



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP



COIL in Brief

Welcome to the October 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.

COIL had a busy September, hosting 90 delegates from over 15 countries, spanning Members of Parliament, local government officials, judges, prosecutors, business specialists, military veterans, and more.

September 2026 Delegations

September 9-19:



Balkan Regional - Rule of Law: Combatting Transnational Organized Crime
- hosted in Buffalo, New York (International Institute of Buffalo)



Armenia - Rule of Law: Combatting Transnational Organized Crime - hosted in
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Rotary Club of Oklahoma City)

September 16-26:



Ukraine - Sister City Partnership - hosted in Toledo, Ohio (Toledo Helps Ukraine)



Ukraine - Sister City Partnership - hosted in Dayton, Ohio (Friendship Force International of Dayton)



Ukraine - Sister City Partnership - Oxford, OH (City of Oxford)



Ukraine - Business Development/Technology Commercialization - hosted in Rochester, New York (Ukrainian American Community, Inc.)



Ukraine - Veterans Reintegration - hosted in Houston, Texas (World Affairs Council of Greater Houston)



Ukraine - Sister City Partnership - hosted in Bozeman, Montana (City of Bozeman)



Central Asian Regional - Agricultural Innovation: Strengthening Rural Communities - hosted in Sacramento, California (Global Ties Sacramento)



Hungary - Local Legislators - hosted in Lincoln, Nebraska (Friendship Force of Lincoln)

September 21-October 2:



Bulgaria - Members of Parliament: Energy - hosted in Austin, Texas (GlobalAustin)

September 28-October 8:



Armenia - Members of Parliament - hosted in Manchester, New Hampshire (World Affairs Council of New Hampshire)



Vietnam - Members of Parliament - hosted in Troy, New York (International Center of the Capital Region)



Papua New Guinea - Members of Parliament - hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (International Institute of Wisconsin)

Delegation Deep Dive



In September, COIL brought six Ukrainian delegations to the United States, whose programs saw them in cities across the country, from New York to Ohio to Montana. Before their local community stays, COIL was proud to co-host a reception with the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States at the Ukraine House to welcome the delegates to Washington, D.C. (see above; photo credit: Ukraine House).

From Washington, the delegations traveled to the following cities: Toledo (OH), Dayton (OH), Oxford (OH), Rochester (NY), Bozeman (MT), and Houston (TX). Some highlights from their stays in these communities include the following:



The City of Oxford and the wider community provided the visiting Ukrainians a full experience during their time in Ohio. The delegates, coming from Dubno, Ukraine, were the first group to visit Oxford since the two cities established a sister-city relationship in 2023. In Oxford, the city government organized a peace pole installation ceremony, meetings with local officials, and much more. The delegates also had the opportunity to visit Talawanda High School (see above; photo credit: Talawanda City School District), where they presented to students on Dubno and learned about the school's educational and fine arts programming. COIL is especially grateful to students at Miami University's Department of Media, Journalism & Film who accompanied the Ukrainian delegates, producing and editing real-time social media content that offered them a chance to hone their own journalistic skills.



In Bozeman (above; photo credit: Nonstop Local News Montana), Ukrainian delegates from the city of Kopychyntsi, including the mayor, officially established a sister-city

relationship with the Bozeman city government. The agreement is only the formalization of an already-existing partnership, as Bozeman residents have for several years raised funds for Kopychyntsi and supported the local hospital with medical equipment while the war against Russia continues. Architects and representatives from Montana State University have also traveled to the Kopychyntsi to support renovation efforts in the city.

Read more about this story from [Cities4Cities](#).



In Houston, Ukrainian veterans in the delegation served as panelists during a luncheon hosted by the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston (see above; photo credit: WAC of Greater Houston). The event, well attended by business leaders and community members, offered Americans a first-hand account of the war in Ukraine, the reality of modern warfare, and Ukrainian veteran efforts to rebuild lives after combat.

