Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to Open World’s 2010 annual report. This year, we are showcasing our Open World partners—our citizen diplomats—geographical reach across the United States. Open World’s mission is twofold. The program networks the U.S. Congress and its constituents with the leaders of Eurasia and it gives our friends across the Atlantic firsthand exposure to America’s democratic, accountable government and its free-market system.

First, let me make special mention of the incredible contribution of our outgoing Chairman, Dr. James H. Billington. Dr. Billington, with Members of Congress and Ambassador James Collins, created the Open World program over a decade ago. Their vision of reaching rising leaders from the periphery in resulted in one of the most effective tools of explaining America to those emerging from the remnants of the Soviet state. From a big idea has come sustainability and results. This report illustrates that this mission would fail but for the welcome provided by local hosts in communities across the United States. Open World is your program—its hospitality and vitality wonderfully American.

What makes the Open World program a reflection of American ideals is that it allows volunteers in every state to share their both professional and personal experiences with Eurasian leaders striving to make a difference in their own communities. Americans are proud of their “show and not tell” instinct and the results are here as proof. Consider the Ukrainian doctor who, after visiting Pittsburgh-area hospitals and state to share their both professional and personal experiences with Eurasian leaders striving to make a difference in their own communities. Americans are proud of their “show and not tell” instinct and the results are here as proof. Consider the Ukrainian doctor who, after visiting Pittsburgh-area hospitals and clinics, went home to start a public health campaign using modern outreach tools.

In 2010, I was privileged to visit nine U.S. cities, where I experienced the best of those communities, just like Open World delegates. Those nine cities—Lincoln, NE, Atlanta, GA, Birmingham, AL, Omaha, NE, Raleigh, NC, Chicago, IL, Des Moines, IA, Albuquerque, NM, and Phoenix, AZ—are truly representative of America.

I cannot emphasize enough just how effective home stays and community-based hosting can be. This is the program into its second decade with the clear vision he brought to its creation in 1999. big idea has come sustainability and results.

I am particularly honored to follow James H. Billington as Chair of the Open World Leadership Center. Dr. Billington is the founding Chairman and has led the organization to its present superb performance as outlined in the 2010 annual report. The report also demonstrates that Open World has a legacy of continued contact, professional exchanges, projects, and partnerships that benefit citizens on both sides of the ocean. What makes the Open World program a reflection of American ideals is that it allows volunteers in every state to share their both professional and personal experiences with Eurasian leaders striving to make a difference in their own communities. Americans are proud of their “show and not tell” instinct and the results are here as proof. Consider the Ukrainian doctor who, after visiting Pittsburgh-area hospitals and clinics, went home to start a public health campaign using modern outreach tools.

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I cannot emphasize enough just how effective home stays and community-based hosting can be. This is the what leaves a lasting impression on our Eurasian visitors; this is what changes negative perceptions of the United States into positive feelings of kinship and respect. In our 11th year, with the support of the U.S. Congress, we are proud to have welcomed our 18,000th delegate. Open World is a homegrown program, a tool of the U.S. Congress to shape the perceptions of Eurasian leadership. With our hosts, hosting organizations, and national grantees, we make a tangible difference. From all of us at Open World, thank you for your amazing contributions.

Sincerely,

Ambassador John O’Keefe
Executive Director

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Open World exchanges in 2010 resulted in more than 90 working partnerships between American states, communities, and courts and their counterparts in Open World participating countries. This report highlights the programs undertaken by these 90 plus pairings and showcases the results.

Open World serves Members of Congress as a recognized resource that connects Members and their constituents to political and civic leaders in participating countries. Integral to this effort is the dedicated participation of our hosts. Hosting organizations and hosting families provide Open World participants with unique opportunities to meet regularly with Members of Congress and their staff in the district offices. Each year brings new constituent organizations, e.g., service organizations and international visitor councils, into the Open World network. These organizations, in turn, are the critical elements of the successful working partnerships highlighted here.
Focus on Pennsylvania

Dr. Ismet Ismaylov, a Ukrainian physician at Sovetskyy Regional Hospital in Crimea, joined a medical delegation from his country that visited Carnegie in March. The Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute (ICHI) served as local host. Dr. Ismaylov, a recently elected deputy of the Sovetskyy Regional Council, and his delegation, visited the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, CONTACT Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and the Magee-Womens Hospital. Since returning home, Dr. Ismaylov has maintained a strong relationship with ICHI; the group provided him with assistance in setting up video conferences and provided him with other tools for disseminating public health information. Acting on some of the practices he witnessed during his U.S. visit, he collaborated with the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine, the Sovetskyy Regional Hospital, and he organized HIV and tuberculosis prevention campaigns aimed at youth.

