ANNUAL REPORT

2022

GLOBALITIES U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE
ABOUT GLOBAL TIES U.S.

Global Ties U.S. was founded in 1961 to support a community-based network of nonprofits that build relationships, partnerships, and trust within their communities and with the world through international exchange. Our members provide the domestic infrastructure for U.S. public diplomacy efforts, implementing the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and dozens of other educational, cultural, and professional exchange programs. Our mission is to power individual, community, and nation to build trust and advance peace and prosperity through international exchange. Diplomacy Begins Here.

The Global Ties Network is comprised of more than 120 organizations representing all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries on four continents. The countries in green represent their locations.

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A LETTER FROM KATHERINE BROWN, PH.D.
President & CEO, Global Ties U.S.

Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report. I’m particularly proud of the Global Ties U.S. team and Network this past year. We committed to returning to in-person exchanges and public diplomacy programs after nearly two years of working remotely due to the global pandemic. From supporting our Network with continuing the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) virtually and in-person, to completing our work at a successful USA Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. To launching our programs with U.S. alumni of government-sponsored exchange programs, to continuing the Law Enforcement Security Exchange Program and other exchanges, we all stepped up to ensure that our missions continue. We also celebrate the new emphasis on subnational diplomacy and citizen engagement at the U.S. Department of State. The power of this Network to increase the scale of U.S. citizen participation in foreign affairs by taking action in building community within their cities, and with their cities and the world, is unparalleled; 2022 has been a fantastic year to demonstrate this.

While the pandemic gave us new technological skills, virtual exchanges were enhancements, but not replacements, for our in-person programs. I long come back to the work of Marcus Holmes, Ph.D., who looks at the social psychology of diplomacy. Our mission is to build trust and, as Marcus emphasizes in his work, the more face-time connections we have with someone, the more durable the relationship is. Virtual tools are important for sharing information, but face-time is critical to building trust. People can communicate more holistically in person; social cues are louder, silence is better interpreted, and surrounding environments can make points more vivid. Most importantly, in-person experiences are stickier than virtual ones, and are more likely to create change.

The pandemic also helped us reexamine how we conduct international exchange and public diplomacy programs. We learned how to use technology to enhance exchanges, but the time we spent connecting virtually also taught us how to slow down and listen more. Listening is what makes this work a two-way exchange, and not one-way broadcasting. As we come back together in person, we need to make sure we slow down to listen to those we are with. When we thought about a theme to sum up this year and set the intentions for our work in 2023, we thought about rebuilding trust. People can communicate more holistically in person; social cues are louder, silence is better interpreted, and surrounding environments can make points more vivid. Most importantly, in-person experiences are stickier than virtual ones, and are more likely to create change.

First, building community at home in the United States with the Global Ties Network. One of the powerful outcomes of international exchanges is that they increase community integration for the U.S. citizens who engage with and welcome the participants. Community integration is naturally part of international exchanges, and exchanges create a greater sense of civic engagement, community pride, and appreciation of diverse cultural groups. This is a critical, social-cultural impact of Global Ties Network members. Our work is non-partisan and focused on bridging backgrounds to ensure we’re reflecting the rich diversity of the United States. With our renewed focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), we have much to celebrate this past year, but also much more to do. I’m grateful especially for the 20 members of the DEIA Working Group who have challenged norms and set new standards for exchange programming and our organizations.

Second, building community among international visitors and exchange beneficiaries, and continuing those relationships as they become alumni. We talk a lot at Global Ties U.S. about how this indispensable Network creates the relationships the United States needs overseas, strengthening our alliances through our citizens. This work never stopped during the pandemic. Coming out of it, the work became even more intense as communities determined their readiness to welcome back in-person programming in 2023, while also working to maintain those ties with alumni overseas, especially those in crisis, such as our colleagues and friends in Afghanistan and Ukraine. But perhaps most humbling for me is the third element of this theme: building community within our Network. Our nearly 90 IVLP members have turned to one another a significant deal these last three years. They have bound together to share best practices, vent, troubleshoot problems, and lift each other up. You’ll hear their voices throughout this report. At Global Ties U.S., we are honored to represent you, we’re listening—and we can’t wait to see you again, in-person. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for being part of our mission. Together, we are rebuilding community globally and locally through international exchange.

