



OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER | *As of December 31, 2015*

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The Honorable John O'Keefe

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The President of the Senate and The Speaker of the House of Representatives | July 1, 2016



WALTER SCOTT, JR.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Walter Scott

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker,

It is my honor to present to the Congress the Open World Leadership Center's annual report for 2015. It was another momentous year, with many highlights to report on, but perhaps what stands out the most has to do with our very identity as a Legislative Branch agency. In 2015, the Board of Trustees and Open World staff developed our latest strategic plan (2016-2020); a road map for how a Legislative Branch agency serves the Congress. The Open World program provides Members and their staff first hand, unfiltered access to actionable information straight from rising leaders of emerging democracies, which can prove helpful to both chambers' committee and caucus work.

Open World's founding Chairman and Board Trustee, Dr. James H. Billington, announced his retirement as Librarian of Congress effective September 30, 2015. By statute, the Librarian of Congress serves on the Board and appoints Trustees other than those who are members of Congress. Dr. Billington leaves a great legacy in Open World, and has guided us so well over the years. His engagement in policy, strategy, and day to day issues of importance has kept us focused on our number one goal: to be of service to the Congress.

I have enjoyed my years as a Trustee and the Chairman of the Open World Leadership Center and it was bittersweet when I announced my own departure from the Board on February 9, 2016. It was my privilege to be part of the Open World program in its successful efforts to encourage influential young legislators and other professionals from the Eurasian and East European countries. Their Open World programs in American towns and cities all across the U.S. let them see for themselves how their peers go about their business running cities, administering hospitals and schools, volunteering, and all of the many duties that our citizens perform to keep this country great. I believe wholeheartedly in the effectiveness of the program in breaking down stereotypes about Americans and countering the anti-American propaganda from the Kremlin that infects not only Russia, but the entire region.

I am pleased to announce my successor as chairman, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Ambassador to the Holy See, the Honorable R. James Nicholson. Open World is in steady hands, being led by an individual with many years of executive experience.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker: I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this unique and effective Legislative Branch agency. I hope that you and your colleagues continue to support its work in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON

Librarian of Congress Emeritus | Founding Chairman of Open World Leadership Center



Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress for 27 years, has played a unique role in preserving, promoting, and sharing America's rich cultural heritage. He is one of our country's foremost Russian experts, and has spent more than 50 years helping America's leaders and citizens better understand the former Soviet Union and its successor states. As the founding chairman of the Open World Leadership Center, which has brought thousands of emerging young Eurasian leaders to the United States, Dr. Billington has contributed to a greater appreciation of America's values and institutions in countries stretching across one-third of the globe.

Dr. Billington retired as Librarian of Congress September 30, 2015.

QUESTION & ANSWER

With Ambassador John O’Keefe | *Open World Executive Director*



Before assuming his duties as Executive Director in August 2007, Ambassador O’Keefe had a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Department of State. As U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic from 2000 to 2003, O’Keefe negotiated the treaty allowing Coalition forces to establish a base there in support of operations in Afghanistan, set up an investment advisory council headed by the President of Kyrgyzstan, and worked with Kyrgyzstan’s President and Minister of Education to make university acceptance merit-based, and created an outreach program to the Muslim community.

HOW DOES THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER DIRECTLY SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL INTERESTS?

In two ways: first, many constituents are involved in service clubs and international outreach. For example, one of our best partners is Rotary International, and local Rotary clubs host our delegates, retain ties with the guests and Rotary clubs in Russia and elsewhere, and nominate participants from these countries. We link similar organizations, sister cities and sister states such as Iowa and the Republic of Kosovo, and support community colleges and medical centers throughout the U.S. who wish to broaden the experience of their students and professionals.

For example, Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) wrote on behalf of former Majority Leader of the Senate, Dr. William “Bill” Frist, to arrange a program on delivery of medical services to rural areas. We arranged for 25 doctors, one half to Knoxville, one half to Memphis with the last three days in Nashville where Dr. Frist was host and guide through the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Second, we introduce to Members and their staff participants directly involved in activities of interest to Congress, and more broadly, to the U.S. A recent group of newly-elected members of the Ukraine parliament included a former soldier who was elected while serving on the front in Eastern Ukraine. He brought firsthand accounts of the challenges in confronting highly trained Russian military despite a lack of modern equipment, as well as the spirit of resistance among young Ukrainians. This practical information, that they would otherwise have not been privy to, is useful to Members and their staff.

HOW DOES OPEN WORLD ENSURE THAT IT IS A RESOURCE, AN ASSET, AND A SOUND INVESTMENT FOR CONGRESS?

It’s not easy. While we have the lowest cost, and most efficient exchange program in the U.S. government, with a staff of six, we don’t always broadcast as well as we might the kind of targeted, results oriented programming we do. As an example, when Members of Congress, and of the Ukrainian Caucus in the House and the Senate, noted the very human consequences of the Russian incursion into Ukraine, we responded with a Post-traumatic Stress Disorder program with Yale Medical School (who contributed pro bono). The result was the participants set up clinics in their region, and others brought the training they received to colleagues on the front lines. Along those same lines, the Russian Federation is waging a very successful information war. Our Board of Trustees approved more delegates who are engaged in on-line response to Russian disinformation.

HOW DO HOST COMMUNITIES HELP SHOULDER THE COST BURDEN OF HOSTING THE DELEGATIONS?

We have triple the number of communities requesting to be part of the program as we have slots to give them. Our host communities cover 20% of our costs, meals, transportation, and cultural events. But even more than money, they show our delegates the spirit of volunteerism, the hospitality that our visitors remark is the best part of the program. Our surveys show a significant change for the better of perceptions of the U.S. Since delegates stay with families, they see the U.S. from the inside out. Priceless.

HOW CAN A MEMBER OF CONGRESS GET INVOLVED IN THE OPEN WORLD PROGRAM OR REQUEST PROGRAMMING?

Located on Capitol Hill, Open World is always available to stop by and meet with Members or staff to discuss their priorities for the program and initiatives we might support. We link Members to the leaders of countries and regions they are most interested in. Members can request that a delegation be hosted in their state or district, or that we schedule an in-depth briefing by our participants. We can tailor a visit by rising leaders of countries important to U.S. policy tailored to a Member's particular interest.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE OPEN WORLD PROGRAM?

Open World continues to fulfill its mission to serve Members of Congress who desire to both better inform their own foreign policy formulation, and inform other nations of U.S. values. Under the guidance of our Board of Trustees, which includes six Members of Congress, we will continue to introduce young foreign leaders to the American democratic governing systems and free market operations at every level: federal, state, and local. Open World will continue its relationship with the network of leaders it has enlisted, especially with those from countries crucial to American national security interests.