Also, a delegation of social workers and mental health professionals from Azerbaijan visited Harrisburg in May, hosted by Keystone Human Services International. This delegation exchanged ideas with local health and human services experts on how to strengthen rehabilitation services in their country for children with mental disabilities.

National grantee: US-Ukraine Foundation, Keystone Human Services International

Connecticut

Judge Jonathan Silbert of the Connecticut Superior Court hosted a delegation of Russian attorneys and legal experts in New Haven in March. Through the ten-year-old Connecticut-Pskov Rule of Law Partnership, chaired by Judge Silbert, Open World has advanced the development of Russian legal institutions. At the University of New Haven, delegates gave detailed presentations to an undergraduate Global Legal Systems class. In May, a five person delegation from Connecticut, all former Open World home stay hosts, departed for a six-day stay in Pskov. Their programs included a seminar in the Court of Arbitration on mediation of commercial disputes, a bench bar meeting, and discussions of judicial ethics.

National grantee: Russian American Rule of Law Consortium

Maine

Adlan Sagapiyev, a member of the Groznensky District Council in the Russian republic of Chechnya, traveled to Lewiston in December as part of a Chechen governmental delegation hosted by the University of Southern Maine’s American-Caucasus Work Group.

The delegation met Senator Olympia Snowe in Washington, D.C., and with the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government at Indian Township, and toured the Chevoni Environmental School and Center in Wiscasset. Senator Snowe gave the delegation a joint resolution, signed by two hundred representatives in the Maine legislature, encouraging the Chechen peace process and a return to civil society and international cooperation for that part of Russia. The resolution reflected the state’s support for stability in Chechnya and its commitment to furthering ties with the region.

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Maryland

Maryland Sister States hosted a delegation of Russian lawmakers from the Leningrad Region Legislature in February, reinforcing a strong relationship between this Russian legislative body and the Maryland legislature. The Russian legislators stayed in Annapolis during the Maryland legislative session and enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with their Maryland counterparts. Delegates met the presiding officers of the Maryland Senate and the House of Delegates, studied Anne Arundel County’s residential recycling program, and met Russian-speaking midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy. They also attended a reception at Government House hosted by Governor Martin O’Malley and First Lady and Baltimore District Court Judge Catherine O’Malley.

National Grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

New York

The Irondequoit-Poltava Sister City partnership hosted a delegation of Ukrainian educators in April. The delegation visited the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, a symbol of the large Ukrainian-American community in the New York Finger Lakes region. The delegation attended a children’s concert at St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Rochester, after which they gave presentations to the local community. They also visited the Holocaust and Human Rights Center at Monroe Community College in Rochester. Several members of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union visited Poltava in late May and reunited with the educators who visited Irondequoit through Open World. Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Sister City partnership between these municipalities.

National Grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.
In March, a delegation of attorneys and legal experts from the country of Georgia were hosted by the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC). During the program, the delegates met often with John Hall and W. Scott Henwood, two attorneys at the Hall Booth Smith & Slover (HBSS) law firm. Hall is chairman of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee and was appointed an honorary consul by the president of Georgia in 2009.

Summer 2010, members of HBSS reunited with Open World alumni in Tbilisi. Henwood traveled to Georgia to teach two legal courses in 2011, at the Ilia State University and the Ministry of Justice. Also, as a result of HBSS engagement with the country of Georgia, the firm opened an office in Tbilisi in February 2011, making it the first U.S. law firm in Georgia.

Focus on Florida

Justices of the Supreme Court from the Russian republic of Tatarstan traveled to Jacksonville in April, hosted by International Visitor Corps of Jacksonville, Inc. Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger, Senior U.S. District Judge and veteran host for Open World, guided the delegation’s tour of the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courthouse, the Bryan Simpson U.S. Courthouse, Florida Coastal School of Law, and the D. Ray James Prison. The delegation participated in a group discussion of trial by jury led by members of the American Board on Trial Advocacy. They discussed criminal procedural rules with staff at the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Federal Public Defender’s Office. Delegates also visited the international law firm Holland and Knight.

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Georgia

Mississippi

Nataliya Kozlova, a Russian pediatric dentist, joined a medical delegation from her country traveling to Oxford in November.

University of Mississippi’s Division of Outreach hosted the delegates, who toured the University Medical Center, Oxford Medical Ministries, and Baptist Memorial Hospital.

