

# 2023

# Emerging Leaders

# Program

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Global Ties U.S.

# ABOUT THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

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Since 2011, the Global Ties U.S. **Emerging Leaders Program** has helped launch the careers of more than 150 globally-minded young professionals from across the Global Ties Network. These remarkable young people represent the rich diversity in all corners of our country, including communities traditionally underrepresented in international affairs.

The program develops leaders for **local and global impact**: participants engage in year-long professional development and networking activities, as well as service projects focused on international affairs in their local communities.

The centerpiece of their experience is a trip to Washington, DC to meet with leaders in public diplomacy and attend the Global Ties U.S. National Meeting. This year, their visit included a private tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibit, offering a profound reminder of the importance of citizen engagement in foreign affairs, as well as a mentoring session with a former U.S. ambassador.

Alumni have pursued higher education and careers in globally-focused fields, including positions within the U.S. government, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and even overseas. Many alumni also serve as mentors to new cohorts of Emerging Leaders.

## ALUMNI MENTORING

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In 2021, when the Emerging Leaders Program celebrated its tenth year, Global Ties U.S. established the Emerging Leaders **Alumni Mentoring Program**.

The mentors are among the many program alumni who credit the Emerging Leaders Program with having a lasting impact on their overall career trajectories. Mentors, much like the Emerging Leaders themselves, represent the diversity of our Global Ties Network and come from all corners of the United States. The mentors are eager to share what they have learned in the years since their time as Emerging Leaders and offer guidance and support to their mentees.



# 2023 EMERGING LEADERS

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## AMY BISHOP-SMITH

World Affairs Council of Seattle  
Seattle, WA

## DANIELLE PEARCE

World Trade Center Institute  
Baltimore, MD

## COLE CHISM

GlobalAustin  
Austin, TX

## KELSEY SMITH

Utah Global Diplomacy  
Salt Lake City, Utah

## DAVID HARRIS

Global Ties Alabama  
Huntsville, AL

## KAYNE SPIEKER

Cleveland Council on World Affairs  
Cleveland, OH

## VALERIE HOLT

World Affairs Council of St. Louis  
St. Louis, MO

## ANDREW STECK

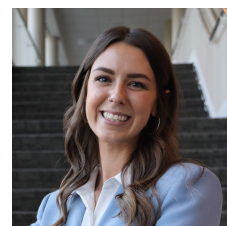
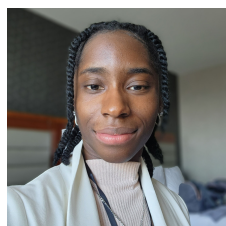
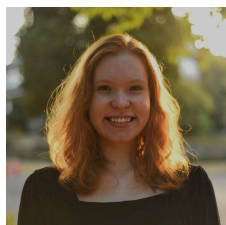
San Diego Diplomacy Council  
San Diego, CA

## ALEXANDER ORCUTT

WorldDenver  
Denver, CO

## JADA THOMPSON

Iowa International Center  
Des Moines, IA





# Amy Bishop-Smith

World Affairs Council of Seattle

## ABOUT AMY

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## Degree

BA in International Studies

## Hometown

Seattle, WA

## Fun Facts

I speak Japanese.

In my free time, I am also an avid fiction writer.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As an intern at the World Affairs Council of Seattle, I researched and wrote proposals nominating Seattle as a host city for various International Visitor Leadership Programs. I also helped to conceptualize, organize, and attend meetings with global leaders; cataloged and organized data; and supported with other responsibilities.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

Within my first week as an intern, I attended a meeting held at the Seattle Consulate-General of Japan's home. I represented the World Affairs Council among the various other organizations at the event, which served as an assessment of current Japan-U.S. business relations and ways to increase mutual cultural awareness moving forward. This meeting was the first in-person event held at the Consulate-General's home since the onset of the pandemic. In addition to learning a lot and having an opportunity to use my Japanese language skills in a professional setting, I got to partake in the excited mood of the event, complete with catered sushi and a celebratory shot of sake!

