



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

COIL in Brief

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of the monthly COIL in Brief newsletter!

The Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL) aims to promote Congressional and citizen diplomacy with global civic and political leaders. To do so, COIL organizes the Open World Program, which brings delegates from 28 partner countries to the United States to liaise with American peers. Delegates participate in a multi-day Washington D.C. orientation, where they learn about Congressional governance, meet with Members of Congress and their staff, and engage culturally with the city. From there, they travel to host communities across the nation, staying with local families and connecting with professional counterparts at the state and local level.

Here is a review of COIL's Open World programming last month:

July 2026 Delegations

July 12-23:



Members of Parliament from Vanuatu - *hosted in Minneapolis, MN*



Members of Parliament from Serbia - *hosted in Little Rock, AR*

July 19-30:



Members of Parliament from North Macedonia - *hosted in Portland, ME*



Parliamentary Staffers from Vietnam - *hosted in Louisville, KY*



Parliamentary Staffers from Solomon Islands - *hosted in Santa Fe, NM*
First-ever delegation from Solomon Islands

Delegation Deep Dive



In July, Members of Parliament from Vanuatu traveled to the U.S. as part of COIL's Open World Program, beginning with their Washington, D.C. orientation. While in Washington, they connected with Members of Congress and their staff, including **Representative Dave Min** of California (see above) and **Representative Glenn Thompson** of Pennsylvania, to discuss key policy

issues for the island, such as agricultural development, water accessibility, and collaboration between the private and public sector. The delegates also heard from representatives of the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** and the **Congressional Research Service** on how their organizations contribute to rural development policy. Together, these exchanges supported meaningful U.S.-Vanuatu dialogue while offering the Vanuatu parliamentarians strategies to implement upon their return home.

Following their time in D.C., the Vanuatu delegation traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota to understand the American policymaking process at the state and local level. With the support of **Global Minnesota**, they met with political and community leaders across the state, including **State Senator Mary Kunesh** (Assistant Majority Leader) and the **Mankato City Council**. Continuing the theme of agricultural and rural development, the delegates also met with representatives from the **Minnesota Farmer's Union** on advocating for farmers' economic interests (see above), **Cova** on ensuring safe and available water in rural communities, and many more organizations. During their free time, the delegates also had the opportunity to connect with local residents over their shared love for World Cup soccer.

COIL is proud to see the Open World Program create enduring relationships between Vanuatu and the United States, creating connections that advance collaboration and shared success long after the exchange concludes.



Alumni News



PTPI Phoenix staff meeting with Open World alumni and their colleagues in Poznań, Poland

Recently, staff from the Phoenix, Arizona branch of People to People International (PPTI) participated in a reciprocal trip to Poland to reconnect with the Polish Open World alumni that they hosted in October 2025. Their visit reaffirmed COIL's belief that participation in the Open World Program is only the beginning for creating valuable, productive relationships between Americans and allies around the world.

Read more about this Poland reciprocal trip on COIL's [LinkedIn](#) and [website](#).

2027 Grant Guidelines

COIL is excited to announce that we are now soliciting proposals for our 2027 programs, which include Legislative Programs (Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staffers) and programs with key priorities like governance, security, rule of law, and economic development. We encourage qualified hosting organizations and community partners across the United States to apply.

Grant proposals are due by the close of business on Friday, August 21.

Further information on the grant guidelines and the application process can be found on our [website](#).

Delegations On the Horizon

Upcoming COIL programming includes the following delegations in September:

September 9-19:

- **Balkan Regional** - Rule of Law: Combatting Transnational Organized Crime
- *Buffalo, NY*

- **Armenia** - Rule of Law: Combatting Transnational Organized Crime - *Oklahoma City, OK*

September 16-26:

- **Ukraine** - Sister City Partnership (4 delegations) - *Toledo, OH; Dayton, OH; Oxford, OH; Bozeman, MT*
- **Ukraine** - Business Development/Technology Commercialization - *Rochester, NY*
- **Ukraine**- Veterans Reintegration - *Houston, TX*
- **Hungary** - Local Legislators - *Lincoln, NE*
- **Central Asia Regional** - Agricultural Innovation: Strengthening Rural Farming Communities - *Sacramento, CA*

September 21-October 2:

- **Bulgaria** - Members of Parliament: Energy - *Austin, TX*

September 27-October 8:

- **Vietnam** - Members of Parliament - *Troy, NY*
- **Papua New Guinea** - Members of Parliament - *Milwaukee, WI*
- **Armenia** - Members of Parliament - *Manchester, NH*



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