PROGRAM HISTORY

The Open World Leadership Center is a unique Legislative Branch agency whose mission is to create and sustain relationships between Members of Congress and their counterparts from strategically important countries. To accomplish this mission, Open World hosts emerging political and civic leaders from Eurasia through its unique congressionally-sponsored exchange program. Congress launched Open World in May 1999, in response to a speech that Librarian of Congress James H. Billington had recently given to senior Members of Congress on the future of Russia. In 2000, Congress created a separate Legislative Branch entity, the Open World Leadership Center, to manage the exchange program, which initially focused on Russia.

As part of a congressional expansion of Open World, the other post-Soviet countries became eligible to participate in the program in 2003. In 2004, Congress extended eligibility for Open World to any country designated by the Center's public-private Board of Trustees.

Open World operates under a board-approved Strategic Plan covering fiscal years 2012–2015. One initiative called for in the Plan that has come to fruition is to increase the number of delegates below age 30. The Plan also emphasizes Open World's role as a congressional support agency.

In 2015, Open World conducted exchanges across the United States for leaders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

2015 STATISTICS

Open World has brought over **25,379** current and future leaders to the United States since 1999.

The average age of Open World delegates is **37**.

Women constitute **51** percent of Open World delegates.

In 2015, Open World brought **864** participants from **16** different countries.

Open World also hosted **three** leaders from Afghanistan under a special agreement and cost arrangement with the Rumsfeld Foundation.

Open World's 2015 participants traveled to **42** U.S. states in **202** congressional districts.

Since the program's inception, more than **7,800** American volunteer families in over **2,282** communities in all 50 states have hosted Open World leaders.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

	ARMENIA		MONGOLIA
	AZERBAIJAN		RUSSIA
	ESTONIA		SERBIA
	GEORGIA		TAJIKISTAN
	KAZAKHSTAN		TURKMENISTAN
	KOSOVO		UKRAINE
	KYRGYZSTAN		UZBEKISTAN
	MOLDOVA		

STAFF

As of December 31, 2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The Honorable John O'Keefe Ambassador (Ret.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Jane Sargus

PROGRAM MANAGERS: Vera DeBuchananne & Lewis Madanick

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST: Maura Shelden

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER: Liz Aduso

COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Alexander Khilkov

INTRODUCTION

Face-To-Face with Congress: Modeling An Accessible, Accountable Government

An arm of the U.S. Congress, the Open World Leadership Center is constantly at work to further the Congress' interests in an increasingly uncertain Eurasian region. Its Open World program brings the next generation of leaders from the region directly to the halls of the most powerful legislative body in the world, the United States Congress. This establishes a personal and profound connection between leaders from around the world, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Maintaining a strong connection with emerging democracies is of great importance. Open World's vast alumni network spanning across Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe stands among the most organic and authentic tools for maintaining that connection.

It is the Open World Leadership Center's primary duty to serve Congress and further its interests. As the Open World program continues to engage more foreign parliamentarians, we increase our relevancy and usefulness to the Congress. We invite Members and their staff to utilize Open World programming so that their office can enhance productive relationships with foreign leaders.

The Open World Leadership Center is a catalyst of cooperation and friendship between leaders of the United States and those of emerging democracies. Through the Open World program, Members of Congress have the unique opportunity to foster and maintain relationships with leaders that otherwise they may not.



The Open World program prides itself on its ability to connect Members of Congress with influential emerging leaders across the world. Here, Rep. Tom Cole (OK-4) shares a cultural exchange with a delegation from Ukraine in his Washington, DC office. Open World executive director Ambassador John O'Keefe (at left) facilitates.

OBSERVING PERINATAL CARE IN DETROIT

Ukrainian delegates traveled to Detroit, Michigan to observe perinatal care. In Detroit, they met with **Rep. Sander Levin** (MI-9) and discussed the current political climate in Ukraine, as well as the way health and medicine is practiced in the U.S.

The experience that the Ukrainians found the most interesting was their visit to Beaumont Hospital, where the delegates participated in discussions with their fellow healthcare providers. The group was especially interested in the advanced technology that the hospital had to offer and learned much more about the economic side of running a hospital. The delegates expressed a need for funds in Ukrainian medical facilities.

The delegates also met with **Dr. Mark Juzych**, chairman of the Kresge Eye Institute. The group discussed Dr. Juzych's work as a teacher of optometry as well as his general practice.



UKR

TRAVEL DATE March 5, 2015

LOCATION Detroit, Michigan

THEME Perinatal Care

GRANTEE International Focus

LOCAL HOST International Visitors Council of Detroit



The group with Merrillwood Pediatric's Dr. Anne Butry-Bluj and Dr. Zinaida Laska-Sobol to discuss pediatrics.



Healthcare professionals from Ukraine meet with Rep. Sander Levin (MI-9) in his Detroit office.

UKRAINIAN VETERINARIANS GET TO WORK IN WISCONSIN

Ukrainian delegates visited Richland Center to participate in a program focused on agricultural development. In Washington, DC, the delegation met with **Rep. Ron Kind (WI-3)** who led a discussion on the areas of agricultural business in Wisconsin, as well as how House offices function in Washington, DC as well as the district.

Once in Richland Center, the Ukrainians visited and toured Junction View Dairy and Keewaydin Farms, where delegates observed the farm-to-market process. The mutual benefits of this program were apparent when several delegates, who are veterinarians in Ukraine, helped a host family mend the broken leg of an injured calf (see photo). The group also had the opportunity to meet with **Mayor Paul Corcoran** following a city council meeting.

After returning home, the delegates embarked on plans to present their Open World experience at the Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation.



TRAVEL DATE April 29, 2015

LOCATION Richland Center, Wisconsin

THEME Agricultural Development

SUBTHEME Agribusiness

GRANTEE World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

LOCAL HOST University of Wisconsin, Richland



Ukrainian veterinarians conduct an on-the-spot bone setting.



Ukrainians meet with Rep. Ron Kind (WI-3) in his Washington, DC office.



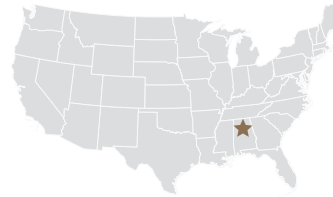
Delegates tour Westby Cooperative Creamery to discuss sustainable safe farming.

ALABAMA CHANGES KAZAKH PERCEPTIONS OF THE U.S.

A delegation from Kazakhstan visited Birmingham for a program focused on environmental protection and energy efficiency. Once the group arrived in Washington, they attended meetings with **Rep. Robert Aderholt** (AL-4) and **Rep. Gary Palmer** (AL-6). During these meetings, the Kazakhs discussed ecological issues, and learned about the role of a Member of Congress.