Katherine Brown, Ph.D.
Global Ties U.S. President & CEO

Cover image credits, left to right, top to bottom:
Megan Maher (WorldDenver), Global Ties U.S.; Taylor Smith (Meridian International Center), Kristoffer Tripplaar; A.E. Landes Photography
Global Ties Network is comprised of international affairs professionals all over the United States who are working on the same common goal: creating impactful, meaningful experiences for our international visitors. Through a normalization of virtual programming and Zoom calls, many leaders in the Network now talk on a weekly basis. It has made the Network stronger, as we work together to support exchange.

As international exchange professionals who work to reflect the United States to the world, our Network is committed to advancing opportunities that connect, engage, and support all individuals who represent the diversity of U.S. communities, especially those historically under-and misrepresented. Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Working Group, launched in May 2021, includes 20 representatives: 19 from across the Network and one from the U.S. Department of State. Their work throughout 2022 has focused on how to design programs with a greater DEIA lens and how to create change within organizations. In March at our National Meeting, the DEIA Working Group was one of three recipients of our Network Innovation Award. The other two awardees were the Virtual Programming Champions and the Forward Planning Working Group, all teams of individuals working to ensure that exchange programs are active, accessible, and engaging for all involved.

The dedication of the Global Ties Network to building community comes from the inherent nature of exchange programs. We all work to create connections that span borders, but also to deepen the ties to our own communities.

“I am convinced that increased participation by dedicated Americans in international exchanges will help to achieve our common hope for a durable and just peace,” President John F. Kennedy said in 1961 as his administration established the Global Ties Network. More than sixty years ago, our nation was called to public service in many forms, and that vision continues to drive our Network today. In our last fiscal year, the Global Ties Network:

- Turned $11.8 million in federal funding for the IVLP funding into $58.6 million in economic activity
- For every $1 in IVLP funding, our Network raised $4.97
- Engaged 7,553 volunteers who provided 135,268 hours of service

Also in March at the National Meeting, disability rights activist Susan Sygall and youth empowerment organization Life Pieces to Masterpieces received our 2022 Citizen Diplomat Award for their leadership in building and supporting inclusive communities in the United States and abroad.

- Susan Sygall is the CEO and co-Founder of Mobility International USA, a disability-led nonprofit in Eugene, OR. Through exchange programs, “We’ve had the honor of meeting so many people with disabilities and allies of the disability rights movement,” said Susan. “We can serve as a catalyst to disabled people around the world.”
- Life Pieces to Masterpieces is a Washington, DC-based community organization that uses artistic expression to help youth develop leadership skills, confidence, and creativity. Guided by a “Four C Process: Connect, Create, Contribute, and Celebrate,” its mission is to “harness character through artistic expression and transform lives and communities.”

The Global Ties Network to building community comes from the inherent nature of exchange programs. We all work to create connections that span borders, but also to deepen the ties to our own communities.

—Courtney Brooks, Global Ties KC

From May – July, 19 Global Ties Network members participated in our Community Conversations about the socio-cultural impact of World’s Fairs, or Expos, on U.S. citizens in the last 60 years. This was a special event series that explored the past impact of Expos, and their future potential as public diplomacy platforms. Programming featured oral historians Anna Kaplan, Ph.D., and Maggie Lemere who spoke with dozens of U.S. citizens who experienced Expos in New Orleans, New York, San Antonio, and Seattle – and in China, Italy, Kazakhstan, and South Korea. Through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the events featured Youth Ambassadors and Cultural Performers from the USA Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, along with representatives from the Expo Unit at the U.S. Department of State, and helped communities connect and deepen their understanding about why U.S. involvement in Expos is critical for global public engagement in our modern world. The series concluded with a virtual event in July in Washington, DC.