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

My service project was inspired by the idea that the most impactful change occurs when people of all backgrounds are given an opportunity to work together toward a common good. With my project, I'll create a new coalition of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) at the University of Washington that brings together the leaders of various RSOs, representing diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, to support and connect my university's international community. The long-term vision for this project is to establish an annual event among the RSOs and build a positive impact on our community together.

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# Cole Chism

GlobalAustin

## ABOUT COLE

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### Degree

Master of Global Policy Studies,  
Security/Law/Diplomacy

Bachelor of Arts with Honors,  
Government

Bachelor of Business  
Administration, Marketing

### Hometown

Cedar Park, TX

### Fun Facts

I've lived on three continents including North America, South America, and Europe.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Marketing and Events Intern at GlobalAustin, I led a digital-first strategy to retain members during the programming disruption caused by COVID-19. To accomplish this goal, I drafted and scheduled our weekly email newsletter, increasing the open rate and click rate by 1.08X and 2.65X, respectively, from the same period in the preceding year.

I also created new social media campaigns, increasing our Facebook reach, Instagram reach, and Twitter likes by 1.04X, 1.44X, and 1.67X, respectively, as compared to the same period in the preceding year.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

Several months after my internship ended and the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic receded, I had the chance to greet my first cohort of international visitors from the country of Georgia. This was a joyous occasion that brought the work into focus, allowing me to experience one of the exchanges that I advocated for at GlobalAustin. While sitting around the table with a dozen new friends, I felt assured that the pandemic had not separated the globe forever.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

I decided to establish the Austin Youth Council for International Visitor Exchanges to make international exchanges more accessible for young Austinites. In the current environment, many young people have trouble hosting international leaders because we don't have the free time, disposable income, or square footage. This is a problem because our youth are not able to learn from these networks of global citizens, and visitors leave our country with a more narrow view of what it means to be a U.S. citizen. To overcome this challenge, I seek to fund and organize group meals, events, tours, and discussions between young Austinites and international visitors.

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# David Harris

Global Ties Alabama

## ABOUT DAVID

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### Degree

Dual BA in Foreign Language and International Trade, and German

### Hometown

Huntsville, AL

### Fun Facts

I'm a language nerd, and actively study both German and Japanese.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

I assisted with program research and logistics, while accompanying fellows on their programmed trip.

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## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

By far, it was interacting and developing bonds with fellows from Georgia and Serbia. Working with people from different cultures is always such a valuable experience.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

My service project will create a business pitch competition for international students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). My work at the Invention to Innovation Center at UAH allowed me to see the importance and impact of entrepreneurship. I will collaborate with Global Ties Alabama to facilitate a pitch competition with YTIIL fellows, using the resources of a local start-up accelerator to help our fellows and promote continual exchange engagement through this entrepreneurial venture.

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# Valerie Holt

World Affairs Council of St. Louis

## ABOUT VALERIE

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valerie-holt-bb76b322a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/valerie-holt-bb76b322a/)

### Degree

BA in International Studies  
with minors in Spanish and  
Economics

### Hometown

Jefferson City, MO

### Fun Facts

I can play the piano and am  
learning to play the guitar—I love  
to play Taylor Swift songs.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As an intern with WAC STL, I assisted with International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) preparations such as finding different cultural events for visitors to attend or investigating new resources in our city. I also helped organize and manage community events with an international focus to connect the world and St. Louis. I also contacted community organizations for donations for our annual fundraiser and secured many silent auction donations to continue to financially support our organization.



WORLD  
AFFAIRS  
STL

## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

My highlight was meeting an IVLP group with a focus on combatting misinformation because I was able to hear about their experience in their country and compare it to my own perception of misinformation in the United States.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

I will give a presentation on the refugee resettlement process to students at a local university in St. Louis. I was inspired by an event we planned on refugee resettlement in St. Louis. I was largely unfamiliar with the topic beforehand, and want to share the amazing work of refugee resettlement with other students and let them know about service opportunities in the field.

