders | Russia | 6 |
| | Women Civic/Political Leaders | Russia | 6 |
| | Prison Reform | Kazakhstan | 6 |
| 19-Sept | Governance/Decentralization | Ukraine | 18 |
| 25-Sept | Members of Parliament | Kyrgyzstan | 6 |
| 10-Oct | Government Funding/Oversight of Educational Institutions | Ukraine | 12 |

| | | | |
|---------------|--|------------|------------|
| | Innovation and Education | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Promoting STEM Education/Alternative Learning | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Community College/Vocational Education | Ukraine | 6 |
| | IDP Issues, Displaced Universities | Ukraine | 6 |
| | Higher Education Reform | Serbia | 6 |
| | English Access Program | Serbia | 6 |
| 17-Oct | Judicial Rule of Law | | |
| | Judges | Serbia | 6 |
| | Judges (Judicial Practices and Procedures for International Adoptions) | Kyrgyzstan | 6 |
| 20-Oct | Rumsfeld Fellows | Other | 10 |
| 24-Oct | Municipal Elected Officials and Constituent Outreach | Russia | 6 |
| | Foreign Affairs Journalism | Russia | 6 |
| | Digital Media | Russia | 6 |
| | Media Literacy | Russia | 6 |
| | Monitoring Human Rights Cases | Russia | 6 |
| | Existing Partnerships | Russia | 24 |
| 31-Oct | Ethics and Quality Reporting | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Media Coverage of Political Leaders and Elections | Ukraine | 12 |
| | Elections | Ukraine | 12 |
| 7-Nov | Governance/Decentralization | Ukraine | 18 |
| 27-Nov | Members of Parliament | Ukraine | 6 |
| | Moscow School of Civic Education | Russia | 54 |
| TOTAL | | | 726 |

Programs for Members of Parliament or Parliamentary Staff are highlighted in gold
Programs for Judges and Judicial Professionals are highlighted in blue

Tab 4
Open World in the News

Capital Gazette

February 11, 2017

Georgian Delegation Learns About Life In The U.S.



*A delegation from Georgia visits the U.S. Court of Appeals in Annapolis as part of the **Open World program**. Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Clayton Greene, Jr., and U.S. Federal Judge Richard D. Bennett met with the group. (Megan Brockett / Capital Gazette)*

On the steps of the Court of Appeals building in Annapolis on Wednesday, a sharply-dressed group stands and listens as a federal court judge gives them a warm welcome to the courthouse.

Most of the group is young, in their late 30s at most, and over one ear, they wear a single black headphone. Through the headphone is piped the voice of Ia Dzamashvili, an interpreter standing nearby with a microphone and quietly translating the words of the judge into Georgian.

The courthouse visit was one stop of many this week for the delegation, a group of five city council members from the country of Georgia and a member of the Democratic National Institute who visited the Annapolis area through the **Open World program**.

Run by the **Open World Leadership Center**, the 10-day exchange program brings emerging government and civic leaders, mostly from the former Soviet Union, to the U.S.

The goal of the program is to provide participants, called delegates, with a first-hand experience of American community life, government and democratic values. It is also meant to grow relationships between the U.S. and other countries.

Under the **Open World program**, delegates stay with volunteer host families during their visit. The Rotary Clubs of Annapolis and Parole are hosting the Georgian delegation.

For the Georgian delegation, a busy itinerary from Feb. 3 to Feb. 11 includes visits to Annapolis City Hall, an Anne Arundel County Council meeting, the State House to see the Senate and House of Delegates in action, the Light House homeless shelter for lunch and the Court of Appeals, where they learn about the American court system from Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Clayton Greene, Jr., and U.S. Federal Judge Richard D. Bennett.

The schedule is meant to present a mix of meetings with representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as people other roles.

Irakli Nadiradze, a member of the Tblisi City Council, said the delegation had come to the U.S. looking for an answer to why America is so successful.

Through a translator, he said they wondered if the reason lied in things like the country's natural resources, its military strength or its strength as a democracy." We found our answer here in Maryland," Nadiradze said. "And this main strength that determines the success of the United States is the United States citizens themselves."

Nadiradze and other delegates spoke of American citizens' values, their feeling of high responsibility and even their involvement in volunteer work. He said the group learned about how local government works, how they handle issues and how they interact with each other.

One of the big takeaways Nadiradze said he plans to bring back to Tblisi from is how the government cooperates with non-government organizations, like nonprofits, and how community organizations form and work toward achieving their causes.

Rotary Club member Phil Reynolds, the local host coordinator, said it's the first time the clubs have hosted a delegation through the program."(The delegates are) dynamic young people, potential future leaders of their country," he said. "We hope that they take back some ideas that they can apply there."

###



Young international professionals visit to learn STEM

Five young professionals visit Lawrence Co. from Azerbaijan through Rotary program

By Sara Kuhl; skuhl@tmnews.com

March 4, 2017

BEDFORD — Five individuals from Azerbaijan will be staying with local Rotary Club members in Lawrence County this week, visiting places such as Genysis in Indianapolis and Purdue University in Lafayette. The goal is for the five to learn more about the United States and democracy with a focus on women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and careers, according to Rowena Cross-Najafi, a member of the Bedford Rotary Club who has helped organize the visit.



Rowena Cross-Najafi, Bedford Rotary Club

“We did this a few years ago, I think it was 2012, with a group of lawyers from Ukraine,” Cross-Najafi said. “It was kind of always on my radar to do this again. I really believe that we all need to know more about the world we live in.”

The five who will be visiting Lawrence County are: Aysel Garibzade, international relations specialist for the Ministry of High Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Gunel Azimova, solution consultant for Oracle Azerbaijan; Musharraf Mammadova, academic adviser at the School of IT and Engineering at ADA University; Shahla Mammadova, head of project management department projects at Cybernet LLC; and Yagut Hajizadeh, a teacher of students between 8 and 14 years old at IT Step Academy.

“This program focuses on younger people,” Cross-Najafi said. “It expands our understanding of the world, regardless of political climate. ... It’s a part of living in a democratic society with the whole back of just weathering the storms of different opinions. That’s pretty normal. We’re encouraging democracy in these countries. It’s important for them to see democracy in action.”

The visitors are in their late 20s and early 30s, Cross-Najafi said. They'll be staying with Rick and Pam Bell; L.C. and Linda Kern, Barb and Dave Kissel and with Cross-Najafi's family.

The program is operated through the **Open World Leadership Center**, the first and only international exchange agency in the U.S. legislative branch, according to the program's website. It partners with Rotary International, and it matches young professionals from foreign countries to Rotary clubs at the local level. The guests are able to say what topics they're interested in learning about, and the local Rotary club communicates what topics they're interested in, as well.

The five who were selected for Lawrence County expressed interests in learning about women in STEM education and careers, Cross-Najafi said. That topic was also one she said that she was interested in. "Our Rotary Club is very active in education and literacy," Cross-Najafi said. "We are well known in the district for educating, so this fits with what we do anyway. That's always kind of been our thing." This group, which arrived Saturday and will stay in Lawrence County through March 11, also expressed interest in IT being used commercially.

This week's stops include the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, Wonder Lab in Bloomington, dinner with IU professors (active and retired) and Bloomington Rotary members, Genesys/Interactive Intelligence, the Indiana State Museum, the IU cyber infrastructure building with Daniel Brazzell giving a presentation, lunch with IU biology professor Armin Moczek, a tour of the North Lawrence Career Center, a Star Station interview with Angie Timan, a demonstration with Lawrence County STEAM robotics, a tour of GM Bedford Casting Operations with a presentation from the Get WISE team, a meeting with the NSWC Crane STEM coordinator and a tour of Purdue University.

They'll also get an in-depth look at the Women in Science Program, where they'll talk with students of the program, advisers and hear from Connie Kaspar Brophy, Purdue University assistant director of science diversity. They'll get the chance to hear a panel discussion from and have lunch with women in technology at Angie's List in Indianapolis, and they'll meet with state Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, at the Indiana Statehouse. Another highlight of the trip will be a tour of Indiana Limestone with Jennie Morgan as the main presenter.