In Birmingham, the environmental protection experts met with the mayor of Hoover, **Gary Ivey**. Mayor Ivey gave a presentation to the delegates concerning local ecological initiatives. The delegates were very interested to learn about local recycling facilities. Later in the trip, the Kazakhs toured a recycling plant, which the delegates found particularly informative.

The participants from Kazakhstan learned a great deal about American politics and culture during their visit to Birmingham. The delegates were impressed by the level of independence possessed by local government. They were pleasantly surprised at how welcoming and hospitable ordinary citizens were. Their perceptions about America changed drastically during their stay in Birmingham; they noted a contrast between their knowledge of U.S. foreign policy and the views of the people, particularly in regard to military actions abroad.



KAZ

TRAVEL DATE June 3, 2015

LOCATION Birmingham, Alabama

THEME Environmental Protection

SUBTHEME Energy Efficiency

GRANTEE Friendship Force

LOCAL HOST Friendship Force of Birmingham



Delegates from Kazakhstan meet with Rep. Gary Palmer (AL-6) in his Washington, DC office.



Kazakh participants meet with Mayor Gary Ivey at Hoover City Hall.

KYRGYZ GROUP SOAKS UP HYDROPOWER INFORMATION IN COLORADO

Denver-bound Kyrgyz hydropower experts met with **Rep. Ken Buck** (CO-4) and his then-chief of staff **Greg Brophy** to discuss water rights in the state of Colorado. The delegates were engrossed, as Brophy is a career farmer from Colorado, making him very knowledgeable on the subject.

After orientation in Washington, DC, the delegates arrived in Denver, where they met with **Judge Gregory Hobbs** at the Colorado Supreme Court. Judge Hobbs' experience working on water management in the state of Colorado both as a State Supreme Court Justice and as a water rights lawyer gave him a unique and learned perspective on the issue of water and hydropower. Many of the delegates' perspectives on the U.S. judiciary system were completely changed during this meeting due to Judge Hobbs' professionalism, interests, and care for his co-workers and country.

The delegates furthered their education on water and hydropower in the U.S. by visiting the Colorado State University Hydraulics Lab. The Kyrgyz received information on the process of data collection and general duties of the department. They were especially interested in the large-scale models of river flood flows.



KGZ

TRAVEL DATE June 3, 2015

LOCATION Denver, Colorado

THEME Alternative Energy Sources

SUBTHEME Water and Hydropower

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST World Denver



Delegates from Kyrgyzstan meet with Rep. Ken Buck (CO-4) in his Washington, DC office. Chief of Staff Greg Brophy is second from left.



Kyrgyz participants discuss water cases and hydropower with Judge Gregory Hobbs in the Colorado State Supreme Court.

UKRAINIANS BRING SPARK OF ENERGY TO OHIO

A lively meeting with **Rep. Marcy Kaptur** (OH-9) kicked off the Toledo program for a group of young professionals from Ukraine. Rep. Kaptur and the group spoke about energy efficiency in Ukraine, as well as the current Ukrainian political climate. The delegates were interested in how energy sources differed between the United States and Ukraine.

In Toledo, the participants explored energy efficiency in ways that would be applicable in Ukraine. In addition to meeting with Rep. Kaptur, the delegation met with Toledo mayor **Paula Hicks-Hudson** with whom they discussed how Ukraine is moving more toward energy efficiency, especially in their government. The delegates also toured a windfarm and biomass facility, where they learned how developing wind energy and other sources of alternate energy can contribute to the economic growth of areas with limited resources and growth potential.

During their Open World program, the participants not only explored energy development but also got to experience American culture in-depth. And they plan on telling their communities back home in Ukraine all about what they learned in Toledo.

“Every member of the delegation had plans to disseminate the information that they learned in the U.S. after their return to Ukraine.”

DR. ELIZABETH BALINT

Great Lakes Consortium project manager



UKR

TRAVEL DATE June 10, 2015

LOCATION Toledo, Ohio

THEME Young Professionals

SUBTHEME Energy Efficiency

GRANTEE World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

LOCAL HOST Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development with WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc.



Delegates meet with Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) during their welcome reception in Toledo, Ohio.



Young Ukrainian professionals meet with Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson during the welcome reception.

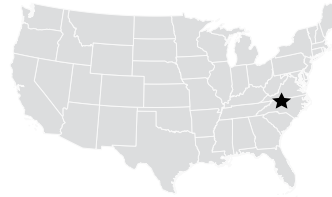
VOLUNTEER SPIRIT MAKES AN IMPRESSION ON MOLDOVANS

In September, a group of six Moldovans en route to Greensboro, North Carolina to explore the American healthcare and hospital systems, met with **Rep. Alma Adams** (NC-12) where the group discussed North Carolina history, including the role the state played in the Civil Rights Movement.

Once in Greensboro, the delegates spent a great deal of time at several hospitals and medical schools, including Cone Health Cancer Center, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Nursing. They shadowed several medical professionals and discussed politics and healthcare. They also met with North Carolina Secretary of State **Elaine Marshall** who further explained aspects of the American healthcare system.

The delegates were impressed by the scope of services the hospitals were able to offer to patients, as well as the spirit of volunteerism found in the American healthcare system.

Delegate and Chisinau Rotary Club member **Irina Rusanovschi's** participation in the program was part of a bigger project in collaboration with Rotary Clubs in Greensboro and Guilford: "I would like to give special thanks to **Dr. Stephen Mackler** (Guilford Rotary) and **Robert Newton** (Greensboro Rotary) for their continuous support all these years. Upon my return to Moldova from my Open World visit, I collaborated with Global Giving to collect over \$6,000 - funds used to renovate the windows in the Pneumology Section of the Health Care for Mother and Child Hospital."



MDA

TRAVEL DATE September 10, 2015

LOCATION Greensboro, North Carolina

THEME Public Health

SUBTHEME Nursing

GRANTEE Rotary International

LOCAL HOST Guilford Rotary Club, District 7690, Club #22059



Dr. William Milner visits with the group at the Mobile Dental Care Unit.



Moldovan participants meet with Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12) in her Washington, DC office.

FROM ICE CREAM TO AIRCRAFT: RUSSIANS SEE LOCAL BUSINESS IN KANSAS

In September, Russian entrepreneurs visited Wichita, Kansas to learn more about the role of the U.S. government in entrepreneurship. One of their first meetings in Wichita was with **Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-4)**, with whom they discussed the ways in which the government both supports and hinders businesses.

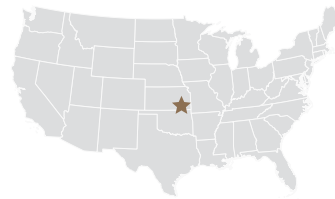
During their program, the Russians visited several diverse businesses in Wichita, producing items from ice cream to aircraft parts. The delegates were very interested in the contrast between the structures of businesses in the U.S. and those of Russia, and the delegates were excited to implement newfound practices in their own businesses.