The delegation was particularly interested in the notion of volunteerism; they discussed the divergent attitudes about philanthropy, volunteerism, and community services in the U.S. and Russia.

University of Mississippi host Laura Antonow said the face-to-face interaction between delegates and hosts “helps break down stereotypes on both sides and allows for mutual understanding of the similarities between Russians and Americans on a personal level.”

According to Kozlova, the journey helped her “discover America.”

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

North Carolina

Members of the Moldovan Parliament visited Raleigh in January, hosted by the International Affairs Council. The delegation learned of the many foreign aid projects conducted by North Carolinians, which provide dental care, books, and military and agricultural exchanges to Moldovans. The visitors decided that their parliament should establish a North Carolina Caucus to promote the sister state relationship.

In September, mayors, officials, and citizens of Holly Springs, Nashville, and Pittsboro opened their doors to Moldovan town mayors and engaged them in discussions on governance, infrastructure, and local budgets. The U.S.-Russian Mayor to Mayor Program served as local host, as Moldovan wine industry entrepreneurs shared ideas with North Carolina winery operators.

In October, Moldovan journalists visited Raleigh, hosted by the International Affairs Council. The delegation asked Susan Moran, public information officer of the Town of Cary, to visit Moldova to conduct training for journalists in their region.

National Grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc. and International Affairs Council (North Carolina)

South Carolina

Five Azerbaijani journalists visited Columbia in May; the National Peace Foundation hosted their stay. The delegation toured the WAN-IFRA Newsplex at University of South Carolina (USC), where they learned about “convergence media,” a unique program for integration and cooperation across media platforms. The journalists also visited The State newspaper facilities and WUSC Radio, the student-run radio station of USC. Each delegate presented a summary of his or her work in Azerbaijan and impressions of journalism and the United States to the Columbia World Affairs Council at its monthly luncheon meeting. About forty people were present, including prominent local journalists and the dean of the USC School of Journalism.

National Grantee: National Peace Foundation

Miss Kozlova

Natalia Kozlova visits the UMBC Medical Advanced Skill and Simulation Center.

The Azerbaijani media delegation discusses journalism and other topics with the local community.

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Focus on Nebraska

Friendship Force of Lincoln celebrated ten years of hosting Open World delegations in February at a reception and gala dinner. Senator Ben Nelson and Friendship Force members from Iowa, Illinois, and Colorado joined the event. Thanks to local host Friendship Force of Lincoln, a delegation of experts on children’s issues from Tajikistan visited in September. Delegates bonded with mentors and the mentored in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program at Carol Joy Holling Camp over a bonfire meal.

A delegation of Ukrainian local government officials visited Omaha in October, hosted by Heartland Family Service. The delegates were fascinated by samples of agreements and forms exchanged between city, county, and state departments in Nebraska; they planned to adapt these model agreements to their own cities and states. Also in October, a delegation of Russian local government officials had a program in Omaha coordinated by Friendship Force of Eastern Nebraska. The guests met with Senator Ben Nelson, Representative Lee Terry, Governor Dave Heineman, and Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle. Delegate Alekandr Kuzmichev, Mayor of Ivanovo, Russia, has since sent an official letter to Mayor Suttle asking him to consider a sister city partnership with his city.

Another highlight of the program was a reception with the Russian delegation also conferred with the Global Corporate Citizenship branch and the desire to share experiences” she observed at the professional organizations and informal gatherings during the program. Delegate Yelena Nikitina, regional manager at a major Russian corporation, said “we are confronted by declarations of the State on their intent to make people’s lives comfortable. And when you get right down to it, as a rule, they don’t deliver what they promise. But here in front of me is a country where so many right things for many decades have been implemented in the most natural way by the people themselves.”

National Grantee: Friendship Force International

Missouri

In November a delegation of Russian health officials visited St. Louis. The Greater St. Louis-Samara Sister City Committee coordinated their stay. Since 1992, the cities of St. Louis and Samara, Russia have developed cross-cultural education and business through the Sister City Committee, and Open World has been working to further this partnership by supporting delegations from Samara. Delegates met the mayor of St. Louis and visited academic medical institutions such as Southern Illinois University School of Nursing, St. Louis University School of Medicine, and Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center.

The delegation toured state-of-the-art facilities at Anderson Hospital and MSS DePaul Health Center. Delegates observed bypass heart surgery and how a patient is admitted into the emergency room via helicopter. They also had an opportunity to practice on the high-tech da Vinci Surgical System. Many of the lessons learned during this visit will be incorporated into the practices of these Russian health officials.