"We're all getting geared up and getting ready to go. It's going to be a busy week," Cross-Najafi said. "We are excited. It's a big deal." And near the end of the trip, on Friday, the delegation will give a presentation with what they learned from the trip.

"I'm really appreciative of all the people in the community," Cross-Najafi said. Contact Times-Mail Staff Writer Sara Kuhl at (812) 277-7254 or skuhl@tmnews.com.

About **Open World Leadership Center**

Established in 2000, Open World has enabled more than 25,000 current and future leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to meaningfully engage and interact with members of Congress, Congressional staff and thousands of other Americans, many of whom are the delegates' direct professional counterparts. The Open World program focuses both on assisting the Congress in its oversight

responsibilities and on conducting exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of Open World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. The Center's bipartisan nature and independence from the priorities of any presidential administration is an important asset for the program. Aimed at establishing mutually beneficial relationships between future leaders of other nations, Open World is a value-added program that permits practical and depoliticized options for engagement. Open World is extremely cost-effective and unencumbered by bureaucracy, and serves the legislative branch as a program that offers members of Congress the opportunity to meet with their colleagues from Eurasia.

For more information, visit <https://www.openworld.gov/>.

###


EEDITION

Tajikistan women on a mission to share ideas on fighting extremism

March 10, 2017

By STEPHEN MONTEMAYOR smontemayor@startribune.com



*Seven visitors from Tajikistan, led by Friendship Force of Minnesota-Twin Cities and the **Open World Leadership Center**, visited Chief U.S. District Judge John Tunheim as the group continues a weeklong visit in Minnesota to discuss countering extremism. After the meeting Tunheim shook hands with interpreter Alyona Vladova, as Lola Dadobaeva, the group's facilitator, looked on from his US District Courthouse office Wednesday, March 8, 2017, in Minneapolis,*

*MN.] A delegation from Tajikistan has spent the week visiting elected officials, federal law enforcement and community groups to discuss the role women play in countering terrorism recruitment, which has also been a major challenge in their home country. On Tuesday, the group met with the mother of a young Twin Cities man who attempted to join ISIL. They will also meet with the district's chief federal judge and the probation staff that runs the country's only "disengagement and deradicalization" court program. **Alyona Vladova, Lola Dadobaeva,cq*

For the past few years, nearly every broadcast of the youth-focused radio program that Zarangez Navruzshoeva hosts in Tajikistan has been colored by updates on young Tajiks becoming jihadists in Syria.

Madina Nizomova, a women's rights lawyer, can't shake the story of a well-off family that lost two sons to the ranks of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). And Lola Dadobaeva helps the U.S. Embassy manage programs for vulnerable youth in a nation that has seen hundreds — including entire households and Tajikistan's special forces chief — join the terror group since 2014.

They are among a delegation of seven Tajik women finishing a weeklong tour of the Twin Cities on Saturday after meeting with federal judges, law enforcement, elected officials and community groups to discuss the strengths women can wield in fighting radical recruitment at home. In several cases, they say, the week has been revealing for the similarities unearthed during their encounters.

"It was important to see that a world power like America and a small country like Tajikistan are facing the same issues," Nizomova said through an interpreter. "We are all mothers, we all have children, we all have relatives and we want all of us to be safe to travel from one place to another. This fear, and this issue, is real for us."

The delegation, which also includes social activists and a psychologist who volunteers in a community policing program, ends its visit Saturday with a panel discussion at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis. They were brought to Minnesota by the **Open World Leadership Center**, a U.S. Congress-funded diplomacy effort, and are being hosted by the Friendship Force of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

During the group's visit Tuesday with staff from the Minneapolis advocacy group Voice of East African Women, Deqa Hussen shared the story of her son Abdirizak Warsame, who was one of nine Twin Cities men sentenced last year after plotting to join ISIL in 2015. Hussen said her experience revealed that ISIL recruiters also target smart youths — Abdirizak was in his second year of college and known for his poetry. After FBI agents visited their home, Deqa sent Warsame to live with his father in Chicago to insulate him from influences. Two weeks after Hussen participated in a forum of mothers speaking out against terrorism recruitment, Warsame was arrested.

"He calls now and tells his siblings, 'Listen to your mom. I wish I could listen to my mom from the beginning,'" Hussen told the group.

During a break in a trial, Chief U.S. District Judge John Tunheim met the group in his chambers to emphasize the value of antiterrorism programs large and small.

“If you set up small organizations, have community meetings and identify someone as an expert in radicalization and deradicalization — someone who can identify the signs someone is being recruited and can come talk to families — these activities can be stopped before they get too far along the way,” Tunheim said.

Minnesota is the only federal court district that operates a “disengagement” evaluation program that assesses terrorism defendants before trial and after conviction, and has a team of probation officials dedicated to supervising them after their release from prison. The delegates told Tunheim that many of the Tajik recruits were actually picked up on their way migrating to Russia in search of better job opportunities. The crisis has also prompted strict regulations prohibiting youth under 18 from attending mosques, they said. The government, however, has also experimented in amnesty for some foreign fighters who return home. Tunheim said the approach sounded good but suggested “some evaluation of if they may go back down this path or not.”

The group also met with staff from U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, which is tasked with running the specialized evaluation program for terrorism defendants. One officer said the staff considered mothers and sisters of defendants “associate gatekeepers because they have a level of trust with the defendants that nobody else has.”

Later, Navruzshoeva noted a difference in access to trials. Most terror cases in Tajikistan are closed to the public, forcing the media to rely on anonymous reports or secondhand accounts from families.

Dadobaeva said a key challenge is to persuade families to work with law enforcement, rather than shun them.

“When it comes through law enforcement agents, this can be a turnaway for parents because when they come to them, [the families] say, ‘We’re not cooperating with you. You’re a danger to my son. You take him away and put him in prison.’”

Still, Hussen’s cautionary tale — and that of her imprisoned son — resonated with the women.

“I’m bringing her story to my community and telling my country,” said Rano Abutrobova, a member of the delegation.