Through the Open World program, Americans and Russians alike shared illuminating cultural experiences; the multiplier effect is limitless.

“The Americans and Russians alike gained the benefit of new friendships and unforgettable cultural exchange with one another throughout the week.”

AUGUSTINE IACOPELLI

Rotarian



RUS

TRAVEL DATE September 23, 2015

LOCATION Wichita, Kansas

THEME Entrepreneurship

GRANTEE Rotary International

LOCAL HOST Rotary Club of West Wichita



Russian entrepreneurs meet with Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-4) in his Wichita district office.



Delegates meet with the Wichita Chamber of Commerce

IOWA AND KOSOVO PARTNER IN SECURITY

Parliamentarians from Europe's youngest country, Kosovo, were hosted in Des Moines, Iowa to witness for themselves accountable governance in the United States. Once in Washington, the parliamentarians met with **Rep. David Price** (NC-4), **Rep. Sam Farr** (CA-20), **Rep Vern Buchanan** (FL-16), **Rep Peter Roskam** (IL-6), **Sen. Chuck Grassley** (IA), and **Sen. Joni Ernst** (IA). During the meetings, the Kosovars discussed topics ranging from American politics and policymaking to gender equality.

Upon arriving in Des Moines, the parliamentarians met with **General Orr** of the Iowa National Guard. They spoke about potential partnerships between Kosovo and Iowa. Later in the trip, the delegation met with **Col. Greg Hapgood** at Camp Dodge where they discussed the structure of the National Guard. The parliamentarians were particularly impressed with the emphasis placed on caring for troops during and after deployment.

The Open World program has been pivotal in the positive relationship between Kosovo and Iowa. Shortly after Kosovars participated in an Open World program in Iowa in 2013, Iowa and Kosovo became sister states. Because of Open World exchanges from Kosovo, country leaders have been given a comprehensive and in depth understanding of American politics and culture.

After the conclusion of the September exchange, Kosovo began the process of opening a consulate in Des Moines, showing continued enthusiasm in maintaining such a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with Iowa.



XKX

TRAVEL DATE September 28, 2015

LOCATION Des Moines, Iowa

THEME Accountable Governance

SUBTHEME Parliamentarians

GRANTEE World Services of La Crosse

LOCAL HOST Iowa Sister States



Kosovars meet with House Democracy Partnership chairman Rep. Peter Roskam (IL-6) in his Washington, DC office.



Parliamentarians from Kosovo with members of Iowa National Guard.

MISSISSIPPI PROVIDES PLATFORM TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES

In late September, Georgian delegates traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi to experience accountable governance in a local community. Their visit began in Washington, DC, where they met with both Mississippi senators **Sen. Thad Cochran** and **Sen. Roger Wicker**. During their meetings on Capitol Hill, the group discussed Georgia's current political climate in light of Russian aggression in 2008, as well as the role of the U.S. in peace negotiations to support Georgia's territorial integrity. They also discussed issues affecting Mississippi.

After leaving Washington, DC, the Georgians arrived in Gulfport, where they engaged their peers in the community in dialogue about the issues facing the Gulfport as well as the nation. The delegates attended several discussions and panels relating to institutional inequality pertaining to race, age, and education. The delegates also met with the mayor of Moss Point, **Billy Broomfield** and the mayor of Gulfport, **Billy Hewes**. Here, they discussed economic development and public land use in the U.S. Through Mayor Hewes and Mayor Broomfield, the delegates had the opportunity to observe city and state government in action, which they found particularly fascinating. The Georgian delegates' experience in Mississippi was as beneficial for the citizens of Gulfport as it was for the Georgians themselves.

“The Open World program provides a rare opportunity for everyday citizens to participate in Citizen Diplomacy. It provides a platform that allows Mississippians to share best practices, services and programs that preserve the quality of life for all people.”

SARA WILLIAMS
Local Host



GEO

TRAVEL DATE September 30, 2015

LOCATION Gulfport, Mississippi

THEME Municipal Development

SUBTHEME Use of Public Space in Coastal Areas

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST Legacy International Development Group



Municipal Development Specialists from Georgia meet with Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) in his Washington, DC office.



Georgian leaders meet with Sen. Thad Cochran (MS) in his Washington, DC office.

GEORGIANS GAIN PERSPECTIVE FROM LITTLE ROCK URBAN PLANNING

Georgian delegates en route to Little Rock, Arkansas observed accountable governance as it took place at the federal level. In Washington, DC, the delegates met with Members of the Arkansas Delegation, **Senator John Boozman** (AR) and **Rep. French Hill** (AR-2). During these meetings the municipal development specialists discussed the importance of exchange programs and the responsibilities of federal level legislators in the U.S. The delegates gained appreciation for the policymaking process in the U.S. through these interactions with U.S. lawmakers.

Once in Little Rock, the delegates met with impactful members of the community. A meeting held with Deputy Attorney General **Beth Walker** resulted in a discussion about the Freedom of Information Act and general transparency in government. The group also met with **Mayor Mark Stolada**, whom the group found particularly charismatic and hospitable. Mayor Stolada explained the concept of vetoing and how it relates to American policymaking. The delegates were impressed with the accessibility of government as well as the differences in the policymaking process between the two countries.

“The way Little Rock is so spread out was a source of marvel for the delegates. It is possible that, in viewing the layout of our public and personal spaces, the Georgians will endeavor to impress their city leaders to adopt plans to bring more aesthetic beauty to construction projects.”

TOMMY PRIAKOS
Global Ties Arkansas Program Coordinator



GEO

TRAVEL DATE September 30, 2015

LOCATION Little Rock, Arkansas

THEME Municipal Development

SUBTHEME Use of Public Space

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST Global Ties Arkansas



Municipal Development Specialists from Georgia meet with Senator John Boozman (AR) in his Washington, DC office.



Georgian participants meet with Rep. French Hill (AR-2) in his Washington, DC office.

OKLAHOMA HIGHLIGHTS INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Ukrainian delegates traveled to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to explore themes of higher education and innovation. In Washington, DC, the delegation met with **Rep. Tom Cole** (OK-4) and talked with him about challenges faced in the Oklahoma educational sector. They also discussed American – Ukrainian relations.

In Oklahoma City, the delegates visited several schools including Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City University, and Oklahoma University. The delegates were very impressed at the vast amount of information that is available to students and educators alike. The group also enjoyed seeing the facilities and the relationships between educators and their students.

The Ukrainians were struck by the technology at the disposal of the schools, reporting that the program pushed the limits of what these Ukrainians expected of an education system.

“All of us were impressed with the community college’s equipment and especially the medical manikins controlled by computer to simulate different diseases for the students to diagnose.”