National Grantee: Friendship Force International

Kansas

A delegation of Russian journalists visited Wichita in June, hosted by Friendship Force of Kansas. Delegates visited KAKE-TV, where an award-winning news anchor led a tour. They met Wichita mayor Carl Brewer and the city council. Delegate German Galkin wrote multiple online articles describing his experience in Kansas. “In Russia,” Galkin wrote, “we are confronted by declarations of the State on their intent to make people’s lives comfortable. And when you get right down to it, as a rule, they don’t deliver what they promise. But here in front of me is a country where so many right things for many decades have been implemented in the most natural way by the people themselves.”

National Grantee: Friendship Force International

Illinois

WorldChicago managed a program for a delegation of Russian businesswomen traveling to Chicago in March. Delegates met retired Colonel Jill Mengenthaler, owner of CJMI, an emergency management firm. The delegation also conferred with the Global Corporate Citizenship branch of The Boeing Company and met Chicago Alderman Toni Preckwinkle. Another highlight of the program was a reception with the Russian Foundation of Chicago; nearly one hundred local community members attended. Delegate Olga Pavlova admired the “openness of communication and the desire to share experiences” she observed at the professional organizations and informal gatherings during the program. Delegate Yelena Nikitina, regional manager at a major Russian corporation, said she hoped to emulate Boeing’s corporate responsibility model. “The whole idea of charity, of volunteer work,” she said, “that is so widespread in the U.S., deserves attention.”

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Ohio

A delegation of emerging leaders from Kyrgyzstan traveled to Columbus in July, the International Visitors Council of Columbus hosted the group. The delegates visited the Board of Elections and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). They met Whitehall Mayor John Wolfe and conferred with staff for Representative Mary Jo Kilroy. The highlight of the program for delegates was Ohio State University’s John Glenn Center for Public Policy and School of Public Affairs. Former Senator John Glenn, who during his career as an astronaut was the first American to orbit the Earth, made a surprise appearance at the Center and talked with delegates for over an hour.

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development
Focus on California

In February, a delegation of conservationists, teachers, and other emerging leaders from the Russian Republic of Buryatia went to Berkeley and were hosted by the Center for Safe Energy (CSE). This was CSE’s 20th Open World delegation and its first delegation from Buryatia. It was also CSE’s first time hosting a delegation under the theme of ecotourism. The group was underwritten by the ERA Foundation, a Russian NGO located in Buryatia.

The delegation raised awareness of one of the premier natural treasures found in their homeland, Lake Baikal. The body of water is the world’s oldest and deepest freshwater lake. They visited Bay Area nature preserves including Año Nuevo State Park, Lake Chabot, and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. At the Plastic Pollution Coalition, the environmental leaders learned about the group’s work to create a social movement to stop plastic pollution and its toxic impacts worldwide. Delegates visited the offices of Geographic Expeditions, a major adventure travel company. The firm’s director, Michael Steigerwald, has since added Buryatia to the list of ecotourism destinations offered to his clients.

National Grantee: Center for Safe Energy of the Earth Island Institute

New Mexico

In February and March, a delegation of water resource managers from Turkmenistan were hosted in Albuquerque by the Albuquerque-Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee. The Turkmenistani delegates examined U.S. water resource management and compared it with techniques used in their homeland. They visited the facility of a private company specializing in water purification and treatment and discussed water policy with Albuquerque mayor Richard J. Berry. Ahsit Muhammadov, experienced professional advancement in his field after returning home—he was appointed Deputy Water Resources Minister by the Turkmen president in June 2010.

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Colorado

A delegation of Russian local government officials traveled to Fort Collins in April where they were hosted by the Breakfast Rotary of Fort Collins. Delegate Sergey Ponomarev, head of the Sosnovoborsk Council of City Deputies, was impressed by the nationally-acclaimed Fort Collins Senior Center. Upon returning to Russia, Ponomarev established a community center for senior citizens in Sosnovoborsk.

Nina Tarsakos, the deputy head on economic affairs of the Vesenjy Village Administration, witnessed a social project in Fort Collins called “Weekend Bag,” which she attempted to replicate in her hometown. The project’s purpose is to provide nutritious rich food for low-income children during the weekend, when they do not enjoy a school lunch.

National Grantee: Rotary International

Montana

A delegation of Ukrainian mayors and district councilmen visited Bozeman in June. While in Washington, DC for orientation, the group met with Representative Denny Rehberg in Washington, D.C. In Bozeman the group toured Montana State University, met Bozeman mayor Jeff Krauss, and attended a meeting with Lt. Governor John Bohlinger. The programming and hosting was done by Montana Center for International Visitors.