Events Hosted By:

- The International Center
- International Visitors Council of Los Angeles
- Iowa International Center
- San Antonio Council for International Visitors
- San Diego Diplomacy Council
- Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy
- The International Center
- International Visitors Council of Los Angeles
- Iowa International Center
- San Antonio Council for International Visitors
- San Diego Diplomacy Council
- Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy
- WorldOregon
- WorldOrlando
- World Affairs Council – Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky
- World Affairs Council – Seattle
- World Affairs Council – St. Louis
- WorldDenver

Life Pieces to Masterpieces at the 2022 National Meeting. Photo by Kristoffer Tripplaar.

Photo by Kristoffer Tripplaar.
This year marked the return of in-person Global Ties Network gatherings after a two-year pause due to the global pandemic. Returning to in-person programs has allowed many Network members to (re)establish connections, build trust, and plan for new opportunities, including expanding their work to support U.S. alumni of exchange programs:

In March, we welcomed 355 in-person attendees to Washington, DC and 143 virtual attendees for the National Meeting. Programming celebrated how our Network is Moving Exchange Forward to make exchanges more accessible and inclusive.

Our trio of Career Connections events and Diplomacy Begins Here Summits continued in September with activities in New Mexico and Florida:

- **September 16-18: Albuquerque, NM**
  Career Connections: Diversity in Exchange
  Hosted by Global Ties ABQ
  - 17 participants

- **September 22-23: Pensacola, FL**
  Diplomacy Begins Here: Local STEAM to Global Innovation
  Hosted by Gulf Coast Diplomacy
  - 162 participants

July saw the launch of our Diplomacy Begins Here Summits and Career Connections events. Programming brought together people from a range of sectors to connect and explore how international exchanges support U.S. foreign policy goals.

October marked the end of our 2022 Diplomacy Begins Here Summits and Career Connections events, and brought together partners on both U.S. coasts:

- **October 13-14: Portland, OR**
  Diplomacy Begins Here: Building Citizen Engagement & Environmental Action
  Hosted by WorldOregon
  - 123 participants

- **October 14-16: Boston, MA**
  Career Connections: Global Exchange, Local Impact
  Hosted by WorldBoston
  - 43 participants

During the pandemic and as we begin to rebuild, I’ve appreciated the many reminders that Global Ties Network members are not just colleagues and collaborators, but also friends and human beings. Whether line dancing, cooking, hiking, or touring museums, virtually or in-person, our Network members have demonstrated again and again their willingness to share and desire to celebrate the many facets of humanity that bind us together.

– Patricia Harrison, World Learning

We rounded out the year with the National Programmers Workshop on November 16, which brought together 161 DC-based partners, and focused on strengthening program management and project teams.

WorldOregon hosted the third and final Diplomacy Begins Here Summit and Learning Lab of 2022. It was a powerful way to engage our local community and share best practices within the Global Ties Network. The Learning Lab brought leadership and programmers together to share the opportunities and challenges of resuming in-person programming coming out of the pandemic, which was invigorating and so very helpful!

– Derrick Olsen, WorldOregon
The Global Ties Network continued to create community with global leaders in 2022. In March at our National Meeting, Global Ties U.S. named Mehwish Abbasi and Adrian Lasimbang the recipients of our 2022 IVLP Alumni Award for Social Innovation and Change for their leadership to create equitable and inclusive strategies around climate change. Learn more about what drives their work and their thoughts on community-building below.

Mehwish Abbasi
Pakistan
“Climate change worsens inequalities and discrimination against girls and young women. In times of crisis, girls are often the first to drop out of school to help their families, earn money, or take care of siblings. However, if they don’t go to school, they are less likely to understand climate change and how to manage its impacts. Girls and women must have equal opportunities and not have to contend with stereotypes about their education and career.”

Read more: gties.us/Mehwish

Adrian Lasimbang
Malaysia
“Our main strategy for the sustainability of any project that we implement is to identify and work with local champions in the community. Empowering the community to make collective decisions and training leaders will lead to better governance of resources and open up space for sustainable economic development for the community. I believe that global change starts when people take local action: ‘Local action, global impact.’”

