

2024 Emerging Leaders Program

Case for Support

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Now in its 14th year, the Global Ties U.S. Emerging Leaders Program has helped launch the careers of nearly 200 globally-minded young professionals who represent the rich diversity 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, as well as service projects to engage their local communities in international affairs.

Throughout the year, Emerging Leaders have the opportunity to network with professionals in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; strengthen professional skills and abilities; and build the relationships that will continue to support their professional growth.

Alumni have pursued higher education and careers in globally-focused fields, including positions within the U.S. government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. Alumni remain connected to the Emerging Leaders program and the Global Ties Network, many helping to mentor and support future leaders.

ALUMNI MENTORING

Global Ties U.S. established the Emerging Leaders Alumni Mentoring Program in 2021 to mark the 10th anniversary of this program. Each Emerging Leader is now matched with an alumni mentor from previous cohorts

The mentors are among the many program alumni who credit the Emerging Leaders Program with having a lasting impact on their overall career trajectories. They are able share what they have learned in the years since their time as Emerging Leaders and offer guidance and support to their mentees.





Abby Fowler

Global Ties Iowa

ABOUT ABBY

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abigail-fowler-148720231/>

Degree

BA in International Studies, with a concentration in International Business; BA in Japanese Language and Literature; Museum Studies Certificate

Hometown

North Liberty, IA

Fun fact

I can complete an expert-level sudoku puzzle on sudoku.com in under 4 minutes.

What are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I oversee all communications tasks at Global Ties Iowa, from the maintenance of our website to advertising our volunteer opportunities.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

Attending the Diplomacy Begins Here summit in Kansas City, MO was such a great experience for me. Until then, it was hard to comprehend how truly nationwide the Global Ties Network is, and meeting people from around the network was very eye-opening.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

Since coming back from my Critical Language Scholarship this summer, I have been working to inform the people around me about the great opportunities for exchange offered by the U.S. Department of State. Thus, through my service project, I want to amplify these opportunities even farther and make sure that other Iowans know that the Midwest is of equal importance to the East and West coasts in representing the diversity of America.

Additionally, as a communications coordinator, I wanted to choose a service project that highlights my skillset in writing and digital design. After talking with the Iowa City Community School District and the University of Iowa International Programs department, I settled on a project that would spread my message, fit the needs of both groups, and play to my personal strengths.



EMERGING
LEADERS



Andrea Weyneth

International Citizen Diplomacy of Los Angeles

ABOUT ANDREA

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-weyneth-777aa311a>

Degree

Masters of Public Diplomacy

Hometown

Naperville, IL

Fun fact

I have hiked in 9 different countries!

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I conduct topical research for project proposals, assist with arranging professional meetings for international delegates, represent ICDLA at meetings and events, and assist with administrative tasks to support programming.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

A highlight for me has been getting to know the team at ICDLA and learning what tasks everyone does to help run the organization. I especially enjoyed meeting international delegates from Chad, where I was able to speak French with them and learn more about their entrepreneurial goals in the United States.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

What inspired me was the enjoyment I feel when sharing in someone's cultural cuisine. A few of my friends in the Master of Public Diplomacy program do gastrodiploacy events around once a month, by going to restaurants that represent each of our backgrounds so we can learn more about one another. My program is very international, so it is fun to share in other foods that we might not seek out on our own.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Ariel Bradic

Iowa International Center

ABOUT ARIEL

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ariel-bradic-6813b1237/>

Degree

Political Science and
International Relations

Hometown

Bentonville, AR

Fun fact

I was second in the state of Arkansas for tackles within a single football season in my junior year of high school.

What were your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

My responsibilities included writing up schedules, researching cultural events in Des Moines, and attending professional meetings and events.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

A highlight from working with Global Ties was my first ever day on the job where I was introduced to a delegation from South Korea on the topic of promoting youth involvement in politics. It was a fun group that provided me with many critical-thinking opportunities and overall a very thought-provoking experience.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

When thinking of things I wished to do in my life, I learned that human rights, justice, and equality are all things I greatly want to be a part of in my life and my career. I wanted to incorporate these aspects into my project and when thinking of what subjects to turn to, indigenous rights and their history stood out, given I have a desire to learn and teach more of the subject.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Bree Turner

WorldOregon

ABOUT BREE

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aubrey-turner-2a7a29279>

Degree

BA in Communication

Hometown

Oakland, CA

Fun fact

My favorite ice cream flavor is Ben & Jerry's Phish food!