OKLAHOMA CITY DELEGATE FROM UKRAINE



TRAVEL DATE October 7, 2015

LOCATION Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

THEME Higher Education

SUBTHEME Innovation

GRANTEE Friendship Force International

LOCAL HOST Friendship Force Oklahoma



Ukrainian participants meet with Rep. Tom Cole (OK-4) in his Washington, DC office.



Delegates tour the Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

TAKING THE BEST OF OREGON BACK TO UKRAINE

Roseburg, Oregon played host to a group of educators from Ukraine looking at the American education system. Before reaching Roseburg, the delegation met with **Sen. Jeff Merkley (OR)** and **Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-4)** where they had the opportunity to ask the lawmakers about the U.S. educational system as well as brief them on the political climate in Ukraine. The delegates were particularly interested in tuition costs for higher education.

In Roseburg, the group visited several classrooms and schools. The Ukrainians enjoyed visiting a political science class where they spoke about the Ukrainian government and its relationship with the governments of Russia and the United States. They were impressed by the availability of advanced technology to educators and students.

The delegates were excited to learn about the American education system, in particular how the average classroom runs and how technology interfaces with education. What they saw in Roseburg will likely be implemented back in Ukraine.

“The delegates seemed to be very interested in the interaction of faculty and students, especially in the classroom. All the delegates are excited about bringing aspects of what they observed back to their schools.”

JASON AASE
Host Coordinator



UKR

TRAVEL DATE October 7, 2015

LOCATION Roseburg, Oregon

THEME Education

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST Umpqua Community College and Roseburg Area Zonta Club



Ukrainians meet with Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-4) in Washington, DC



The delegation meets with Sen. Jeff Merkley (OR) in his Washington, DC office.

ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE ON THEIR MINDS IN ATLANTA

In February, several Ukrainian delegates traveled to Atlanta, Georgia on the Accountable Governance theme. Once they arrived in Atlanta, the delegates met with **Rep. Hank Johnson** (GA-4) and discussed current events in Ukraine, as well as the importance of U.S. – Ukrainian relations. The group especially highlighted the importance of trade, education, and cultural exchange.

In addition to meeting with Rep. Johnson, the Ukrainians met with **Mayor Mike Davis** of Dunwoody and continued to learn more about accountable governance. One subject covered during the delegates' visit to Atlanta that was of great interest to them was the distinction between federal, state, and local governments and how each government body complements the other.

The Atlanta visit has the potential to yield changes in Ukrainian policy. For example, meeting with **Michael Cuccaro**, Assistant Director at Judicial Council of Georgia, inspired one delegate to pursue a more democratic process in selecting those to be given judicial authority. Additionally, meeting with Georgia Tax Commissioner **Lynne Riley** has prompted one delegate to reconsider property tax reform processes.



UKR

TRAVEL DATE February 11, 2016

LOCATION Atlanta, Georgia

THEME Accountable Governance

SUBTHEME Legislative Development

GRANTEE Friendship Force International

LOCAL HOST Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta



Ukrainian delegates meet with Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-4) in his Georgia office.



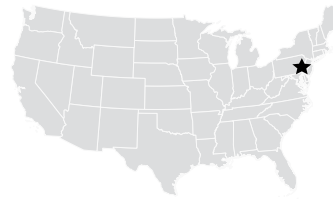
Ukrainians with Dunwoody mayor Mike Davis.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INNOVATIVE EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Delegates from Ukraine came to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to observe innovation in higher education. Once in Bethlehem, the group met with **Rep. Charles Dent** (PA-15) at the Northampton Community College. The majority of the time was dedicated to questions, with topics including the American education system and quality of education, the political situation in the U.S., current situation in Ukraine, and international politics.

The delegates visited several schools while in Bethlehem in order to see the American education system firsthand. The delegation was particularly surprised at the level of autonomy at which the schools were able to operate. The delegates believe that this autonomy enhances the educational process.

The delegates experienced American values through the schools they visited. The Ukrainians met with Northampton Community College President **Dr. Mark Erickson**. During this meeting, the delegates discussed the “Northampton Way” and the emphasis on community service that the school placed on its students.



TRAVEL DATE October 7, 2015

LOCATION Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

THEME Higher Education and Innovation

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST Northampton Community College



Delegates meet with Rep. Charles Dent (PA-15) at Northampton Community College.



Ukrainian participants meet with Dr. Mark Erickson at Northampton Community College.

ALUMNI NEWS

MOLDOVA: PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

In July 2015, the Moldovan Parliament elected Open World alumna Corina Fusu Minister of Education. The newly appointed minister confirmed that her priority was going to be the rehabilitation of the entire educational system. During her term, she hopes to continue reforms in order to foster a competent and professional education system in Moldova. Minister Fusu traveled on the Open World program as a Member of Parliament in January 2010, and was hosted in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Alumna (2010) Corina Fusu was elected as Minister of Education in Moldova on July 30, 2015.

UKRAINE: MULTIPLIER

Liliya Muslimova served as the spokesperson for the Mejlis, the single highest executive-representative body of the Crimean Tatars, when she traveled to Richmond, VA on a Role of the Legislator theme in January 2013. Afterwards, she became a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Minnesota and has become an in-demand speaker due to her expertise on the plight of the Crimean Tatar people in Russian-occupied Crimea. She was invited to Washington, DC to speak at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on May 21, 2015.



Liliya Muslimova (second from right) has been a vocal advocate for the rights of the Crimean Tatars post-Maidan.

RUSSIA: MULTIPLIER

After visiting La Crosse, Wisconsin in May 2014, Russian Nurse Supervisor **Svetlana Fedorinova** got down to serious work multiplying her experience in 2015. She conducted studies and presented the findings at lectures bringing widespread cancer awareness, she furthered cancer research, and changed the curriculum of her region's medical schools. She took first place in the Moscow Regional "Best Senior Nurse Competition" as a result of an extensive project concerning cancer prevention called, Bridging Cancer Care Center of Excellence. The project was initiated by Svetlana and several other Open World alumni. Later in 2015, Svetlana conducted a study where she identified people's gaps in knowledge of cancer related issues and treatment and then provided educational programs to shore up these gaps. Because of Svetlana's work, the public's attitude towards preventative measures of cancer has changed and more people have sought out preventative examinations, many of which resulted in diagnoses of early stages of cancer that can still be treated.



Nurse Supervisor Svetlana Fedorinova (second from left) at Western Technical College.

UKRAINE: MULTIPLIER

An October 2014 visit to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to look at accountable issues there inspired Ukrainian consultant for the International Organization for Migration **Hanna Antonova** to dream big. Hanna brought back to her country the idea of using public art to raise public awareness of important social issues. This spark inspired the creation of a public art installation titled "Invisible in Plain Sight" that opened in Kyiv in December 2014 and toured the country throughout 2015 reaching audiences of over eight million. "Invisible in Plain Sight" raises awareness about trafficking in human beings and tells the real stories of victims often remain unseen. According to Hanna, "This project would not have materialized without the Open World program."



