



## SPECIAL ISSUE – OPEN WORLD’S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Open World launched its Young Professionals Program this June, bringing 86 emerging leaders 35 years old and under from Russia to communities across the United States. The new program was conceived in 2011, when Open World’s chair, Walter Scott, Jr., and his fellow trustees saw a great opportunity for enabling the first generation of Eurasian professionals to come of age in the post-Soviet era to network with their U.S. peers. After the completion of the June exchanges, 36 percent of the Russian delegates hosted in 2012 were under age 30, and 31 percent of all delegates hosted were under age 30. Open World deeply appreciates the ingenuity and enthusiasm that our grantees and local hosts have shown in hosting this younger generation of leaders. The successful beginning of the Young Professionals Program is also a great credit to the Open World Young Professionals Advisory Committee (YPAC), whose mission is to provide feedback on upcoming Open World initiatives, nominations, and programming targeting young professionals ages 25 to 35. If you have any questions about the Young Professionals Program or YPAC, please contact Open World Public Affairs Specialist Maura Shelden at [mshelden@openworld.gov](mailto:mshelden@openworld.gov).



*Open World Young Professionals Advisory Committee member Richard Portwood (back row, second from right) visits the Lincoln Memorial with delegates bound for Buffalo and Syracuse, NY.*

### JUNE 6 DELEGATIONS



Paul Almodovar (far right) of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) describes to environmental managers hosted in **Raleigh, NC**, how OAQPS monitors and reports to Congress on air quality.



Chairman Walter Scott (center, with purple tie), his wife, Suzanne (in green top), and Trustee Michael Yanney (with yellow tie) host a dinner in **Omaha, NE** for youth-issues professionals visiting **Lincoln, NE**. Also shown: YPAC member Ulric Ferner (standing, far right), Executive Director O’Keefe (standing, fourth from right), and Deputy Executive Director Jane Sargus (seated, second from left).



Local government officials from Maryland’s sister region, Leningrad Oblast, visit the statehouse in **Annapolis**. The delegates explored election procedures, zoning, law enforcement, and other local-government activities with their counterparts in three cities and three counties in Maryland.



Youth-issues delegates from Perm explore their sister city of **Louisville, KY**, with local bicyclists, stopping by Louisville’s sister cities sign. A highlight of the delegation’s visit was a session on “The Culture of Volunteerism,” during which representatives of several area organizations described how they recruit and retain volunteers.



City officials from Sarov hosted in their sister city of **Los Alamos, NM**, meet with county utilities manager John Arrowsmith (not shown). Sarov and Los Alamos are both nuclear cities. The delegates are displaying vintage license plates that Arrowsmith gave them as keepsakes.



Think-tank professionals make a presentation during the annual meeting of the International Center of **Worcester**, the local host organization for their Massachusetts exchange.



## JUNE 20 DELEGATIONS



Environmental managers hosted in **Bozeman, MT**, make a site visit to Yellowstone National Park. Topics explored by the delegates included watershed restoration, sturgeon research, and green home building.



Rep. Ron Kind (center) meets in his Washington office with environmental educators headed for **La Crosse, WI**. A highlight of their Wisconsin trip was a day with the non-profit WisCorps, which engages youth in conservation projects across the state.



Russian environmental-management delegates hosted in **Des Moines, IA**, study soil conservation with Jacqueline Comito (second from right), program manager for the Iowa Learning Farms at Iowa State University in Ames.



**Pittsburgh, PA** host Gail Shrott (back row, center) joins her environmental-management delegates on the final night of their program. One highlight of their visit was a roundtable at Duquesne University's Center for Environmental Research and Education.



At left, media professionals from Yaroslavl visit their sister city of **Burlington, VT**, for an extensive introduction to the local media scene. Their other activities included a meeting with Vermont's secretary of state and a roundtable discussion with Middlebury College Russian-language students.



At Pipestone (MN) National Monument, an environmental-management team learns about the significance of the site's pipestone to Native Americans. In **Brookings, SD**, the host city, the delegates' agenda included studying water-quality monitoring and meeting young entrepreneurs.

At right, **Cleveland (OH)** Mayor Frank Jackson exchanges official gifts with Yekaterina Zergelidi of the administration of Volgograd, Cleveland's Russian sister city. Ties between the two cities were strengthened during the hosting of Zergelidi and her fellow delegates, who are all involved in environmental protection in Volgograd.



An environmental-management delegate visits the **Kalamazoo (MI)** Nature Center's Delano Farm. The delegation's program also included meeting with members of the Rotaract Club of Kalamazoo, a service club for young professionals ages 18–30.



Emergency-services administrators hosted in **Minot, ND**, tour Hope Village, the organization coordinating volunteer efforts to help Minot residents affected by the 2011 flood. An aide to Sen. John Hoeven discussed disaster relief with the delegates during their DC orientation.

Open World thanks Reps. Ron Kind (WI), Jim McGovern (MA), and John Yarmuth (KY) for meeting with June Young Professionals Program delegations. We also thank staff of these Members of Congress for meeting with delegations: Sens. Sherrod Brown (OH), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (PA), Tom Harkin (IA), John Hoeven (ND), Tim Johnson (SD), Herb Kohl (WI), Harry Reid (NV), John Thune (SD), Pat Toomey (PA), and Tom Udall (NM), and Reps. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY), Mike Doyle (PA), Brian Higgins (NY), Ben Ray Lujan (NM), Kristi Noem (SD), Denny Rehberg (MT), and Fred Upton (MI).

Open World thanks these organizations for hosting the June young professionals exchanges: Colleagues International (MI), Council of International Programs USA (OH), Friendship Force of Lincoln (NE), GlobalPittsburgh (PA), International Affairs Council (NC), International Center of Syracuse (NY), International Center of Worcester (MA), International Institute of Buffalo (NY), Iowa Sister States, Los Alamos – Sarov Sister City Initiative (NM), Maryland Sister States Program, Montana Center for International Visitors, Sister Cities of Louisville (KY), South Dakota World Affairs Council, Vermont Council on World Affairs, World Services of La Crosse (WI).