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

My main responsibilities were drafting proposals for future visiting groups/programs and adding alumni experiences to the WorldOregon Citizen Diplomacy Map.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

I highly enjoyed working on new proposals because I gained more knowledge about my community here in Portland, Oregon. Also, I was able to contribute to shaping the latest visitor projects at WorldOregon.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

I love to play soccer and have been playing since I was four years old! I find soccer to be a huge piece of my identity and something I am truly passionate about. I have always wanted to travel, especially to Spain, as the level of soccer play there is fantastic. If able to, I would love to create a project where those who are disadvantaged are given an opportunity to accomplish their goals and aspirations of playing soccer overseas!

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Elena Thomson

Lincoln Council for International Visitors

ABOUT ELENA

Personal website

<http://elenathomson.weebly.com/>

Degree

Economics, Russian, Spanish

Hometown

Palmyra, NE

Fun fact

In high school, I participated in historical reenactments, mostly focused on World War II! I still have an outfit from when I portrayed a Russian medic.

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

As an intern, I helped our primary programmer develop an itinerary for each program, researching unique and interesting meeting ideas in the local area, as well as spending time on data entry to ensure that we had records of every program and meeting. I also accompanied the international delegates to some of their meetings, took photos to use in promotional material and provided them with options for cultural activities during their visit.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

One highlight from my time working with the Global Ties Network was one program I worked with where I was able to visit United States Strategic Command in Omaha, NE. This experience impressed me greatly, and I loved being able to learn about the organization from an insider, as well as an outsider, perspective. The international delegates for that program were unique and engaging, and their viewpoints were very interesting.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

As a student majoring in two different languages - Russian and Spanish - the topic of language learning is very close to my heart. Our Russian language program at my school has undergone some recent changes, and so I have been thinking a lot about how to encourage students and teachers to make learning languages a priority. This service project is a perfect way to accomplish my goal.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Greg Pal

Cleveland Council on World Affairs

ABOUT GREG

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gergely-pal-630745207/>

Degree

Masters in German and European Studies

Hometown

Cleveland, OH

Fun fact

My first language is Hungarian.

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I worked as an International Exchanges Intern at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, where I wrote several proposals for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). I also led IVLP groups around Cleveland, creating connections with local organizations and fostering cooperation.

Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

One of my highlights during my time was going to a meeting with an IVLP group. The group was focused on increasing the number of women involved in STEM careers in their country. We went to a lab in Cleveland that worked with younger women in impoverished neighborhoods in Cleveland. The visitors within the group were incredibly thankful for the presentation and wanted to take lessons from the experience back to their home country.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

I have been very involved in the Hungarian community in Cleveland in my life, and growing up in a tight-knit community was very meaningful to me. I am also studying many of the issues that surround Eastern Europe during my Master's education. I am very passionate about resolving the issues within Eastern Europe that undermine a peaceful and prosperous society.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



James Escobedo

Global Santa Fe

ABOUT JAMES

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-escobedo-602838294/>

Degree

Bachelor's in Economics, Minor in Political Science and Arabic

Hometown

Albuquerque, NM

Fun fact

I enjoy reading and collecting old science fiction novels, and frequently check out thrift stores and used bookstores to look for more.

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

As an intern for the International Exchanges program, my responsibilities included writing and drafting proposals, identifying and reaching out to possible resources, arranging meetings, accompanying guests on outings, and helping to manage guest speakers.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

One of the most memorable moments from my time at Global Santa Fe was helping to cook dinner for a home host dinner party. I enjoy cooking, and it was a really great time being able to sit down and relax with everyone around a big bowl of shrimp scampi. Fortunately, all the visitors liked seafood!

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

In large part, I chose my project based off what I feel is an essential part of diplomacy, and that's the younger generation. If we can ensure that today's high schoolers are engaged and enthusiastic about diplomacy, both at home and abroad, that's a huge step in ensuring the quality of our future foreign relations.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Lily Fowler

Utah Global Diplomacy

ABOUT LILY

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lily-fowler-3545b4194>

Degree

BA, Anthropology; MS,
International Affairs & Global
Enterprise

Hometown

Santa Fe, NM

Fun fact

When I was younger, I lived in a yurt for several years with my family in the New Mexico mountains. We had a farm with goats, chickens, and even alpacas!