Three Russian Supreme Court justices, two District Court judges and one City Court judge traveled to Great Falls in December with the support of the Advisory Commission on International Relationships for Great Falls. The rule of law specialists were interested in exploring Montana’s administration of juvenile justice. The delegation also visited a juvenile detention center and a youth drug court. A highlight for the group was talking to young prison inmates and exploring alternatives to incarceration for this demographic.

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development, World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

Oregon

In October, Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scannlain conducted an exchange in Portland for five Moldovan appellate judges with support locally from the World Affairs Council of Oregon. Judge O’Scannlain, a veteran of more than 20 years service as a federal appeals court judge and chair of the federal judiciary’s Committee on International Judicial Relations, arranged for the delegation to visit his own court, housed in Portland’s historic Pioneer Courthouse, as well as the federal district court in Portland and the Oregon Supreme Court in Salem. Judge O’Scannlain called his first-time role as an Open World judicial host a “wonderful experience.” He described his Moldovan guests as “warm-hearted, interesting, and spirited.”

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

The group with Fort Collins District Attorney Larry R. Abrahamson (fourth from left); Rotary International Open World Program Manager Natalia Kunzer is pictured in the back row (second from right).

Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scannlain (center back) welcomes Moldovan appellate judges to Portland’s Pioneer Courthouse.

The Turkmenistan delegation stops at a vista near the Rio Grande USDA officials gave them a tour of the river and adjacent irrigation channels near Albuquerque.

A delegate studies carcinogenic pollution from plastic found in the Pacific Ocean.
Open World 2010 Alumni Events

Open World’s privately funded Alumni Program has been able to reach out to alumni, strengthen the network, and reinforce the positive image of the United States in Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Results have included partnerships, reverse visits, more than 20 events, publications, and other progressive forms of media and knowledge exchange that have developed through the relationships formed on Open World visits.

Alumni Gather in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, to Discuss Tech Issues

Some 25 Open World alumni gathered in Nizhny Novgorod on April 9 to participate in a conference called “IT Forum 2020” to discuss how technology can best benefit society. Alumni from the formerly closed city Sarov shared information about joint projects with their sister city Los Alamos. Also, alumni from Nizhny, including some from Open World’s partner, the Moscow School of Political Studies, discussed their new monthly journal called “Leaders XXI,” which was inspired by Open World programming. Another alumni reported on a UN-funded project of his aimed at expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities. The venture was inspired by his participation in Open World.

Founding Chairman Billington Meets with Alumni in Baku and Moscow

Moscow’s Library of Foreign Literature and its director, Ekaterina Geniera, welcomed Open World alumni and other friends of the program to a reception for then-Board Chairman James H. Billington on August 30. On September 7, Chairman Billington held a roundtable in Baku with six Azerbaijani alumni, including two members of Parliament. When Chairman Billington asked one MP what he learned on his Open World visit that he could not have gotten from books, the alumni replied that he was able to see first-hand Americans’ respect for the rule of law.

Executive Director O’Keefe Meets St. Petersburg Region Alumni at Retreat

Executive Director John O’Keefe hosted a one-day retreat in St. Petersburg on October 23 to discuss Open World alumni work with partners in Russia. Consul General Sheila Gwaltney warmly welcomed the group; she spoke highly of Open World programming and the networking opportunities provided by the alumni team. O’Keefe discussed the current strategic plan for the Open World program and regional alumni representatives gave a brief report of their work with alumni in 2010. All participants contributed insights into ways to improve the effectiveness of the alumni program in Russia and elsewhere, and devised an action plan based on these discussions for effective use of social media outlets.

Alumni in Tobolsk, Russia, Report on Career Achievements

Over 30 alumni representing the Tobolsk Mayor’s office, city council, educational institutions and local businesses, as well as alumni from Tyumen and Yekaterinburg, gathered on May 28 to share their expertise on working with youth on social projects. One alumni reported on roundtables sponsored by the city council that focused on tolerance and civil society development. Another alumni, the head of a local NGO, spoke about various “extreme” tourist projects that he is developing for youth based on what he saw in Alaska. Finally, an alumni founded the Institute of Entrepreneurship following her program in America and presented on its activity. The Institute provides professional training to future business men. It published six books and manuals on entrepreneurship and completed four business projects aimed at the economic empowerment of youth.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Meets with Alumni in Three Countries

Open World alumni in Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan spoke with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during her July travel to those countries.