Ukrainians observe silhouettes representing victims of human trafficking.

DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTS



Delegates from Azerbaijan tour the New York State Department of Health where they received in-depth information about the Refugee Health Program, a state initiative that recruits health care providers and agencies throughout New York State to provide health assessments for newly arrived refugees. Oct. 21, 2015. (Grantee: International Focus; Local Host: International Institute of Buffalo).



Montana Governor **Steve Bullock** (holding plaque) spends time with a group of parliamentary staffers from Kyrgyzstan hosted in Helena. During their visit with Governor Bullock, the staffers talked about bipartisanship and heard about the goals of his administration. Jan. 28, 2015 (Grantee: FHI 360; Local Host: WorldMontana).



Tajikistani lawyers had a friendly meet-up with local law enforcement during their visit to Albany, New York. The participants were looking at Civil Rule of Law initiatives in the region. Apr. 9, 2015 (Grantee: FHI 360; Local Host: International Center of the Capitol Region).



A Tajik delegate meets with Rep. **Eddie Bernice Johnson's** district director, **Rod Givens** (left), to discuss local taxation. The delegates learned about how congressional elections are run and about the duties of a Member of Congress. Feb. 19, 2015 (Grantee: Rotary; Local Host: Mid-Cities Pacesetters Rotary Club).



Delegates from Turkmenistan take in the famous Chicago skyline during a break from their program in entrepreneurship. May 13, 2015. (Grantee: CIPUSA; Local Host: CIP Chicago).

HOST RECOGNITION AND ALUMNI EVENTS FOR 2015

Open World held four host recognition events in 2015 to acknowledge local hosts' dedication to providing excellent programming and home hosting to our delegates.

In May, Ambassador O'Keefe visited South Carolina's Friendship Force of Florence during their Sustainable Agriculture program for our delegation from Serbia. After the visit, Ambassador O'Keefe met with Open World program coordinators at Friendship Force International headquarters to go over programming plans for 2016 and grantee pre-selection.

In late July, Ambassador O'Keefe headed to Raleigh, North Carolina to honor our hosting organization International Focus, who was busy with a group of judges from Mongolia. Overseeing the Specialized Rule of Law component of the program was Judge Allyson Duncan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and Chair of the International Judicial Relations Committee.



Judge Allyson K. Duncan meets with Ambassador John O'Keefe during her inaugural visit as Chair of the International Judicial Relations Committee. The Committee, like the Open World Leadership Center, is committed to international exchanges and the establishment and promotion of the rule of law and administration of justice.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALUMNI SUMMIT IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA | May 29 - 31, 2015



OPEN WORLD
Young Professionals Advisory Committee

To support the development of Open World's new strategic plan for 2016-2020, Open World and its Young Professionals Advisory Committee (YPAC) organized a special summit in Omaha generously sponsored by Chairman Walter Scott, Jr. and supported by Trustee Michael Yanney. Open World staff, members of YPAC, and alumni from Russia, Ukraine, and Serbia attended.

Open World Trustees, staff, YPAC members, and alumni offered valuable insight into the Open World program's impact abroad in the context of recent political and social developments. During the summit, the attendees worked diligently to identify ways in which Open World could continue to increasingly become more congressionally oriented and responsive to its stakeholders. Alumni and YPAC contributed ideas for improving the quality of nominations and leveraging the power of the program's thousands of alumni throughout Eurasia.

Open World extends its deepest appreciation to Walter Scott, Jr. and Michael Yanney for their unending support of the Open World Leadership Center.



From left to right: Alumnus from Serbia, Admir Veljović, Open World Program Management Assistant Sean Kelly, and Ambassador John O'Keefe.



Ambassador John O'Keefe, YPAC's Elena Kvochko, and Open World alumna from Serbia Milica Dimitrijevic.



From left to right: YPAC Chairman Ken Martinez, Open World Russia Country Director Alex Khilkov, Chairman Walter Scott, Jr., member of the Russian parliament Ilya Ponomarev, and Trustee Michael Yanney.



Open World Program Manager Lewis Madanick and Open World alumnus from Ukraine's Hromadske TV Andriy Bashtovyi.

THE SENATOR BEN NELSON FELLOWS

Each year, the Open World program nominates top Russian doctors to be hosted in Omaha, Nebraska on the **Senator Ben Nelson Fellows program**, named after Open World Trustee **Senator Ben Nelson** (Senator for Nebraska, 2001-2013). During their visit, the Nelson Fellows were hosted by the Council Bluffs Sister City Association.

The program convened with a dinner in the Fellows' honor hosted by Open World Chairman **Walter Scott, Jr.** and Trustee **Michael Yanney**. The guest of honor was Senator Ben Nelson, who was accompanied by his wife, **Diane**. Also in attendance was **Dr. Ward Chambers**, Associate Professor, Internal Medicine Division of Cardiology at University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Open World staff and alumni of the program, as well as members of Open World's Young Professionals Advisory Committee.

During their time in Omaha, the Nelson Fellows visited the University of Nebraska Medical Center where they observed medical procedures, such as the treatment of three different cases of Ebola. The group also spent time at the Nebraska AIDS project which was of great interest to them professionally.

The experiences gained during the Nelson Fellows' visit to Omaha will inspire new ideas and ways of thinking in the delegates to the benefit of their communities and institutions. Local host Leota McManus said, "Everyone is interested in sharing what they learned with the people they work with in Russia. Every day when they returned after their meetings they would spend time discussing what had happened that day and share what they think they will be able to share with their colleagues back home."



TRAVEL DATE October 7, 2015

LOCATION Omaha, Nebraska

THEME Public Health HIV/AIDS

GRANTEE FHI 360

LOCAL HOST Council Bluffs Sister City Association



The Fellows absorb a conversation concerning HIV/AIDS treatment with Dr. Howard Gendelman (gesturing), Head, Carol J. Swarts, M.D. Laboratory for Emerging Neuroscience, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).



Observing a piece of biocontainment equipment at UNMC. The United States Centers for Disease Control commissioned the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU) in 2005.

OPEN WORLD PARTNERS

The Open World Leadership Center would like to acknowledge the agencies, organizations, and individuals that helped us carry out program operations and specialized programming in 2015 and so generously supported our alumni program.

GENERAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

The nonprofit **American Councils for International Education** provided major administrative and logistical support.

U.S. Embassy staff in Open World countries made recommendations on nominating organizations and themes; helped nominate and select candidates; took part in predeparture and alumni activities; and served as the Center's liaisons with governmental and nongovernmental entities.

U.S. Embassy staff in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Mongolia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan also managed delegate selection and travel and accompanied delegations as facilitators.

The **Library of Congress** provided financial management services, administrative support, and office and event space via an interagency agreement.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMING

U.S. Department of State provided \$90,000 for cooperative programming in Serbia.