###

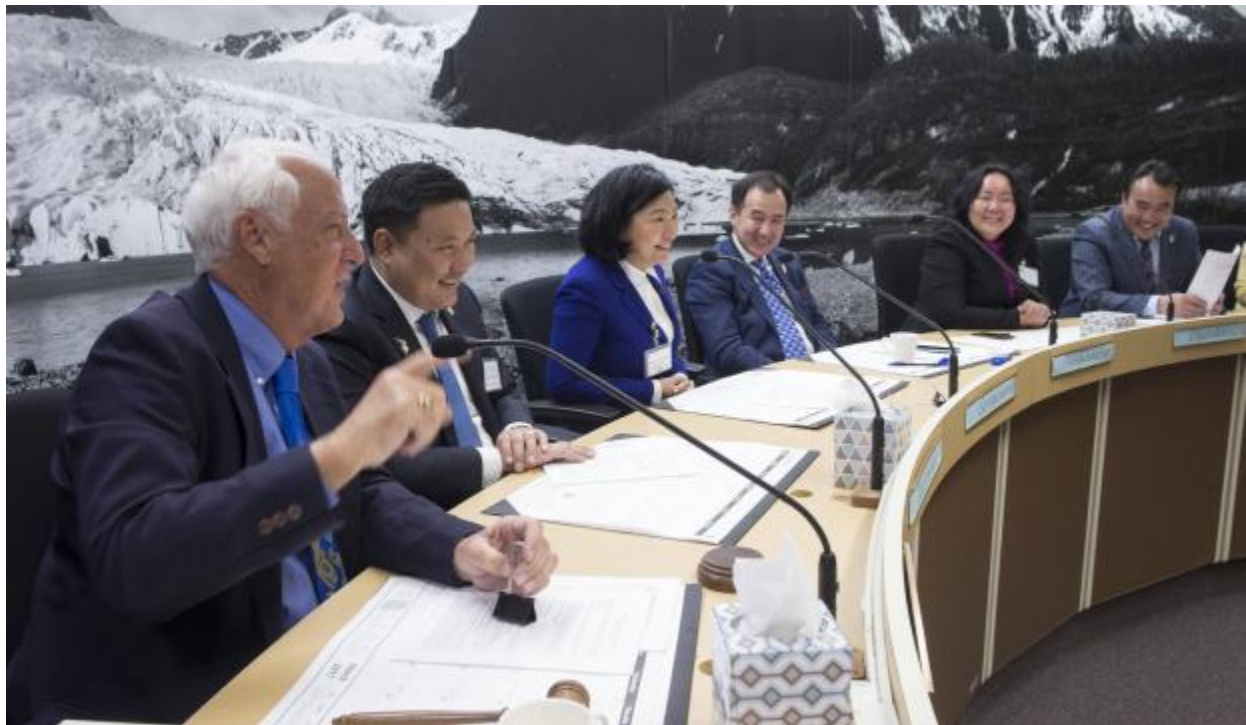


Mongolian delegation shares the wisdom of the steppes

Posted March 30, 2017

Updated April 10, 2017

By Kevin Gullufsen



Juneau Mayor Ken Koelsch teaches five members of Mongolia's parliament how city government works in America on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The purpose of the visit is to expose officials of emerging democracies to civic processes in the U.S. Juneau's Rotary clubs hosted the Mongolians during the two-day visit. (Michael Penn | Juneau Empire)



Mongolian Parliamentarian Group Leader Saranchimeg Batsukh asks Mayor Ken Koelsch a question during their visit to City Hall on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The purpose of the visit is to expose officials of emerging democracies to civic processes in the U.S. Juneau's Rotary clubs hosted the Mongolians during the two-day visit. (Michael Penn | Juneau Empire)



Juneau Assembly member Beth Weldon passes out city pins to Mongolian Parliamentarians Tserenbat Namsrai, left, Murat Dakiyei, center, and interpreter Chimgee Erdenechimeg, right, as Mayor Ken Koelsch welcomes the delegation to City Hall on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The

purpose of the visit is to expose officials of emerging democracies to civic processes in the U.S. Juneau's Rotary clubs hosted the Mongolians during the two-day visit. (Michael Penn | Juneau Empire)



Mongolian Parliamentarian Tserenbat Namsrai tests out the Mayor's gavel during a visit to the Juneau Assembly chambers on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The purpose of the visit is to expose officials of emerging democracies to civic processes in the U.S. Juneau's Rotary clubs hosted the Mongolians during the two-day visit. (Michael Penn | Juneau Empire)

After the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Mongolia has increasingly embraced Western political ideology.

Positioned between post-communist and communist superpowers in Russia and China, the sparsely-populated nation depends on agriculture and coal but has a surprisingly cosmopolitan capital in Ulaanbaatar. As the country strives to expand their economy, they're reaching out to America to learn how democracy can sustain free markets.

For five newly-elected parliamentarians from the country's State Great Khural, that journey started with a U.S. Congress-sponsored trip to Juneau early this week.

“Mongolia, after living through a communist regime, it was the first country that was part of the satellite of the Soviet Union, first Central Asian country that embraced democracy in a true sense and the first Central Asian country that went into an accepted parliamentary form of democracy,” Tsogtbaatar Damdin said in a Monday talk for the Juneau World Affairs Council.

Juneau World Affairs Council sponsors lectures from leading figures in global affairs.

“We were the first to embrace this Western ideology of freedom,” Damdin said.

From there, democracy spread to other Eurasian countries.

“This is a country that was heralding the new ideology, new ideas and that was influencing other countries. ... Mongolia may be small, but it can influence historical processes,” Damdin said.

The delegation was in town early this week on a diplomatic exchange through the **Open World Leadership Center**. The idea behind visits like these is to cross-pollinate ideas between U.S. democratic institutions and foster America’s brand of democracy in Eurasia.

During their trip, the five parliamentarians visited the University of Alaska Southeast, the Alaska State Capitol and the Mendenhall Glacier, accompanied by translator Chimgee Erdenechimeg and a representative from the U.S. embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

The trip alternated between serious intellectual exchange and lighthearted sightseeing.

On Monday, they sat down with mayor Ken Koelsch in the Assembly chambers to learn about city government. Sharing the language of bureaucracy, things got a little wonkish at the Assembly chambers.

Damdin looked comfortable in the seat usually reserved for Assembly member Jesse Kiehl. He asked about the city’s tax structure.

“Property tax is an important part of your revenue. How did the subprime mortgage crisis affect property prices here?” Damdin said.

“Juneau has always had a housing shortage and still does,” Koelsch answered. “So it was not that dramatic in scope. The last time we had a recession and threat of a capital move and oil revenue wasn’t very good, it affected property a lot here. This past year has been very stable.”

Mongolia has what’s called a unicameral parliamentary legislature. Instead of a house and a senate, the country uses a single 76-member parliament — officially known as the State Great Khural.

The insistence on bicameral structures at all levels of government struck a contrast for Damdin.

“I understand (bicameral structure) at the top level, where you really try to prevent the possibility of a dictator,” Damdin said after meeting with the mayor. “But you have it at every level down to the local level. It seems to me it could get very expensive, but that is your system and I am not here to comment on that.”

Damdin was impressed by the simplicity and accessibility of Alaska government.

The government “hears ordinary people,” and is “simple, not too complicated” that people can’t come in and understand it, he said.

Damdin has traveled on trips as a student — he studied at the Australia National University of Canberra and holds a Masters of International Law — but he said Juneau’s hospitality was world-class.

The group stayed with several families around town to get a closer look at life in Alaska.

On Tuesday, Koelsch handed over ceremonial keys to the city to five parliamentarians. The group didn’t miss a chance to pull Koelsch’s leg.

“In Mongolian tradition, if you give the key to the city, you have to have some door to open it. You also need to give that door,” Erdenechimeg deadpanned. “We are pragmatic people.”

After a pause, the room lit up with laughter.

You can watch a video of the delegation’s presentation, titled “Wisdom of the Steppes” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZdloM_bAgw

Correction & Clarification: An earlier version of this story stated the trip was sponsored by the U.S. State Department, due to misinformation provided by a University of Alaska Southeast official. The delegation's trip was sponsored by the U.S. Congress. This article has been updated to reflect the change. This article also stated the the delegation was in Juneau on diplomatic exchange. It should be noted that this visit did not meet policy leaders definition of diplomatic exchange, and they would use the phrase "professional exchange" to describe the visit.

• **Contact reporter Kevin Gullufsen at 523-2228 or kevin.gullufsen@juneauempire.com.**

###



Russian Foresters visit with DNR Staff

TOPICS: [DNR](#) [Foresters](#) [Government](#) [Local News](#) [Russia](#) [UP News](#)



POSTED BY: DANE WURMLINGER MAY 22, 2017

MARQUETTE — Foresters traveling from Russia on a prearranged trip visited the Marquette DNR Monday afternoon to discuss topics regarding forest management in the UP.



DNR officials and the foreign visitors both learned a great deal from each other. The group is traveling through the **Open World Program** sponsored by the U.S. Congress.

The purpose of the trip is to show visitors the differences in forest management between their country and how things are done in Michigan.

“I was selected to participate in this program. I am from Siberia, and for me, it’s very interesting to exchange my experience with colleagues from the U.S.,” said forester Alexey Banov.

The Open World Program group will continue to explore the UP beyond Marquette, as they plan to visit Michigan Technological University in Houghton on Tuesday.

###



Russian researchers explore UNMC

by John Keenan, UNMC public relations | June 19, 2017



From left, Nadezhda Oyun, Ph.D., Marat Makenov, Ph.D., Tatiana Galinska, Ph.D., UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., Artem Tikunov, Ph.D., Galina Chicherina, Ph.D., Alexander Khilkov and Oxana Belova, Ph.D.

This week, participants in the **Open World Program**, a federal program that strives to stimulate goodwill and collaboration between the people of Russia and the United States, visited UNMC.

The seven Russian researchers, who work on mosquito- and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus and Zika, met with various University of Nebraska experts during their weeklong visit.

Researcher Marat Makenov, Ph.D., was impressed by the collaborations at UNMC and across NU campuses.