Nine Ukrainian Open World alumni attended Secretary Clinton’s July 2 Town Hall Meeting at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. At the meeting, Secretary Clinton urged Ukrainians “to work even harder to strengthen your democracy, to build your civil society, to empower your media, to ensure that your future here in Ukraine is as positive as you deserve it to be.” U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Melanne Verveer also attended and spoke about U.S.-Ukraine relations. Ambassador Verveer is the cofounder and former chair of Vital Voices Global Partnership, a longtime Open World grantee, and hosted several Open World groups in that capacity.

Secretary Clinton’s July 5 Town Hall Meeting at Tbilisi, Georgia brought together a group of Georgian women leaders including three Open World alumni. One alumna, Chiora Taktakishvili, the youngest woman in the Georgian Parliament, asked Secretary Clinton about the United States’ short- and long-term agenda for helping those Georgians who were internally displaced by the 2008 hostilities with Russia. Deputy Taktakishvili was hosted by Open World and Vital Voices in Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia in late 2008 and met then-Senator Clinton at that time.
Open World organized three host recognition events in 2010 across the U.S. to officially acknowledge its hosts' energy, ingenuity, and passion for constituent diplomacy.

North Carolina
Both North Carolina Representative David Price and Open World Executive Director John O'Keefe were on hand for a September 13 luncheon in downtown Raleigh honoring Open World hosts in North Carolina, one of the top five most-visited states under the program. In attendance were Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and Chief Deputy Secretary of State Rodney Maddox (both frequent Open World presenters), State Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby, Open World hosts, and two visiting Moldovan delegations.

Representative Price (right) and Executive Director John O’Keefe (left) join Doug Ovston (center), who was honored at the September 13 host recognition event in Raleigh for his “exceptional hosting” for Open World. Ovston has even been studying Russian so that he can communicate better with his guests.

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Representative Price (right) and Executive Director John O’Keefe (left) join Doug Ovston (center), who was honored at the September 13 host recognition event in Raleigh for his “exceptional hosting” for Open World. Ovston has even been studying Russian so that he can communicate better with his guests.

Iowa
At a September 26 reception held at the Iowa State Bar Association, Executive Director O’Keefe recognized and thanked many of the hosts and host families of Iowa who have supported Open World. Among those honored were the organization Iowa Sister States and Chief Judge Robert Pratt of the United States District Court of the Southern District of Iowa.

Iowa has been one of the top hosting states for Open World with over 800 participants hosted there since the program began in 1999.

Open World Executive Director John O’Keefe (center) joins Iowa hosts from left to right: Bill Brock, Kim Heidemann, Sorrel Brown, O’Keefe, and Carol Grant.

New Mexico
The New Mexico Governor’s Mansion was the elegant setting for a host recognition ceremony on November 30. Open World Executive Director John O’Keefe honored 15 outstanding Open World hosts during this special occasion. Open World has brought 279 emerging leaders from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan to New Mexico since the program’s inception. The state has been pivotal to the success of Open World’s programming. Also honoring the Open World hosts were field representatives for Senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, who attended both the host-recognition ceremony and a public briefing that Executive Director O’Keefe gave on Open World before the event.

Left to right: Santa Fe Council on International Relations executive director Patti Pineda; and, from Albuquerque, Mike and Clerk of Court Norman Meyer, and Amelia and Bill Meyer.

2010 National Host Organizations
Each year the Open World Leadership Center competitively selects organizations across the United States to carry out its community-based professional exchanges. The national host organizations (grantees) conduct the visits themselves or recruit and oversee a network of local affiliates and partners that do so. The Center gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for serving as national hosts for Open World delegations in 2010:

- Academy for Educational Development
  - Washington, DC
- CEC ArtsLink
  - New York, NY
- Center for Safe Energy
  - Berkeley, CA
- Council of International Programs USA
  - Cleveland, OH
- Friendship Force International
  - Atlanta, GA
- Graduate School
  - Washington, DC
- University of Massachusetts Amherst Institute for Global Health
  - Amherst, MA
- International Affairs Council
  - Raleigh, NC
- Keystone Human Services International
  - Harrisburg, PA
- League of Women Voters
  - Washington, DC
- National Peace Foundation
  - Washington, DC
- Northcentral Technical College
  - Wausau, WI
- Rotary International
  - Evanston, IL
- Russian American Rule of Law Consortium
  - Burlington, VT
- Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization
  - Oak Ridge, TN
- Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.
  - St. Louis, MO
- Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University
  - Arlington, VA
- U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
  - Washington, DC
- Vista360°
  - Jackson, WY
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
  - Washington, DC
- World Services of La Crosse, Inc.
  - La Crosse, WI
2010 Local Host Organizations