The Center partnered with other organizations in 2015 to provide Open World programming on a cost-share basis for other exchange program participants while they were in the United States. These organizations were **the American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative, Moscow School of Political Studies, USAID, The Embassy of Tajikistan, The Judicial General Council of Mongolia, The Supreme Court and the Office of the Prosecutor of Estonia, and the Rumsfeld Foundation** (for Fellows from Central Asia and the Caucasus studying local governance. In July 2015, **ABA ROLI** engaged Open World in a very generous cost-share for a Kyrgyz delegation to visit Chicago to observe Rule of Law.

RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

The U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations (IJRC) coordinates the federal judiciary's relations with foreign judiciaries and serves as an international resource on the rule of law. The IJRC helped develop Open World's rule of law programming and organized federal court participation in it, recruiting federal host judges and providing general program guidance. In its capacity as the federal judiciary's administrative arm, the **Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts** provides staff support to the IJRC. This staff assisted federal host judges and organized Washington orientations for rule of law delegates.

2015 OPEN WORLD GRANTEES

The Archangel Committee (Greater Portland-Russian Sister City Project)
Portland, ME

Council of International Programs USA
Chagrin Falls, OH

Friendship Force International (FFI)
Washington, DC

FHI 360
Washington, DC

Georgia to Georgia Foundation, Inc.
Marietta, GA

International Focus
Raleigh, NC

Linkages of Rochester, Inc.
Rochester, NY

Maryland Leningrad Sister State Committee
Annapolis, MD

Rotary International
Evanston, IL

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia
St. Louis, MO

US-Ukraine Foundation
Washington, DC

World Services of La Crosse, Inc.
La Crosse, WI

2015 LOCAL HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Open World would like to thank the following organizations and institutions for hosting our delegations in 2015:

ALABAMA

Birmingham Sister Cities Commission - Ukraine Committee
Friendship Force of Birmingham
International Services Council of Alabama
Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville
Cullman Rotary Club
Gadsden Rotary Club
Global Ties Alabama

ALASKA

Rotary Club of Homer Kachemak Bay
Rotary Club of Anchorage International
Rotary Club of Eagle River

ARIZONA

Empower International
Greater Phoenix Chapter of People to People International
Rotary Club of Kingman Route 66

ARKANSAS

Global Ties Arkansas (formerly Arkansas Council for International Visitors)

CALIFORNIA

San Diego Diplomacy Council
Del Mar Rotary Club
Greater Los Angeles Chapter of People to People International
International Relations Council of Riverside
International Visitors Council of Los Angeles
Modesto Sister Cities International
Nevada City Rotary Club
Redding Rotary Club
Sacramento City College
San Diego International Sister Cities Association
Santa Cruz Sister Cities Committee
Stafford Institute

COLORADO

Boulder County Public Health

Colorado Springs Sister Cities International
Rotary Club of Longmont
WorldDenver

FLORIDA

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Activities at
Florida State University
GlobalJAX
Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council
Rotary Club of New Tampa
Rotary Club of Seminole County South
Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.

GEORGIA

Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta
Georgia-to-Georgia Foundation

IDAHO

Idaho Council for International Visitors

ILLINOIS

Chicago Sister Cities International Program
Council of International Programs in Chicago, Inc.
Springfield Commission on International Visitors
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.
Vladimir-Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal
WorldChicago

IOWA

Community Sister City Organization (Osage)
Council Bluffs Sister City Association
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines
Iowa Sister States

KANSAS

Global Ties Kansas City
Rotary Club of West Wichita

KENTUCKY

Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc.
World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana

MAINE

Archangel Committee

MARYLAND

Maryland Sister States Program

World Trade Center Institute, International Visitors Program
(Baltimore)

MASSACHUSETTS

International Center of Worcester

WorldBoston

MICHIGAN

Colleagues International, Inc.

International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit

MINNESOTA

Men as Peacemakers with Duluth Sister Cities International

Rotary Club of White Bear Lake

MISSISSIPPI

Legacy International Development Group

Metier Professionals

MISSOURI

Global Ties Kansas City

Lee's Summit Sunrise Rotary Club

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.

World Affairs Council of St. Louis

MONTANA

WorldMontana

NEBRASKA

Friendship Force of Lincoln

Heartland Family Service

NEVADA

Friendship Force of Las Vegas

Northern Nevada International Center

Rotary Club of Las Vegas

U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

NEW HAMPSHIRE

World Affairs Council of New Hampshire

NEW MEXICO

Bridges to Tajikistan

Santa Fe Council on International Relations

NEW YORK

International Center of Syracuse

International Center of the Capitol Region

International Institute of Buffalo

Linkages of Rochester

Mercy College, Center for Global Engagement

Rochester Global Connections, Inc.

Rotary Club of Riverdale

Rotary Club of Cortlandt Manor

Rotary Club of Ossining

Shawangunk Ridge Rotary Club

NORTH CAROLINA

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina

Friendship Force of Western North Carolina

Guilford Rotary Club

Hickory Rotary Club

International Focus

Sister Cities of Durham, NC/Kostroma Committee

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit

OHIO

Global Ties Akron (formerly Akron International Friendship)

Council of International Programs USA (Chagrin Falls)

Friendship Force of Dayton

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development

International Visitors Council of Columbus

Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership

WSOS Community Action Committee

OKLAHOMA

Friendship Force Oklahoma

Tulsa Global Alliance

OREGON

Corvallis Sister Cities Association

Grants Pass Sister City Committee

Umpqua Community College

Roseburg Area Zonta Club

PENNSYLVANIA

Global Pittsburgh

Northampton Community College

Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT)

RHODE ISLAND

Rotary District 7950 Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands, and Rhode Island

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston Council for International Visitors

Friendship Force of Florence
Palmetto Council for International Visitors

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program
South Dakota World Affairs Council

TENNESSEE

Friendship Force of Knoxville
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee

TEXAS

Global North Texas (Dallas)
Mid-Cities Pacesetters Rotary Club (Bedford)

UTAH

DDI VANTAGE with Firefly, Inc.
Tooele Sister Cities, Inc.
Utah Valley University, Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy

VERMONT

Vermont Council on World Affairs

VIRGINIA

Norfolk Sister Cities Association
Virginia Commonwealth University

WASHINGTON

Richland Rotary Club
World Affairs Council of Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA

Center for International Understanding, Inc.
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley Technical College
Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee
Rotary Club of Milwaukee
Rotary Club of Madison
Stevens Point-Rostov Veliky Sister City Project
University of Wisconsin - Richland
Juneau County University of Wisconsin - Extension
University of Wisconsin Marathon County

A THANK YOU TO LOCAL HOSTS

The work of the Open World program would not be possible without the hospitality and generosity of local hosts. Local hosts give delegates a much more authentic look into American family life. Pictured are Rotarians Frank and Kay Allen of Southlake, TX with a delegate from Tajikistan. Not only did they home host, Frank was one of the principal drivers for the Tajiks during the week's activities. The Tajiks were in Bedford, TX on a Local Tax and Service Delivery program Feb. 19, 2015 (Grantee: Rotary International; Local Host: Mid-Cities Pacesetters Rotary Club).