"Frankly, I've never visited another university in the United States, but what I've seen here has impressed me greatly," he said. "Not only with the campus and labs and how well they're equipped, but also by the fact that talents from all over the world are here, and the university is able to integrate them all together in one collaborative effort. The range of studies they conduct is very impressive."

Oxana Belova, Ph.D., said the research on campus surpassed her expectations. "We're really fascinated by all the research going on, and we met a lot of very nice colleagues," she said.

Each delegate had opportunities to explore NU research projects in their particular area of scientific research.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said.

Alexander Khilkov, the delegation's group facilitator, said the Open World program offers many avenues for collaboration.

"We bring the top Russian emerging scientists in all fields," he said. "We have had delegations focused on cancer, molecular diagnostics and other diseases and areas. Now, this is tick-borne disease. We bring the best from Russia to introduce them to what we think is one of the best educational institutions in the United States."

Jane Meza, Ph.D., interim associate vice chancellor for global and student support at UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (and collaboratively with Nebraska Medicine), called the program important.

"What I've learned from meeting with this very talented group of people is that we're working on similar problems, so it makes a lot of sense for us to work together," she said. "They want to work with us, and it's a real opportunity for us to expand our reach and connections around the world. We're talking about opportunities for some students from the U.S. to go work with our collaborators in Russia around the same kind of problems we're working on here."

###



Ukrainian anti-corruption delegation tours Longview

Monday, September 25th 2017, 7:23 pm EDT Monday, September 25th 2017, 7:42 pm EDT

By Jamey Boyum, Multi-Media Journalist

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Six Ukrainians tour longview with focus on anti-corruption. Photo by Jamey Boyum KLTV.

LONGVIEW, TX (KLTV) - A delegation of professional Ukrainians got a look at the inner workings of city government and services in Longview. We caught up with them as they were getting a look at the equipment used by the Longview Fire Department.

The delegation started in Washington DC just a few days ago, and then to Longview. Facilitator Krystyna Dobrovolska and Delegate Anton Ivanov are two of the six from five cities in the Ukraine. The delegates say they are anti-corruption activists.

“We came here to make new practices of fighting corruption, to see how the administrative system works, how the local system works,” Ivanov said.

In DC they took a tour and got a look at the Library of Congress to learn transparency on a national level.

“We will really have some information of how the financial system works, about the open information and access to this information so it’s been quite important to us,” Ivanov stated.

And they have found some things that may help.

“We discovered some possibilities for keeping city council members accountable for what they do,” Dobrovolska relayed.

Of course, they realize looking at the federal and local systems will not eliminate governmental corruption.

“There is no 100-percent guarantee that there won’t be cases of corruption, where there are many people who actually have to oversee this process and hold the government accountable,” Dobrovolska said.

And they say one of the most valuable things they’re taking home is an app.

“Everyone can use just one application to get everything he wants from the city administration, and we definitely have to look through it more,” Ivanov said.

From here the Ukrainians will take their visit to Austin to learn more at the state level.

The **Open World** Program, started in 1999 by the U.S. Congress, brings emerging leaders from Eurasia to the U.S. to visit their professional counterparts.

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###

SONOMA WEST TIMES & NEWS

Sebastopol hosts Ukrainians with focus on domestic violence



Sebastopol World Friends hosts and their Ukrainian guests

A seven-member delegation of Ukrainians arrived in Sebastopol on Sept. 23 and will stay in the area two weeks through a congressionally sponsored **Open World** cultural exchange program.

All of the delegates are from the Cherkasy region, which is the same region in Ukraine as Sebastopol's sister city, Chyhyryn. Sebastopol World Friends (SWF) was selected to be the hosting organization of this delegation, which is operating under the theme "Combating Domestic Violence," an issue of major importance in the country which experiences high rates of spouse abuse and little prosecution of offenders.

This is the 6th **Open World** delegation that SWF has hosted. **Open World's** mission is to bring young leaders from developing countries to the U.S. to forge better international understanding through opportunities to learn about American political, business, human services, community development and daily life.

The delegates are young adult leaders between 22 and 36 years old.

They will get to learn how domestic violence victims are cared for and how criminal proceedings against perpetrators of violence are conducted by spending time at the courts and meeting with representatives of

Legal Aid, Adult Protective Services, the Men Evolving Non-Violently group, Verity, Social Advocates for Youth, Family Justice Center and Sonoma State University.

They are also scheduled to meet with state Assemblyman Marc Levine and a staff member of the office of U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris.

While in Sebastopol, they will also meet with the city council and visit the Sebastopol Police Department and local businesses. Each delegate is staying at a home in Sebastopol arranged by SWF.

Valeria Churma, co-chair of SWF's Chyhyryn committee said "We are very pleased to be selected to host an **Open World** delegation again this year. This program has given us unique opportunities to build profound connections with people in Ukraine through the process of sharing perspectives and concerns about the topics that we both truly care about."

SWF invites the public to "An Evening with the 2017 **Open World** Delegation" on Oct. 4 where there will be presentations highlighting Ukrainian culture followed by a question-and-answer session. This free event will be from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Epworthian Hall, Sebastopol United Methodist Church at 500 North Main Street.

Since its foundation in 1985, SWF has been active with its two sister cities, Chyhyryn in Ukraine, and Takeo in Japan to advance its goal of bringing citizens together through youth and adult citizens' home-stay exchange programs. In 2014, SWF received the Best Overall Program award from Sister Cities International.

For more information, see www.sebastopolwf.org.

Submitted by Meg Mizutani

###

THE Rider News

From Rider to Russia, students learn about global affairs

2 days ago

222 2 minutes read

By Jennifer Boyer



Four visitors from Russia — Tatyana Mikhailovna Permyakova, Olga Germanovna Podoplelova, Ammar Dzhamal Al-Ansi and Anna Yuryevna Galushkina — participate in a school tradition by touching the Rider Rock.

Rider was exposed to a new form of delegation from Sept. 15 to 23 when it hosted four young Russian professionals as a part of the [Open World Program](#).

The event was sponsored by the Center for International Education (CIE) and the department of International Auxiliary Programs. The delegation gave students the opportunity to interact and engage with young professionals around the world.

The event consisted of four delegates and a facilitator. The delegates visited national centers and offices such as the National Constitution Center, Internal Revenue Service Office, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, District 12 Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman’s office, and the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office. Rider will be also partnering with the [Open World Program](#), an organization that brings leaders from the Eurasia region to network with their U.S. counterparts and advance each other’s understanding of foreign governments.

“The [Open World Program](#) is a cultural immersion program that offers participants a window to the ‘real’ America and its people,” said Sara Young-Singh, director of CIE. “I think it is important for students to envision how they can participate in similar programs in other countries such as the Fulbright Program, Marshall Program or Fulbright-Hayes Program.

“The program offered the opportunity for Rider students to apply and engage themselves in an intellectual and cultural program. By partnering with Open World, Rider allows students to express their thoughts on bureaucratic ideas.”

According to Young-Singh, the delegation allows the students to expand their views and impressions regarding foreign policies, and provide insight on how non governmental organizations aim to solve societal issues.

“One of the features of this program is the opportunity for delegates to engage with American families through a homestay program,” she said. “This is an important part of the exchange of ideas and experiences into the heart of American culture as several families have volunteered to host these [them].”

This opportunity would allow students to harbor mutual understanding and exchange diverse ideas. The conference offers outstanding learning experiences and connections with foreign countries, Young-Singh said.

Faculty members have also volunteered to host the delegation in their classes. Daniel Druckenbrod, director of sustainability and associate professor in the department of geological, environmental and marine sciences, will be participating in a field trip with his students.

“Students can learn a lot from this event, from world politics to best understanding government,” Druckenbrod said. “Students can learn a lot of business too, as this is think-tank based.”

Senior history major Zach Tall said the program is beneficial for future careers.

“As students will be in contact with professionals from Russian and American governments, there is a great opportunity for networking, which will allow students to be proactive.”

Networking at the conference allowed students to create strong bonds through interaction with Russian delegates. Students and faculty also gained international contacts that can benefit them in the future.