Read more: gties.us/Adrian

The Global Ties Network has built a strong community over its 60+ year history. The past year was no exception, in fact, we arguably saw the strongest growth in our community to date. The Network-wide shift back to in-person, while simultaneously maintaining virtual, programming has created regular and accessible opportunities for all. While programming has always been robust, there was an increase in professional development opportunities, access to virtual and in-person events, and transparent and thoughtful communication from Global Ties U.S. leadership.

– Patricia Preston, Vermont Council on World Affairs

“Integrated into strategic planning at U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, the IVLP and other exchange programs are powerful tools for advancing foreign policy priorities and building the long-term relationships of trust that are necessary foundations for peace and prosperity. The value the Global Ties Network brings to these efforts is evident in the knowledge of local communities the visitors bring home from their travels and the lasting friendships and partnerships they build with counterparts across the United States.”

– Mary Sue Fields, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, Global Ties U.S. Diplomat-in-Residence

The Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund (CDAF) is a small grants competition for alumni of U.S.-Government exchange programs to carry out public service projects that make an impact on global and local communities. The 2022 CDAF competition was the most competitive to date, with 39 winning teams selected out of 72 applications, and engaging communities across the United States and around the world. Meet a few of this year’s winning teams:

Critical Language and Pronunciation for Students (CLAPS)

CLAPS offered virtual after-school programming for students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Working with local teachers through partnerships with language organizations, CLAPS introduced participants to eight languages, with an emphasis on language fundamentals, pronunciation, and cultural competence. On September 19, students at Burbank Middle School participated in their first Chinese language session.

Uganda Women’s Beekeeping Initiative

The initiative addresses the lack of economic opportunities for women in Uganda and promotes environmental conservation through beekeeping. On September 19, the team led a five-day training session that successfully trained 57 women and men in beekeeping, how to start a cooperative, and financial literacy. The team will continue to follow up with the young entrepreneurs to offer additional guidance and expertise.

See all 2022 CDAF projects at gties.us/2022CDAF

Building Community through Language and Art

This summer class series featured integrated language learning with arts-based activities. Programming included classes on Maltese tile making—which included Ukrainian refugees and other women who had migrated to Malta—and a bike ride event to strengthen community ties with an emphasis on English language learning.

*All photos provided by CDAF project teams.

U.S. LatinXchange Alumni Speaker Series

This speaker series seeks to bring more diversity to the realm of exchange by featuring panels of Latinx alumni of government and privately-funded U.S. exchange programs. On August 26, the team hosted their second panel, “Finding a Job Abroad,” which featured four U.S. Latinx exchange program alumni. Panelists discussed their careers, navigating their time abroad, and shared networking tips.
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Our Member Services

Global Ties U.S. provides our member organizations with professional development resources that:

- Develop their leadership and management capacities
- Strengthen their programming abilities
- Involve U.S. citizens to build mutual understanding between people and nations

In 2022 we produced:

1. Redesigned Member Website
2. IVLP Fundamentals Workshops
3. Advocacy Trainings
   (1 online course, 2 workshops)
4. CBM Executive & Board Member Targeted Courses
5. 28+ hours of Strategic Communications Sessions
6. 29 Virtual Programs
   (includes webinars, quarterly calls, and other member-only resources)

Our Programs

From empowering young women with mental resilience strategies to advancing community-led solutions to water insecurity to shaping the future of international exchange leadership, our Network equips participants with skills and connections to make an impact.

International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the United States’ foundational professional exchange program, is implemented by the Global Ties Network through a 60-year partnership with the U.S. Department of State. In 2022, our Network saw a return to in-person IVLP projects, alongside a continuation of virtual and hybrid programming. The IVLP connects U.S. citizens and the world’s emerging leaders, provides international participants with professional and cultural knowledge of the United States, and grows our Network’s investment in U.S. communities, economies, and foreign policy goals.