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# Alexander Orcutt

WorldDenver

## ABOUT ALEXANDER

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### Degree

Pursuing an MA in International Studies with a certificate in Global Environmental Change and Adaptation

### Hometown

Cheshire, CT

### Fun Facts

I visited and spent time in all 50 U.S. states before I turned 21.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As WorldDenver's Communications and Development Intern, I helped prepare for Colorado's largest International Women's Day event and ran an advice and encouragement station. I created newsletters, flyers, and spreadsheets to alleviate the stress and workload of the WorldDenver team. I helped plan and set up several events for our members that promoted citizen diplomacy. Most of all, I facilitated programming for international visitors from countries across six continents so that they could easily navigate scheduled meetings and activities across Colorado.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

I had the privilege of chaperoning an IVLP group alongside my WorldDenver colleague, Keira Chandler, as we showed them Sprague Lake in Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park for two short hikes. I got to meet and interact with 9 delightful visitors from Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, Nepal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. We shared delicious food, good laughs, and had great conversations about anything and everything. I hope to come across these visitors again in my career and my travels.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

I feel that many people in the United States, especially those who don't have the time or resources to travel, hear about countries through rather positive lenses from travel influences and negative lenses from the news. For my project, I plan to host a culture fair with international students and foreign volunteers from multiple colleges in and around Denver. The event will take place at the University of Denver and be an opportunity to authentically share with college students and other visitors what a day in their life is like in their countries. This will highlight just how similar our lives can be across the globe while also celebrating our differences.

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# Danielle Pearce

World Trade Center Institute

## ABOUT DANIELLE

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### Degree

Pursuing a BA in International Studies

### Hometown

Towson, MD

### Fun Facts

I am an adventurer. I enjoy traveling to new places and trying new things, be it food, activities, or simply enjoying different scenery. I tend to go on long drives to “get lost,” traveling down a random road to see where it takes me. The journey and watching the scenery change is always a highlight for me.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

I assisted the Professional Exchanges team to create professional and cultural programming for visiting delegations of foreign officials involved in the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), escorting them to scheduled meetings and activities around Baltimore. Duties also involved writing proposals for prospective IVLP programs, drafting program agendas, and facilitating communication with host families and U.S. Department of State program officers.



I also worked in International Business, which involved utilizing and managing client and file databases and researching and acquainting myself with various government and private sector resources. Working under both departments required me to work independently and efficiently to handle multiple tasks and priorities.

## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

The best part about working within this network are the people you meet and the connections you make. These people teach and help me with many questions I have about many subjects.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

As an International studies major at Towson University I am very passionate about global news and affairs. I also really enjoy teaching others and engaging them in debate and discussion. My service project will engage students through the World Trade Center Institute’s Youth Diplomat program in a diplomacy and conflict resolution case study simulation. Getting the opportunity to speak with high school students interested in pursuing the same field is a perfect way to combine all of my interests. I love learning about how they perceive the world and the conclusions they reach trying to solve problems.





# Kelsey Smith

Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy

## ABOUT KELSEY

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### Degree

BA in International,  
Humanitarian Relations

### Hometown

Sandia Park, NM

### Fun Facts

I've traveled to nearly 30 countries and I adore corgis.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As an International Exchange and Diplomacy Fellow at the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD), I assisted the international exchange, fee-for-service department. I helped research and coordinate local professional resources, programming themes, and cultural opportunities for U.S. government sponsored international exchange programs in Salt Lake City. I also was responsible for contacting local resources to arrange professional meetings for international visitors, focused on enhanced person-to-person diplomacy. Prior to the arrival of international visitors, I prepared local professional programs for individuals from various countries, including programs customized for Romanian NGO founders, Youth Ambassadors from Bolivia and Peru, and Armenian activists. I also conducted organizational outreach and promotional events on behalf of UCCD.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

My highlight has been meeting like-minded and ambitious global citizens who are committed to making the world a better place. There is a special kinship that arises from this commitment to change the world for the better and I am grateful to be a part of it.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

As I have centered my major around international humanitarianism, I am increasingly inspired to transition my studies on the subject to practical field work. When the opportunity arose for me to travel to Thailand for a month-long service trip with my university, I knew it would be an eye-opening experience. I will document my exchange, focused on education and public health, through videos and written pieces as I work in rural villages, displaced persons clinics near Myanmar, and assist in rural elementary and middle schools. I am excited to dive into field work and share about U.S. culture as I learn about the beautiful country of Thailand.