Open World would like to thank the following organizations and institutions for hosting our delegations in 2010:

**Alabama**
Birmingham Sister Cities Commission - Ukraine Committee
Friendship Force of Montgomery

**Alaska**
Khabarovsk/Alaska Rule of Law Partnership

**Arizona**
Tucson-Alma Mater Sister Cities Committee

**Arkansas**
Arkansas Council for International Visitors*  
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Arkansas

**California**
California Sister Cities Program  
National Peace Foundation

**Colorado**
Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities  
Breakfast Rotary Club of Fort Collins  
Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

**Connecticut**
Connecticut-Pskov Rule of Law Partnership

**Delaware**
Delaware Justice of the Peace Courts

**District of Columbia**
National Peace Foundation

**Florida**
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida  
Capital Community Diplomacy Council  
International Visitors Corps of Jacksonville, Inc.*  
Rotary Club of Seminole County South Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.

**Georgia**
University of Miami School of Law

**Georgia**
Atlanta-Thilia Sister City Committee*  
Georgia Council for International Visitors*  
Hall, Booth, Smith & Sloey, P.C.

**Hawaii**
Kapiolani Community College

**Idaho**
Boise State University, International Programs

**Illinois**
Chicago Sister Cities International Program  
International Visitors Center of Illinois

**Indiana**
Office of the Indiana Attorney General  
Rotary Club of Carmel & Rotary Club of Lafayette

**Iowa**
Council Bluffs Toebold Sister City Association  
Creating Great Places Iowa Sister States*

**Kansas**
Friendship Force of Kansas*

**Kentucky**
Bluegrass Community and Technical College

**Maryland**
Center for International Programs  
Heartland Family Service

**Massachusetts**
International Center of Worcester*  
Jacobs Pillow Dance  
Rotary International District 7950  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Michigan**
Grand Traverse Bay Business Association

**Missouri**
International Visitors Center of Jackson  
University of Missouri  
Missouri National Prestige Program

**Mississippi**
League of Women Voters of the Republic of Kosovo

**Missouri**
St. Louis Regional Visitors Program

**Montana**
Ada County Visitors Bureau  
Great Falls Regional Visitors Bureau

**Nebraska**
Statewide Economic Development Council  
Tobolsk-Nebraska Sister City Committee

**Nevada**
Northern Nevada International Center  
New Hampshire Superior Court

**New Hampshire**
New Hampshire Aids Project  
New Hampshire/Vologda Rule of Law Partnership Committee

**New Jersey**
Monmouth University Institute for Global Understanding and Department of Political Science and Sociology

**New Mexico**
Albuquerque/Asghabat Sister Cities Committee

**New York**
American Dance Festival  
Cornell University, Center for International Cooperation  
New York University/Volgograd Rule of Law Partnership Committee

**North Carolina**
American Folk Festival  
Friendship Force of Charlotte*

**Ohio**
Ohio University, College of Business

**Oklahoma**
International Visitors Council of Oklahoma  
University of Oklahoma, College of Law

**Oregon**
Oregon Law Commission

**Pennsylvania**
GlobalPittsburgh

**Tennessee**
Blount County Sister City Organization*  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

**Texas**
American University, Center for International Study

**Virginia**
William & Mary Center for Global Education and Outreach

**West Virginia**
Navy-Marine Corps Community College

**Wisconsin**
Glenmore Community College

**Wyoming**
Jackson Hole Community College

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*An asterisk* denotes that this organization* hosted two or more local Open World exchanges in 2010.
Open World Partners

The Open World Leadership Center would like to acknowledge the agencies and organizations that worked so effectively with Center staff to carry out program operations and specialized programming in 2010, and the donors that so generously supported the Center’s alumni program.

General Program Support

The Library of Congress provided the Open World Leadership Center with financial management services, administrative support, and office and event space through an interagency agreement. The nonprofit American Councils for International Education provided major administrative and logistical support to Open World. The U.S. Embassy staff in Open World countries made recommendations on 2010 nominating organizations and themes; participated in nominating and selecting candidates; hosted candidate vetting sessions; and took part in pre-departure orientation sessions and alumni events. Embassy staff also served as the Center’s liaison with government and nongovernmental entities.

U.S. Embassy staff in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan managed the selection, facilitation, and travel of government leaders from Turkmenistan to the United States.