OPEN WORLD FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In fiscal year 2015, the Open World Leadership Center received \$5.7 million in appropriated funds, \$90,000 in interagency transfers, and \$54,038 in direct private donations. In calendar year 2015, the accumulated value of cost-sharing with the Open World community of grantees, local host organizations, and individual local hosts totaled an estimated \$2.5 million.

The Open World Leadership Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2015 to the independent public accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen for a full audit. CLA issued an unmodified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements. With the 2015 audit, the Center has received nine clean opinions. The Financial Statements document (with notes) and CliftonLarsonAllen's Independent Auditor's Report are available in full on the Open World website at www.openworld.gov.

STATEMENTS OF NET COSTS | For the Years Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014

	FY2015	FY2014
Net Costs by Program Area		
<i>Program Costs</i>	\$ 7,995,600	\$ 10,154,382
<i>Less Earned Revenue</i>	-40,000	-45,000
Net Costs of Operations	\$ 7,995,600	\$ 10,119,382

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEETS | As of September 30, 2015 and 2014

	FY2015	FY2014
ASSETS		
Entity Assets:		
Intragovernment Assets		
<i>Fund Balance with Treasury (Note 2)</i>	\$ 540,334	\$ 701,105
<i>Investments (Note 3)</i>	2,231,010	4,635,103
Total Intragovernmental	2,753,346	5,230,208
Prepayments (Note 4)	72,619	73,490
Other Accounts Receivable Net (Note 5)	2,475	0
Total Assets	\$ 2,826,438	\$ 5,409,698
LIABILITIES		
Intragovernmental Liabilities		
<i>Accounts Payable and Accrued Funding Payroll Benefits</i>	\$ 4,481	\$ 4,908
Total Intragovernmental	4,481	4,908
<i>Accounts Payable and Accrued Funding Payroll Benefits</i>	583,599	1,172,119
<i>Unfunded Annual and Compensatory Leave</i>	53,045	51,717
Total Liabilities (Note 6)	\$ 641,125	\$ 1,228,744
NET POSITION		
Cumulative Results of Operations - Earmarked	\$ 2,185,313	\$ 4,180,954
Total Net Position	2,185,313	2,185,313
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 2,826,438	\$ 5,409,698

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTE 2 FUND BALANCE WITH TREASURY

	FY2015	FY2014
OWLC Funds Originally from Appropriations	\$ 424,046	\$ 664,941
Gift Funds	116,288	36,164
Total	\$ 540,334	\$ 701,105
Status of Fund Balance with Treasury		
Unobligated Balances - Available	\$ 0	\$ 0
Obligated Balances - Unavailable	540,334	701,105

NOTE 3 INVESTMENTS, NET

Funds that are not needed to finance current activities are invested in interest-bearing obligations of the United States. The Center has directed the Library to invest funds derived from contributions in Treasury securities. Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the cost of investments in conjunction with accrued interest approximates their fair market values. Investments outstanding were \$2,213,010 and \$4,635,103 for fiscal years 2015 and 2014. Average annual investment rates were 2.000% and 2.000% in fiscal years 2015 and 2014.

	FY2015	FY2014
Face Value	\$ 2,202,000	\$ 4,616,000
Interest Receivable	11,010	19,103
Investments, Net	\$ 2,213,010	\$ 4,635,103

NOTE 4 PREPAYMENTS

The Center awards grants to approximately 12-15 organizations with exchange-program expertise that are generally competitively selected for the purpose of hosting the foreign delegates. In fiscal years 2015 and 2014, \$72,619 and \$73,490 had been paid to but not yet used by these organizations to carry out their services.

NOTE 5 OTHER ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

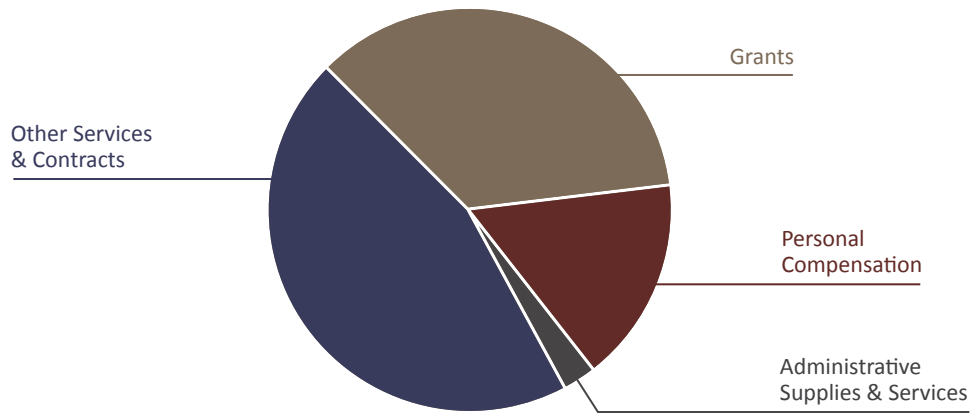
Other Accounts Receivable consisted of a \$475 payroll billing document for fiscal 2015.

NOTE 6 LIABILITIES COVERED AND NOT COVERED BY BUDGETARY RESOURCES

	FY2015	FY2014
Liabilities Covered by Budgetary Resources	\$ 588,080	\$ 1,177,027
Liabilities Not Covered by Budgetary Resources		
<i>Intragovernmental</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>53,045</i>	<i>51,717</i>
Total	\$ 641,125	\$ 1,288,744

Liabilities covered by budgetary resources include accounts payable, advances from others, accrued funded payroll and benefits, advances from the public, and deferred credits. Liabilities not covered by budgetary resources include accrued unfunded annual leave and benefits.

DISTRIBUTION OF SELECT OBLIGATION CATEGORIES FY2015



NOTE: "Contracts" includes, but is not limited to, the cost of applicant and participant processing, travel, planning, participant airfare, and database management and other expert services. "Grants" covers payments to hosting organizations.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER OBLIGATIONS FY2015

Category	FY2015 Actual Obligations
Personal Compensation (all staff)	\$ 857,607
Administration Supplies & Services	38,501
Other Services & Contracts	2,630,092
Grants	2,509,552
Total - FY2015 Obligations	6,035,752

NOTE: Administrative costs equal \$417,468 or 7.32 percent of total appropriated obligations. Open World used trust fund revenue, prior year recovered funds, and cost reduction measures to maintain programming at previous years' levels.



www.openworld.gov

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