The delegation offered great opportunities for students to get involved in today’s governmental policies. This event will allow Rider students to learn how they can make a change in the world.

“With this conference, many serious political issues were addressed,” said senior accounting major Rayjohn Felicia. “With the students attending, they get to open themselves to different perspectives on many different global events happening and how they are affecting the U.S. and the delegation members. Also, with culture, students can learn the vast amounts of differences in public policies regarding [the delegates’] countries and ours.”

###



By Jannette Pippin
Daily News Staff

Friday

Posted Oct 6, 2017 at 11:21 AM Updated Oct 6, 2017 at 11:21 AM

SWANSBORO | A world map caught the attention of Daniela Munca as she walked into a classroom at Queens Creek Elementary School and it quickly sparked a conversation with the fourth-grade students who greeted Thursday's visitors.

"Do you know how many miles it took us to get here?" Munca asked the class as she pointed to the map and the distance between the United States and Eastern Europe.

Munca was among a delegation of teachers and education representatives from Moldova who visited Queens Creek Elementary as part of their participation in the **Open World program**.

The group toured the school and stopped to talk briefly with students.

While they spoke in English, the students were interested in knowing more about their native language.

"Do you speak Russian?" one student asked.

They spoke several languages, including Romanian, Russian and languages specific to the region in which they live.

Fourth grader Lucian Ionescu, whose family is Romanian, was able to speak with some of the teachers in their language.

"It's interesting," he said of their visit to the school.

The interaction with the students was just one example of the cultural exchange that has taken place between Queens Creek and teachers and education leaders in Moldova.

Fourth grade teachers at the school got involved in the program last year and their students interacted with students in Moldova via sessions using Skype.

The students asked questions about each other's language, culture and currency, and were interested in everything from what their school was like to foods they eat.

Queens Creek teacher Timothy Ryan said their students saw that students in Moldova don't have the same resources and access to technology that they take for granted and the Moldova students, for instance, speak multiple languages while students here primarily speak English.

What the teachers found from last year's Skype sessions is that the students on both side of the globe were excited to learn from each other.

Queens Creek teacher Victoria Bell said the cultural exchange can help foster greater understanding between cultures.

"There may be a lot of differences between our countries but at the end of the day we are all the same," Bell said.

Victoria Isac, an English teacher and school psychologist in Moldova, has created a partnership with Bell and Queens Creek Elementary through the **Open World program**.

"I want Moldova to become a country where people can fulfill their dream and not flee from it, so we the teachers must educate the young generation" that this is possible, Isac wrote in her profile.

Isac said Thursday that her experience with the partnership has been a worthwhile one and one she looks forward to continuing.

"I'm happy to have this partnership and we are going to continue; we are not going to stop," Isac said.

The **Open World Leadership Center** administers the **Open World program**, an exchange and partnership program designed to enhance understanding and cooperation between the American communities and global leaders.

Open World Leadership Center is an independent government agency of the U.S. Congress under the legislative branch.

The North Carolina – Moldova Partnership for Peace was formalized in April 1999.

###

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Journalists from Ukraine learn about the fight against fake news in Chicago

By the Rev. Myron Panchuk and Vera Eliashevsky

CHICAGO – A group of journalists from Kyiv took part on September 8-16 in a professional exchange program sponsored by the **Open World Leadership Center**, an international exchange agency of the U.S. legislative branch with administration provided by the U.S.- Ukraine Foundation.

The program was organized and hosted by the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation.

The delegation of six media professionals included Oksana Poluliakh (StopFake), Maksym Skubenko (VoxUkraine), Artem Skrypnyk (Reanimation Package of Reforms), Viktoria Yermolaieva (Hromadske Radio) and Maria Zhdanova (Vogue UA, StopFake and Mohyla School of Journalism), accompanied by Alina Mosendz (StopFake), a bicultural facilitator and journalist from Ukraine.



At the WBEZ (front row, from left) are: Alina Mosendz, Vera Eliashevsky (chair, Kyiv Committee), Julian Hayda (WBEZ program producer), Viktoria Yermolaieva, Maria Zhdanova, Maksym Skubenko, Nigel Colley (great-nephew and biographer of Gareth Jones); (back row): Artem Skrypnyk, Oksana Poluliakh, Nicholas Kotcherha (president, Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation).

Prior to their arrival in Chicago, delegates completed an orientation in Washington on Capitol Hill.

In Chicago, delegates collaborated on best practices for media literacy and countering false information with seasoned journalists, media professionals and experts involved in the sphere of communications and government to see how they expose false reporting/information and search for objectivity. They discussed thoughts on how society can be better prepared to think critically, check facts and respond to disinformation in effective ways.

During an intense week of activities, the group visited the offices of Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's press office, Bloomberg, Fox, NBC and Reuters news outlets and the "Worldview" program of WBEZ on National Public Radio. The delegation also met journalists at the Chicago Tribune and Columbia College of Communications.

To become acquainted with governance and policy, they visited the Better Government Association and the Illinois Policy Institute. Each morning the group also had an opportunity to speak on myriad issues to the Ukrainian diaspora on Chicago's Ukrainian Independent Radio program.

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), who actively supports Ukraine and the battle against fake news, spoke with the delegation at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. This included a viewing of Daria Marchenko and Daniel Green's exhibit "The Elements of War."

Another meeting of note was held with Walter Dudycz, former state senator of Illinois. Mr. Dudycz shared his experiences of being a target of falsified news reporting and how this adversely impacted the good he tried to accomplish.

The highlight of the week was a public lecture at DePaul University's Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence titled "Journalistic Veracity: A Lesson from History," featuring Nigel Colley, great-nephew and biographer of murdered Welsh journalist Gareth Jones. Jones was the only Western journalist to break and cover the story of the Famine-Genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933. The journalists had an opportunity to discuss the issue of false information and media literacy today. Three years after an invasion by Russia, Ukraine is the

biggest example where fake news and war fuel one another. Programs like Ukraine's Stopfake.org show how important fact checking is in the face of war.

Thanks are due to WBEZ Program Producer Julian Hayda for organizing this event, Mr. Colley for traveling to the U.S. to share this story and the president of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, Nicholas Kotcherha, for helping to make it possible.



At the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art with Rep. Mike Quigley (from left) are: Svitlana Mefford (translator), Artem Skrypnyk, Oksana Poluliakh, Daria Marchenko (artist), Motria Melnyk (president, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art), Maksym Skubenko, Viktoria Yermolaieva, Congressman Quigley, Daniel Green, Maria Zhdanova, Vera Eliashevsky and the Rev. Myron Panchuk.

###



Russian journalists visit WCAX

By Eva McKend

November 15, 2017



SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (WCAX) A group of Russian journalists came to visit WCAX Wednesday.

Among them digital journalists and even a local morning anchor. They come from Burlington's sister city Yaroslavl, Russia. The delegation is part of the Vermont Council on World Affairs. **The Open World Program** is funded through Congress and brings leaders from the former Soviet Union to communities around the U.S. We asked them what they thought about the American media and the coverage of Russia's suspected role in the American 2016 election.

“It's very difficult to talk about meddling because we don't know what happened and there might have been certain attempts but I just don't have enough information to tell you exactly whether or not it had any real effect on the results of the election. And at the same time, I cannot completely deny that there were attempts to influence the situation in some way,” said Daniil Aleksandrovich Kuznetsov.

They also said perceptions of Americans in their country run the gamut. Some people believe the anti-American propaganda while others idolize Americans and try to mimic American culture. The group will be traveling around the state the rest of the week.

###

Tab 5
Select State Summaries



Open World in Connecticut

Fast Facts

- Connecticut has hosted **284 Moldovan, Russian, Tajikistani, Afghani, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, 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.**

Upcoming Exchanges

In March, **Milford** will host a delegation from Ukraine focusing on Community Development.