In our last fiscal year, the Global Ties Network:

- Welcomed 4,488 international exchange participants to U.S. communities, in-person and virtually
- Implemented 344 in-person and virtual projects
- Engaged 7,553 volunteers in 136,268 hours of community service

In fiscal year 2022, we launched the Global Ties Forum, a conversation series that examines the social dimension of global affairs and the role of citizen diplomacy in building trust between local and global communities. Recent Forums included:

- November 9: Foreign Policy and the People: Connecting Subnational and Public Diplomacy
- December 8: Building New Forms of Citizen Engagement: Global Views and Trends

In 2022, we produced:

- 39 CDAF Projects Funded:
  - Career Connections Travel Stipends: $4,072
- 110 Alumni Engaged
- 342 CDAF Projects
- 568 Career Connections Events

In 2022 we produced:

- 344 in-person and virtual projects
- 7,553 volunteers in 136,268 hours of community service

I have seen the Global Ties Network build community from within through participation in Diplomacy Zooms. Here monthly meetings. These meetings have provided the Network with an opportunity to connect, exchange thoughts on common challenges, and share our successes and frustrations!

-Susan Lore, World Affairs Council of St. Louis

Panelists on our November 9 Forum discuss the intersection of foreign policy and diplomacy.

The first IVLP group returns to San Diego, CA in May 2022.

Photo by Luke Bonning, San Diego Diplomacy Council

The ExchangeAlumni team members at the Career Connections ABQ event in September.

Alumni Engaged: 910
Career Connections Events: 3
Alumni Provided: 45+ hours in-person and virtual programming
CDAF Projects Funded: 39
CDAF: 342
Career Connections: 568
(some alumni attended more than one event)
Our Programs

Law Enforcement and Security Exchange Program

The Law Enforcement and Security Exchange Program provides professionals from across Mexico with capacity-building trainings and access to U.S. police professionals and experts. The program consists of four elements: webinars, study tours, online learning courses, and training institutes. In 2022, we implemented 12 webinars and three study tours. Activities will continue in 2023, and also include our first in-person training institute in Mexico since 2019.

MENA-USA Empowering Resilient Girls Exchange (MERGE) Program

The MENA-USA Empowering Resilient Girls Exchange (MERGE) inspires participants to learn about their own mental health, develop emotional resilience skills, and share this knowledge with their communities. We implemented two cohorts in 2022; a second and final cohort is scheduled for Spring 2023.

Iraq – TARI Exchange Program

Five Iraqi scholars came to the United States to participate in the annual research conference hosted by TARI (The Academic Research Institute in Iraq). The conference provided opportunities for scholars and colleagues from across Iraq and internationally to hear about and discuss the various research being conducted in and on Iraq – from ancient to modern.

UK Countering Hostile State Influences Exchange Program

This program brings UK stakeholders to the United States to explore federal, state, local, and civil society responses and strategies to counter the growing influence of hostile state actors in the United States and around the world. The exchange includes a series of post-visit activities in the United Kingdom to share learnings and amplify the program’s impact to a wider network of stakeholders across sectors. Two projects were implemented in 2022, with a third and final exchange scheduled for March 2023.

Water Smart Engagement (WiSE) Program

The Water Smart Engagement Program (WiSE) explores innovative, efficient, and effective approaches to 21st century water challenges and helps participants from Southeast Asia build collective capacity. Activities in 2022 included participation in Singapore International Water Week and site visits around Southeast Asia, followed by reciprocal visits to New Orleans for the Water Environment Federation’s Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) and site visits around U.S. partner cities.

U.S. Foreign Policy Exchange Program

This two-week exchange program brought four participants – two from the Republic of Ireland and two from the United Kingdom – to the United States. The program exposed participants to U.S. foreign policy priorities towards the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, discussed the formation of U.S. foreign policy, and also examined the U.S.-Canada border as a case study in border security and cross-border cooperation.
## Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

**September 30, 2021***

### ASSETS

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### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**$4,477,811**

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

**Year ended September 30, 2021**

### REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND GRANTS

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### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

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<tbody>
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<td>Without Donor Restrictions:</td>
<td>($314,856)</td>
<td>($8,250)</td>
<td>($323,106)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>$796,377</td>
<td>$198,561</td>
<td>$994,938</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - End of Year</strong></td>
<td>$481,521</td>
<td>$190,311</td>
<td>$671,832</td>
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A LETTER FROM
JACQUELINE MILLER
Chair, Global Ties U.S. Board of Directors

Last year I started out this letter by noting that the year had been defined by disruption. One year later, I need to write the same thing—the last two (plus) years have been filled with challenges as the Global Ties Network continued to face the seemingly endless disruptions of the pandemic.