Cooperative Programming

Senator Vitaly Malkin, founder of the Russian philanthropic organization ERA Foundation, entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Open World Leadership Center in 2008 implementing a $450,000 joint initiative in the course of three years. In 2010, five groups specializing in oncology and school administration from the Republic of Buryatia participated in the Open World program.

Cultural Leaders Program

Major support for Open World’s Cultural Leaders Program was provided through partnership and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which works with Open World to find opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between Russian artists and arts managers and their U.S. counterparts. The NEA also advised on program design and content. CEC ArtsLink staff in New York and St. Petersburg, Russia, administered the Cultural Leaders Program nominations process, helped coordinate pre-visit communications, and provided program evaluations.

Rule of Law Program

The U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations (IJRC) coordinates the U.S. federal judiciary’s relations with foreign judicial entities 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 the program, recruiting federal host judges and providing general program guidance. In its capacity as the U.S. 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 the Washington orientations for rule of law delegates.

Alumni Program

American Councils for International Education managed the privately funded Alumni Program and tracked Open World results. Open World Trustee Ambassador George Argyros and the Argyros Family Foundation generously committed $500,000 to the Alumni Program, for expenditure over a three-year period beginning in June 2008 (the Argyros Fund). Other donations to Open World’s Alumni Program came from the Russell Family Foundation in Gig Harbor, Wash.; Michael Yanney, chairman of the Burlington Capital Group in Omaha; and former U.S. ambassador to Russia and current Open World trustee James F. Collins.

Program Information

Program History

Congress launched Open World exchanges for emerging Russian leaders in May 1998, 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 with a public-private board of trustees to manage the exchange program. The new administering agency, the Open World Leadership Center, opened its doors at the Library of Congress in October 2001. Congress made the other post-Soviet states, as well as Russian cultural leaders, eligible for Open World in 2003, and one year later extended program eligibility to any other country designated by the Center’s board. In July 2006, the board approved new exchanges for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan, and continued the original exchange with Russia and a program with Ukraine that had begun in 2003. The board in 2006 also approved a Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007–2011. In 2007, Open World began to track results and meet other goals laid out in the plan, including launching exchange programs for the five expansion countries approved by the board in 2006.

With the board’s approval, Open World in 2008 instituted programs for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, bringing the number of countries participating in Open World to nine. In 2009, 1,390 participants came to the United States on Open World exchanges.

In 2010, 1,341 participants came to the United States on Open World exchanges with a strong legislative focus. State legislators were major partners in sponsoring the delegations. The year kicked off with the first-ever hosting of legislators from Azerbaijan and Moldova and ended with a visit by regional legislators from the Russian republic of Chechnya.

Washington, D.C.

Executive Director

The Honorable John O’Keefe
Ambassador (Ret.)

Financial Management Officer

Jane Sargus

Program Managers

Vera DeBuchanan
Lena Zvorykina

Executive Assistant

Chang Su

Public Affairs Officer

Maura Sheldon

Office Managers

Allison Case
Eliza King

Moscow

Country Director
Alexander Khilikov
Deputy Country Director
Yelena Yefremova

Statistics

Open World has brought approximately 18,000 current and future leaders of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to the United States since 1999.

The average age of Open World delegates in 2010 was 37.

Fifty-three percent of delegates were women. Program participants from the seven Eurasian countries totaled 341 unique individuals, with 288 delegates and 53 facilitators. The 2010 Eurasian countries included Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Participants came from 75 of 177 regions in the aforementioned countries, not including Turkmenistan.

In 2010, Open World participants traveled to 49 of 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, and stayed in 164 unique Congressional Districts. During the life of the program, over 6,750 American volunteer families in 1,990 communities in all 50 states have hosted Open World leaders.
Open World Financial Information

In fiscal year 2010, the Open World Leadership Center received $12,000,000 in appropriated funds, $100,000 in interagency transfers, and $582,750 in direct private donations. In calendar year 2010, the accumulated value of cost-sharing with the Open World community of grantees, local host organizations, and individual local hosts totaled $1.7 million.

The Open World Leadership Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2010 to the independent public accounting firm of Kearney & Company for a full audit. For the Center’s fifth full audit, Kearney & Company again issued an unqualified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements and reported no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in Open World’s internal control, and no instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations affecting the financial statements. The table on page 23 (with accompanying notes) and the one immediately below present the fiscal year 2010 financial highlights from the Center’s Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statement of Net Costs. The Financial Statements document (with notes) and Kearney & Company’s Independent Auditor’s Report are available in full on the Open World website at www.openworld.gov.

### OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

#### Consolidated Statements of Net Costs
For the Years Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009

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