See more from the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston [here](#).



In Toledo, Ukrainian delegates had an itinerary full of valuable programming put together by Toledo Helps Ukraine. This included meetings with the City Council, the Commissioner of Civic Engagement, faculty from the University of Toledo College of Law, and more. The group also visited many sites in the area, such as the Toledo Water Treatment Plant (see above; photo credit: Toledo Helps Ukraine), where they learned how the plant ensures safe and accessible water to the greater Toledo area.



The Ukrainian delegates in Rochester had an equally productive time in upstate New Group. The group, which included the mayor of Novovolynsk, worked with American

counterparts to strengthen the ties between Rochester and Monroe County with communities in Ukraine. During their stay, the delegates had several valuable meetings, including representatives from Congressman Joe Morelle's office, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans (see above; photo credit: Tamara Denysenko), Monroe County Executive Adam J. Bello, members of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and more.

Host Recognition



On Monday, September 28th, COIL hosted a host recognition event to recognize GlobalTexas for being an exceptional host of the Open World Program. GlobalTexas has served as a host since 2002 for 13 delegations. It was an opportunity for community members to meet our delegation of Members of Parliament from Bulgaria and for congressional offices to meet their constituents. Attendees included board members, volunteers, and representatives from the Austin offices of Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn.

Delegations on the Horizon

Upcoming COIL programming includes the following delegations in October:

October 13-23:

- **Mongolia** - Rule of Law: Prosecutors - *Princeton, West Virginia* (Center for International Understanding)
- **Mongolia** - Rule of Law: Prosecutors - *Chicago, Illinois* (CIP Chicago)

October 13-31:

- **Ukraine** - Sister City Partnership and Development Program - *Monterey, California* (City of Monterey)

Note: The Ukraine delegation will not have an initial program in Washington, D.C. and will instead travel directly to Monterey, California.

October 14-24:

- **Georgia** - Rule of Law: Young Lawyers - *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania* (GlobalPittsburgh)

October 24-28:

- **Rumsfeld Fellows** - Economic Development - *Denver, Colorado* (WorldDenver)
- **Rumsfeld Fellows** - Accountable Governance - *Reno, Nevada* (Northern Nevada International Center)

Note: The Rumsfeld Fellowship, created by the Rumsfeld Foundation, brings rising leaders from Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan (CAMCA) to the United States to foster high-level professional and personal connections.

October 27-November 6:

- **Fiji** - Parliamentary Staffers - *Detroit, Michigan* (Global Ties Detroit)
- **Serbia** - Parliamentary Staffers - *Starkville, Mississippi* (Stennis Center for Public Service)
- **Moldova** - Parliamentary Staffers - *Durham, New Hampshire* (Friends Forever International)

Alumni News



Following up on last month's COIL in Brief, representatives from the Kyrgyzstan-Washington Sister Region Organization, which has hosted several Kyrgyz Open World delegations in Cashmere, Washington, traveled to Kyrgyzstan during the World Nomad Games. There, they attended a reunion event funded by COIL with Kyrgyz Open World alumni who traveled to Cashmere on the program. The event reconnected host families and participants, including a Kyrgyz Member of Parliament, and led to further discussion on connecting Washington State businesses with those in Kyrgyzstan. COIL is proud to see the connections built during the Open World experience continue to flourish years after the program concludes.

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RAPID REVIEW

TRANSFUSION

The blood system in Ukraine: Experience in martial law conditions

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Following an October 2022 Open World program in Chicago focused on transfusion medicine, Ukrainian participants kept in touch with the professional contacts they made. Over the past few years, they worked to produce a manuscript on the state of the Ukrainian blood system during wartime, which was recently published in Transfusion Journal. The final article is a testament to the power of the Open World program to build fruitful partnerships for both Americans and the delegates who travel to the U.S.

Read more about this story on COIL's [LinkedIn](#).



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