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# Kayne Spieker

Cleveland Council on World Affairs

## ABOUT KAYNE

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### Degree

Bachelor's in Political Science

### Hometown

Medina, OH

### Fun Facts

I can name all state capitals and I can label all world countries on a map.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

At CCWA, I acted as the local liaison for visiting groups we had in town. I also developed IVLP programs and organized meetings with resources for our visitors, drafted numerous proposals for various exchange projects, and often acted as facilitator/moderator for the meetings. During my time at CCWA I was given the exceptional opportunity to develop a project from beginning to end, from the very first proposal draft to its conclusion. I also maintained the records and internal database of CCWA.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

The highlight of my time with CCWA was attending the Global Ties U.S. National Meeting in Washington, DC with CCWA staff. I met many exceptional individuals during my time there and have continued to stay in contact with many, making connections and friendships along the way.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

In September, I will host a virtual cybersecurity speaker panel for high school and college students to learn more about national security and cybersecurity. I was inspired by the exceptional efforts of Amy Moniot, Manager of Programming, and her many outstanding speaker events held throughout my time at CCWA. After catching bits and pieces of the development process for these events, I was inspired to challenge myself to develop my own.

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# Andrew Steck

San Diego Diplomacy Council

## ABOUT ANDREW

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andrew-steck-61b6516b/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-steck-61b6516b/)

### Degree

MA in Peace and Justice

Dual BAs in International  
Relations and Economics

### Hometown

Tampa, FL

### Fun Facts

I was a Peace Corps Volunteer  
in Ukraine.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

I conducted outreach, engagement, communication, facilitation, and implementation of international educational, youth, and exchange programs. I also supported administrative tasks, budgeting, program deliverables, donor relations, research, and program planning. I also had the opportunity to work as a Small Group Facilitator, where I facilitated diplomacy simulations, connected students with diplomacy/IR leaders and organizations, and serve as liaison between SDDC and students at Global Leadership Youth Program.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

Working on and eventually meeting our 2023 Ukrainian Business Leader group.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

I served as a Peace Corp volunteer in Drohobych, Ukraine and developed a close relationship with a local youth center there called Youth Space. My time in Ukraine inspired me to host a one-day online exchange for youth in San Diego and Ukraine to discuss their respective cultures, communities, conflicts, and how students can use diplomacy and community resources to resolve them. I believe this is a necessity for peacebuilding during Russia's invasion.

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# Jada Thompson

Iowa International Center

## ABOUT JADA

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jada-thompson-538005205](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jada-thompson-538005205)

### Degree

MA in Latin American and  
Hemispheric Studies

BA in Political Communication  
and Spanish

### Hometown

Coon Rapids, IA

### Fun Facts

I've traveled to 9 countries  
so far.

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

As the Administrative Fellow at Iowa International Center, I provided direct assistance to the International Programs Director. Some of my responsibilities included preparing welcome packets for incoming delegations, researching cultural activities, and event planning. Additionally, I maintained mailing lists and campaigns in Salesforce.



## GLOBAL TIES NETWORK HIGHLIGHT

While working with the Global Ties Network, I learned so much about other cultures and countries, but I also learned a lot about my home state and the many resources it has to offer. It was a really neat experience to get to work both internationally and within my community.

## SERVICE PROJECT INSPIRATION

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our world today. I plan to host an International Climate Change Youth Summit, which will involve a series of five webinars open to students enrolled at the three state universities in Iowa. I chose to organize this webinar series because I believe that young people are energized to make a difference and need the skills and knowledge to channel that energy in a productive way. It's so important to educate the public on their role in curbing emissions.

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