Recent Delegation Highlights

New Haven, October 2017

A delegation from **Belarus** traveled to New Haven to focus on Intellectual Property Rights. Their visit started with a meeting at the district office of **Rep. Rosa DeLauro** to discuss accountable governance, democracy in action, and state-level legislation regarding the protection of individuals' property rights. A visit to the Yale University School of Management allowed the delegation to learn about state-of-the-art coding technology. A day trip to Middletown, CT included meetings at the Connecticut Cyber Task Force and the District of Connecticut's Cybercrime Program at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Hartford, April 2017

A delegation of Rumsfeld Fellows from various countries visited **Hartford** in late April. While there, the delegation visited several historical sites and multiple presentations at institutions. The delegates went on the Mystic Seaport Tour, visited the Nautilus and US Navy Submarine Force Museum, toured the Thomas Hooker Brewery, and went inside the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. The delegation also attended presentations at the Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Hartford Butterworth Hall. The delegation also had lunch with the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce.



Delegates from Ukraine meet with Sen. Chris Murphy (April 2017)

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) |
| | Friendship Force of Connecticut | |

Testimonial

The program was described by one of the delegates as “the best way to get to know the U.S. and its people without labels or someone else’s opinions.” The delegates were especially impressed by the openness of the officials they met as well as by the easiness they can be reached.

-Facilitator of October 2017 Program

Open World in Connecticut



A delegation from Ukraine meeting with State Senators Tami Zawistowski and Tim Acker (April 2016)

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**, and multiple aides and advisors to **State Senators Stephen Cassano**, and **Tony Guglielmo**.

Making a Difference

After participating on the October 2017 Open World Program in New Haven, our delegates from Belarus were excited to share the information they learned on the program upon their return home. The participants representing governmental institutions are highly interested in organizing a visit of Lolahon Kadiri from Yale Office of Cooperative Research (OCR) to Belarus to conduct a series of lectures on technology transfer and identifying, counseling and nurturing early-stage technologies in Belarus. The National Center of Intellectual Property and Belarusian Universities are among institutions that are interested in the opportunity.

About Open World

Open World is an exchange and partnership program designed to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Eurasian and American leaders. It builds the groundwork for such cooperation by bringing emerging Eurasian civic and political leaders to the United States to work with their American counterparts during 10-day professional visits. Open World then facilitates ongoing partnerships among its Eurasian and American participants through virtual networking and post-visit activities. Since 1999, over 26,000 current and future Eurasian leaders have been hosted by some 7,100 families in 2,000-plus U.S. communities. The program is managed by the Open World Leadership Center, a U.S. legislative branch agency.



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Last updated: January 2018



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 Exchanges

In September, **Wichita** will host a delegation from Russia. In April, **Lenexa** will host a delegation from Ukraine.

Delegation Highlights

Lawrence, October 2017

Members of Parliament from **Ukraine** participated on a Government Transparency and Accountability program. The program included meetings with former **State Senator Chris Steineger**, the local office of **Rep. Kevin Yoder** in Overland Park as well as tours of local museums, Universities and the Truman Presidential Library. Through the program, the Ukrainian members were able to develop skills of how to continue the implementation of a free and transparent government in Kiev while experiencing the American way of life.

Lenexa/Overland Park, September 2017

Delegates from **Azerbaijan** visited Lenexa/Overland Park to focus on Combatting Domestic Violence. The group met with the CEO of SAFEHOME, a shelter serving Johnson and Miami counties. They learned about the roles of different agencies involved with victims of domestic violence in the state of Kansas. A meeting at the Lenexa Police Department allowed for the delegates to review the role of law enforcement in domestic disputes. A very useful meeting for the delegates was spending time with **Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe**. Steve implemented the Lethality Assessment Program, which has helped reduce the number of domestic homicides. A whole day was spent with **Judge Kathleen Lynch** observing trials at the Wyandotte County Courthouse.



Members of Parliament from Kazakhstan meet with Rep. Kevin Yoder in his D.C. office (April 2017)

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

One delegate changed her mind about the U.S. She expected to see America as she used to know from movies and news. By the end of her trip she mentioned she discovered a real America for herself.

-Facilitator of September 2017 Wichita delegation

Open World in Kansas



Delegates from Kazakhstan visit a local news station in Wichita (September 2017)

Wichita, September 2017

Delegates from **Kazakhstan** visited Wichita to focus on Best Media Practices and Government Spokespersons. Through meetings with the Elliott School of Communications, KMUW Radio Station, KAKE TV Station, and several News Papers, the Kazakh delegation was able to develop new methods of communications and developing the media. The program also facilitated a meeting with the Representative from the 88th district of Kansas, **State Rep. Elizabeth Bishop**, granting a unique perspective to the American State government. In addition to attending briefings and meetings, the Kansas State Fair was the ideal location for the delegation to experience Kansas' agriculture, livestock, and delicious food.

Making a Difference

Our local host from Lenexa Rotary Club put into perspective the impact that Open World has on our delegates, especially on women from Azerbaijan, by reflecting on a moment during the program, "Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Kansas, Suzanne Valdez, shaking hands with Azerbaijani attorney Rovshana Rahimova. Now Rovshana, an attorney who defends victims of domestic violence in Azerbaijan and has played an important role in drafting legislation that is now in place, can return to her country with information, resources, and support that will continue to improve the lives of victims in Azerbaijan."

About Open World

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Last updated: January 2018



Open World in Mississippi

Fast Facts

- **Mississippi** has hosted **145** Open World participants from **Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine** since the program began in 1999.
- Sen. **Roger Wicker** serves on the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees.
- Past **Mississippi** Open World host cities include **Greenwood, Hattiesburg, Oxford, and Tupelo.**

Upcoming Exchanges

Jackson will host a delegation from Uzbekistan.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Jackson, November 2017

Members of Parliament from **Uzbekistan** traveled to Jackson to focus on accountable governance.

Uzbekistan and Mississippi are sister states through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker met with the delegation before they traveled to Mississippi. The delegates met with **Judge Denise Owens** to discuss the challenges and rights of Mississippians seeking justice through the court system. A panel discussion at the Mississippi State Capitol brought together members from each governing body will give an overview of the infrastructure and discuss collaborative efforts that have strengthened the City of Jackson, Hinds County and the State.

Jackson, April 2017

A delegation from **Estonia** traveled to Jackson for a program focused on judicial rule of law. While there, the delegates met with district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges and discussed myriad legal topics. The Estonian judges toured the Mississippi College Law School with **Professor Richard Meyer** afterwards giving presentations to law students and faculty. The group observed proceedings in **Judge Dan Jordan's** courtroom and met with the judge in his chambers. U.S. District Clerk **Arthur Johnston** took the group on a tour of the Federal Courthouse and introduced them to his staff.



Members of Parliament from Mongolia meet with Senator Roger Wicker at his D.C. office (March 2017)

Previous Delegations

| City | Local Host | Theme (Country) |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Jackson | Rotary Club of Jackson/Judge Southwick | Rule of Law (Turkey) |
| Jackson | International Visitors Center of Jackson | Role of Legislatures (Ukraine) |
| Oxford | National Peace Foundation-Oxford | Economic Development (Russia) |
| Oxford | University of Mississippi Department of English | Culture-Writing (Russia) |
| Tupelo | Rotary Club of Tupelo | Rule of Law (Russia) |
| Jackson | International Visitors Center of Jackson | Urban Planning (Azerbaijan) |
| Hattiesburg | Rotary Club of Hattiesburg | Federalism (Russia) |

Testimonial

I believe people in Mississippi benefited because it is not often that they have the opportunity to come into contact with people from that region of Europe. The delegates were often questioned about (and explained quite well) the economics of socialism. Several “teachable” moments happened throughout the delegation’s visit.

—Local host for April 2017 Program

Open World in Mississippi



Members of Parliament from Uzbekistan visit the Mississippi State Capitol (November 2017)

Jackson, March 2016

Jackson hosted a group of professionals from **Ukraine** working to rid the country of its endemic corruption. As a part of an extensive program on **anti-corruption** measures, the group visited the Mississippi Supreme Court, as well as the Pigott & Johnson Law, a firm which represents whistleblowers throughout the U.S. who disclose fraud against the government and facts of corruption. Additionally, the **Mississippi College School of Law** designed an Anti-corruption workshop for the group covering professional ethics, the role of private attorneys in stopping corruption, corruption at the local government level and investigative methods. The group also sat down for an in-depth discussion

Making a Difference

After participating on the Open World Program in April 2017, our Estonian Judges felt that The visit provided participants a lot of ideas concerning what is better in the US legal system and what should be done better in our legal system. At the same time it provided insight into what is already well in our system and should not be changed. The delegates mentioned that the fact that the public is more involved in the judicial decision making in the US is better compared to our system where the public does not have a significant role. On the other hand, what is better in Estonia is that our judges are not publicly elected. Finally, the delegates considered that the US judges are extremely professional and well-equipped to lead court hearings and in a way that the rights of a party are not infringed.