At the beginning of 2021, the Board and I were confident that we could address the impacts of the pandemic as we continued to grow our membership, and increased our influence with our partner governments and the broader diplomatic community. There’s much we have learned in the past two years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Katherine Brown and our dedicated team.

This Network is composed of dedicated professionals who know the power of citizen-to-citizen diplomacy and international exchanges. It is a group for whom the mission matters—and that mission has been complicated by the pandemic in ways big and small. But for all the devastation the pandemic caused across the country and around the world, this Network has emerged stronger. It has not been easy to navigate these challenges—far from it. We are all tired and stressed. Despite all of this, as my term as Board Chair comes to end, I am looking back on the last two years with tremendous gratitude and looking forward with optimism.

I am thankful that in this role I was given the opportunity to work so actively with the Global Ties Network; we became a closer community during the pandemic. It is not the same as it was before the pandemic—there was a return to in-person programming while recognizing that we may need to rebuild our connections in our communities as we reintroduce the power of exchanges. Finally, we’ll lay the groundwork for building a larger infrastructure for citizen and subnational diplomacy across the country and find new ways to foster experiences with alumni.

If our efforts over the last two years have been about sustaining our communities and the Network, going forward we can focus on rebuilding community globally and locally. The Network will not look the same as it did before the pandemic—it is closer, more cohesive, and better equipped to meaningfully lean in on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

I am stepping down as Chair, but will remain a committed member of the Board of Directors, and will continue to work with Katherine Brown and the Global Ties U.S. team. I have learned so much from my fellow trustees and from all of you. There is much work to do, and I am honored to be a part of it as we power individuals, communities, and nations to build trust and advance peace and prosperity through international exchange.

JACQUELINE MILLER
Chair, Global Ties U.S. Board of Directors
President & CEO, World Affairs Council - Seattle

SUPPORT OUR WORK

We rely on—and are extraordinarily grateful to—donors who help us meet our mission. Global Ties U.S. is a registered 501c3 organization (EIN: 52-0848094) and contributions are tax deductible. Donate at www.globaltiesus.org/support-our-work

Where to Give

Support Citizen Diplomacy
Contributions directly support our mission to help nearly 90 communities build trust and advance peace and prosperity through international exchange. Support from our donors helps us equip local leaders for their critical role in foreign affairs.

The Sherry Mueller Endowment
This fund supports the Global Ties U.S. internship program, providing meaningful professional experiences for globally minded students to succeed in an increasingly transnational workplace, and advocacy initiatives that ensure that the voice of the Global Ties Network is heard. Gifts to the endowment represent a permanent investment in the future of Global Ties U.S.

Emerging Leaders Program Fund
Now in its 12th year, the Global Ties U.S. Emerging Leaders Program has helped launch the careers of more than 150 young professionals who represent the rich diversity of our country, including communities traditionally underrepresented in international affairs. Through year-long professional development and networking, and service projects that engage their local communities in global issues, the program equips these young leaders to make an impact.

Program alumni have pursued careers, leadership roles, and higher education in globally focused fields, and remain connected to our program and Network to mentor and support career participants.

For a person like me who lives in the Midwest, it can be difficult to find a network of people interested in global diplomacy and international studies, and I believe this program is a great opportunity to connect with these people.

– Emerging Leaders Alum

Thank You

The Emerging Leaders Program is 100% funded by donors. We are grateful to the donors who helped us reach our $25,000 goal for the Emerging Leaders Fund during our summer 2022 fundraising campaign.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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