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Last updated: January 2018



Open World in New Jersey

Fast Facts

- **New Jersey** has hosted 145 **Armenian, Russian, Ukrainian,** and **Uzbekistani** Open World visitors since the program began in 1999.
- Past New Jersey host cities include **Cherry Hill, Hackettstown, New Milford, Newark, Princeton, Trenton, and Woodbury.**

Upcoming Exchanges

Lawrenceville will host a delegation from Ukraine in October.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Lawrenceville, September 2017

A delegation from **Russia** traveled to Lawrenceville to learn about think tanks and their role in accountable governance. Highlights included visiting the district office of **Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman**, touring a local courthouse with Mercer County’s Prosecutor, **Angelo Onofri**, meeting policy leaders at America’s Grow-A-Row, New Jersey’s Policy Perspective, and Islamic Society of Central Jersey. Delegates also explored think tanks in the tristate area and traveled to Philadelphia, New York City, and Dover

Montclair, October 2016

Russian delegates traveled to **Montclair** to participate in a program on social services focusing on early intervention programs for young children (0-5). During the program, delegates were able to meet with several congressional staffers representing members from the Northeast. Delegates visited the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York and various educational institutions, such as Montclair State University. While in Montclair, delegates also had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Montclair, Mr. **Robert Jackson**.



Delegates from Russia, focusing on social services, visit the Academy360 Lower School in Verona. (October 2016)

Selected Delegations

| City | Local Host | Theme (Country) |
|---------------|---|---|
| Atlantic City | Rotary Club of Atlantic City | Improved English Language Education-Secondary Schools (Ukraine) |
| Woodbury | Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey | Media and Governance (Moldova) |
| New Brunswick | New Brunswick Sister City Association | Legislative Staff (Armenia) |
| Montclair | Montclair State University | Legal Education/Justice Studies (Ukraine) |

Testimonial

“The visit showed that ordinary people in the two countries of Russia and the United States have shared interests. American caretakers, educators and medical therapists learnt where Russians are ahead of us in treatment methods for early childhood autistic/handicapped patients. Common projects were discussed and are in the planning stages.”

—Host for October 2016 Montclair visit

Open World in New Jersey



A delegate from Russia learns how to make bio-diesel from used cooking oil while in Branchville. (April 2016)

Branchville, April 2016

A delegation from **Ukraine** visited **Branchville** during a program focused on Agriculture. While in D.C., delegates were able to meet with **Senator Chris Murphy** and congressional staffer Ms. Sarah Eyman, from the office of **Senator Richard Blumental**. Delegates toured several local farms, Sutherland Packaging, and Thor Labs. The group also engaged in discussion on State level agricultural efforts and economic development with local state legislators Senator **Steve Oroho**, Assemblywoman **Gail Pheobus**, and Assemblyman **Parker Space**.

Making a Difference

After participating on the October 2016 Open World Program in Montclair, delegates from Russia were eager to develop a program to implement inclusive education and introduce new diagnostic tools after viewing how American doctors work with kids with disabilities. To develop this project, the delegates were going to consult parents who have kids with disabilities on various topics from legal support to new trends in treatment and consult NGOs that work in that sphere.

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Open World in New York

Fast Facts

- **New York** has hosted **1,279** participants from **Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine** since Open World began in 1999, making it the **second most-visited state** under the program.
- Past New York host communities include **Albany, Bellport, Brooklyn, Clifton Park, Dobbs Ferry, Irondequoit, Ithaca, Lyons, Oneonta, Ossining, Poughkeepsie, Queens, Syosset and Syracuse.**

Upcoming Exchanges

Dobbs Ferry will host a delegation from Ukraine in October focusing on Media Coverage of Political Leaders and Elections.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Dobbs Ferry, October 2017

The delegation from **Kosovo** participated in the Open World Program to improve Higher Education through Policies and Planning in **Dobbs Ferry**. Throughout the program, the delegation met with educators in an array of well-known American universities such as NYU and Columbia University. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with **State Senator Neil D. Breslin**. Although the program was based out of Dobbs Ferry, the program spanned from Albany to New York City, facilitating an understanding of the variety of cultural scenes New York State has to offer.

Syracuse, September 2017

A delegation **Georgia** was hosted in **Syracuse** to develop a greater understanding of Media Practices and Independent Media production. The delegation was able to attend meetings with a number of meetings with professionals and educators. While visiting the WCNY Public Radio and Television, the Georgian delegation was able to learn about the methods one of the most well-known local stations connect their viewers to education and the arts.



Delegates from Ukraine visit Nazareth College in Rochester (May 2017)

Selected Recent Delegations

| City | Local Host | Theme (Country) |
|-------------|--|---|
| Albany | International Center of the Capital Region | Legislative Development: Education (Ukraine) |
| Buffalo | International Institute of Buffalo | Issues of Internally Placed Persons/Crimean Tatars (Ukraine) |
| Liberty | Rotary Club of Liberty, NY | Best Media Practices (Russia) |
| Rochester | Rochester Global Connections | PTSD and Reintegration/Medical Practitioners and Social Workers (Poltava) (Ukraine) |
| Syracuse | International Center of Syracuse | Best Media Practices/Independent Media (Georgia) |
| Dobbs Ferry | Mercy College | Policies and Planning: |

Testimonial

“Many of the delegates made it clear that they intended to implement knowledge they learned during this Open World program once they returned to Ukraine. We asked the group during the Program Closing if there’s anything they’re going to take away from their experience, and one delegate mentioned that he observed how things can be done in a more simple way than they are done in Ukraine, and he’s hoping to bring back that method of work back home.”

—Local Host of March 2017 Program

Open World in New York



Delegates from Georgia stand at the base of Niagara Falls in during an excursion to Buffalo, NY (September 2017)

Rochester, May 2017

A delegation from **Ukraine** was hosted in **Rochester** to discuss the role of medical practitioners and social workers in reintegrating citizens with PTSD. The delegation attended the 5th Annual Veterans Mental Health and Homeless Summit at Nazareth College and visited Batavia VA Medical Center. When visiting medical institutions, delegates received an overview of a PTSD residential program and behavioral health treatment options. While in Rochester, delegates visited the district office of **Rep. Louise Slaughter**.

Making a Difference

After participating in the March 2017 Open World Program in Buffalo, the delegates from Ukraine were eager to reconnect with the people they met to implement similar programs in Ukraine. Specifically, delegate Kseniia Bukhanets was very interested in a program at Western New York Heroes called Operation B.O.O.T.S. – Battle Buddies on Our Troops Side, which brings veterans and their families together in a casual, safe, non-clinical, fun environment that fosters teamwork, networking, and friendship. Kseniia also expressed that she would be contacting the International Institute of Buffalo's Refugee Resettlement Director to get more information on programs provided for refugees to get some ideas on how she can implement them in her work.

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Open World in Ohio

Fast Facts

- Ohio has hosted **1,185** 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, Akron,** and **Worthington**.

Upcoming Exchanges

Akron will host delegations in March and October. **Columbus** will host a delegation in **May**. **Dayton** will host in September. In October, **Chagrin Falls Cincinnati** will host delegations.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Dayton, May 2017

A delegation of mental health and well-being experts from **Tajikistan** traveled to Dayton where they visited several educational institutions and multiple hospitals. On their first day, the delegates visited Wright State University, Soin Hospital, and Miami Valley Hospital to provide an overview of medicine in the United States. Each day of the program focused on a different topic including psychiatry training, developmental disabilities, and mental health care.

Akron, March 2017

An all-women delegation from **Ukraine** traveled to **Akron** to discuss the issues facing internally displaced people from the Crimean Peninsula. Before heading to Akron, the delegates visited the D.C. office of **Rep. Tim Ryan**. A meeting with the International Institute of Akron allowed the delegates to learn about the services available to refugees and immigrants in the U.S. A highlight of the visit was observing a city council meeting.



Delegates from Ukraine meet with Rep. Tim Ryan in his D.C. office (March 2017)

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

All were quite impressed with the dedication; professionalism and commitment of the delegates who with very little available resources are improving the lives and the hopes of so many who have been displaced .It was beneficial to our Professional presenters to have an opportunity to learn about how the situation in Ukraine is impacting those who are internally displaced.

-Local host of March 2017 Program

Open World in Ohio



Delegates from Tajikistan showing off their Ohio spirit (May 2017)

Columbus, January 2017

A delegation comprised of members of parliament from **Serbia** visited Columbus in late January. While there, they met with **Kim Maggard**, the Mayor of Columbus, **Michael F. Curtin**, the 17th district house representative for Ohio, and **Jon Husted**, the Ohio Secretary of State. Meeting with these local and state representatives was able to enhance the group's knowledge of accountable governance on a micro level. The group was also able to meet **Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.**, a presiding judge on the United States District Court.

Making a Difference

After the Open World Program in Dayton, our local host was very eager to start a partnership with Tajikistan. She commented that, "a potential partnership would be for a group of American doctors, nurses, social workers, and friends of the cause, to plan a Symposium for Family Practice Medical Doctors (therapists) in Tajikistan. We could pull together a group of speakers, who would provide educational workshops for 2 1/2 days. We could offer the Mental Health First Aid course to nurses, police, and/or teachers. We could have physicians provide training about diagnosis and treatment. There are only a handful of psychiatrists in the whole country of Tajikistan. When their Family Practice doctors are in training, there is little provided about mental health or developmental disabilities."

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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 Exchanges

Tulsa will host a delegation from Ukraine in March.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Oklahoma City, October 2017

U.S. Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell hosted a delegation of judges specializing in criminal and juvenile justice from **Georgia**. Highlights included meeting Judge Robert E. Bacharach for a Q&A session, observing Federal proceedings with **Judge Lisa K. Hammond** and **Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange**, a tour of the Oklahoma Judicial Center with **Justice Noma Gurich**, a visit to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center, and observing a Federal Naturalization Ceremony with Judge Mitchell. Delegates also participated in a host recognition ceremony thanking all judges and hosts at Oklahoma City University. In attendance was **U.S. Senator James Lankford (OK)** who spoke to the delegation on their experience. The delegation's visit to Oklahoma City was administered by the **Rotary Club of Oklahoma City**.

Tulsa, September 2017

A delegation of educators and health professionals from **Kazakhstan** visited Tulsa to focus on school-based drug prevention programs. Highlights included meeting staff at the district office of **Rep. Jim Bridenstine**, visiting Tulsa Health Department Regional Prevention Coordinators Office, and visits to local high schools and non-profits. The delegation's visit to Tulsa was administered by **Tulsa Global Alliance**.



Georgian judicial delegation meets Judge Robert E. Bacharach (center) at Judge Suzanne's Mitchell's (second to the right) office in Oklahoma City (October 2017)

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

"Each delegate contributed to our discussion and, I believe, each had time to tell their individual story and have their questions answered. The delegation appreciated the program's balance of legal presentations, the perspectives of other stakeholders (legislators, bar association, academics), and cultural experiences.

— *Open World Host, Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell*

Open World in Oklahoma



Women entrepreneurs from Russia meet with the CEO of Bama Pies, a women-owned business (March 2017)

Tulsa, March 2017

An all-women delegation from **Russia** visited Tulsa to focus on partnerships and entrepreneurship. The delegates met with the owner of Euro-Mart, a store that members of Tulsa's Russian community work and shop. A visit to the district office of **Rep. Jim Bridenstine**, allowed the delegates to learn how the congressman serves his constituents. The delegation met with the women-owned business of Bama Companies, which is one of the largest manufacturers of pies and biscuits in the U.S. A highlight of the visit was meeting with the Tulsa chapter of 1 Million Cups, a national program designed to educate, engage, and connect entrepreneurs. The delegation's visit to Tulsa was administered by **Tulsa Global Alliance**.

Building Relationships

Long-time Open World partner, 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 and 2017. In April 2017, Judge Friot gave a lecture at Lobachevsky State University Faculty of Law and Saratov State Law Academy. Judge Friot lectured on the constitutional and statutory structure of U.S. presidential elections.

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Open World in Vermont

Fast Facts

- Vermont has hosted **327 Armenian, Georgian, Kazakhstani, Lithuanian, Russian, Serbian, and Ukrainian** Open World visitors since the program began in 1999.
- Past Vermont host cities include **Middlebury** and **South Royalton**.
- The Vermont-based International Rule of Law Consortium oversees Open World rule of law exchanges in multiple states.

Upcoming Exchanges

In October, **Burlington** will host digital media specialists from their sister city Yaroslavl, Russia.

Recent Delegation Highlights

Burlington, November 2017

A delegation from Yaroslavl, **Russia** traveled to their sister city of Burlington to focus on media. The delegates visited a multitude of media outlets including radio stations, newspapers, and news websites. A visit to the Vermont Public Radio allowed the delegates to see the operations of one of the smallest NPR member networks in the U.S. The delegates learned how the University of Vermont's newspaper, *Vermont Cynic*, has become an independent student voice that strives to be an outlet for valuable information and to promote the exchange of ideas.

Burlington, May 2017

Delegates from **Russia**, focusing on the use of DNA Analysis to Deter Illegal Logging, visited the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Center to learn about its leading-edge forest science and technology applications. The delegates enjoyed a visit to the district office of **Senator Patrick Leahy**, since he serves on the Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources Subcommittees. A trip to Green Mountain National Forest allowed the delegates to see the flora and fauna of Vermont.



Members of Parliament from Tajikistan meet with Governor of Vermont Phil Scott (February 2017)

Selected Recent Delegations

| City | Local Host | Theme (Country) |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Burlington | Vermont Council on World Affairs (VCWA) | Accountable Governance (Kazakhstan) |
| Burlington | VCWA | Accountable Governance (Armenia) |
| Burlington | VCWA | Environmental Management (Serbia) |
| Burlington | Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project | Rule of Law (Ukraine) |
| Burlington/Montpelier | Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project | Accountable Governance (Georgia) |
| Burlington/Montpelier | Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project | Rule of Law (Russia) |

Testimonial

“The host families had an amazing experience getting to know each of the delegates and learning more about the rich culture of Tajikistan. Most people that the delegation met with had very little knowledge of the country and enjoyed learning more about the rich culture of the country.”

“The delegates seemed to appreciate the openness and welcoming spirit of Vermont. They were well received by each of the resources and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and receive candid answers.”

-Local host of Tajik Members of Parliament

Open World in Vermont



Russian delegation visiting the George D Aiken Forestry Sciences Library (May 2017)

Burlington, February 2017

Members of Parliament from **Tajikistan** visited Burlington to focus on accountable governance. The delegates visited Burlington City Council and met with Jane Knodell, City Council President. They toured both the Vermont Supreme Court and the Vermont State House before meeting with **Governor Phil Scott**. A meeting with **Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos**, allowed the delegates to learn how his office oversees elections, advises public agencies in record and information management, and protecting the public from unethical or unprofessional behavior. They also visited the district offices of **Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders**.

Making a Difference

After participating on the May 2017 Open World Program focusing on use of DNA Analysis to Deter Illegal Logging, the Facilitator of the delegation commented, "I think the delegates were surprised to find out that their jobs do not differ much from those of their American colleagues. American scientists in the University of Vermont labs carry out very similar experiments, and the process of logging looks very similar to logging in Russia. One major difference, however, is that as a rule it is simply not feasible to engage in illegal logging in Vermont. Therefore the number of cases of illegal logging is significantly smaller than what is reported in Russia."

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2017 Open World Hosting Organizations