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I started with Utah Global Diplomacy as a volunteer, then transitioned into the role of an Exchange Fellow. In this capacity, I connected with local resources, arranged home stays for our visitors, and even drove them to their meetings and cultural activities, which allowed me to spend more time with them and learn about their lives and aspirations.



**UTAH GLOBAL
DIPLOMACY**

Currently, I am involved in IVLP programming, including coordinating with local professional resources to set up meetings for our groups. I am excited to continue my growth in my upcoming role as an Exchange Program Associate.

What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

I had the honor of working on a IVLP Women Leaders Program, which hosts powerful women from around the world. Not only was I able to learn about the resources in my community that support women in leadership roles, I also got to experience inspirational discussions about the challenges these women face, which deeply inspired me.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

My service project, "IVLP in the Classroom," is a virtual initiative for local youth in Utah. Engaging alumni from previous IVLP groups with our youth community is a great way to spread awareness about U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs and encourage conversations on important foreign policy issues. More importantly, it is an opportunity to reconnect with previous International Visitors, strengthening our relationship with them and their communities around the world.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Matthew Matava

World Affairs Council of St. Louis

ABOUT MATTHEW

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-matava-799024278>

Degree

International Relations

Hometown

St. Louis MO

Fun fact

I am learning French and can read children's and young teen books in French.

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

As an intern, my primary responsibility was creating and implementing the organization's social media content. I was in charge of connecting our chapter with our community and calling attention to critical events. By the end of my summer internship, I was promoted to Social Media Coordinator for nine months until I left. Additionally, I helped with the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), where I met with international visitors and assisted in taking them to their destinations in St. Louis. Beyond this, I also helped with event planning, IVLP alumni interviews, and the creation of newsletters.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

A highlight of my time working with the Global Ties Network was the time I got to spend time and talk with the international visitors who were part of the IVLP program. I specifically remember a group from Israel who taught me about their religion and culture and a group from Pakistan, which gave me a new perspective on the United States. Each group provided me with fun and exciting experiences and eye-opening conversations.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

My service project was inspired by my time abroad in Europe. I was expecting to learn new things, but I was not expecting it to change how I see and think about the world. It was specifically my time working for the NGO Promote Ukraine, which worked to help protect Ukraine and admit it into the European Union, that opened my eyes. Their struggle and passion were unlike anything I had seen or heard in the United States. They inspired my project: To connect the United States to the global order so that all individuals understand what is happening in our world and their role in it.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Meagan O'Malley

World Learning

ABOUT MEAGAN

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meagan-o-malley-9575b4201>

Degree

Bachelor's in International Studies and Education Sciences; pursuing Master's in International Education

Hometown

Orlando, FL

Fun fact

My family hosted an international student from the Dominican Republic for four years!

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

As an IVLP intern, I support World Learning's IVLP team by providing administrative and programmatic assistance. My responsibilities have included preparing program materials, updating program information for the U.S. Department of State's database, and creating or reconciling financial documents.



What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

A highlight from my time working for World Learning was supporting a single country project from Georgia titled Promoting Youth and Civic Engagement. I loved meeting the participants and attending a city tour, the program opening, and other professional meetings with them because they were all so enthusiastic. I loved learning more about their experiences and backgrounds.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

In my courses related to international exchange or international education, I find the gap between theory and practice interesting. I think having a discussion involving those who plan or implement international exchange and those who actually participate in it would allow for greater understanding of program effectiveness. Understanding the experiences of participants in international exchange can allow practitioners to implement higher quality programs.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**



Noah Gray

Global Ties Alabama

ABOUT NOAH

LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/in/noah-gray-83a296237?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_m

Degree

Major in Sociology, Minor in Political Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville

Hometown

Fort Bragg, NC

Fun fact

I was a “military brat” from a young age, moving nine times and attending 11 schools by the time I graduated high school. During this time, I had the privilege of living in Norway (2007-2010), Estonia (2013-2016), and Belgium (2016-2018) where I graduated high school.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I helped my coworkers from both a program perspective and an operations perspective. This included researching local resources, managing logistics, and collating and organizing data on past participants, home hosts, and local resources to have a consolidated database for the future.

GLOBALTIES > Alabama

What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

I accompanied a group of 15 inspiring Brazilian high schoolers who were working to improve the lives of those around them back home. These were young entrepreneurs at their finest, with some coming from more disadvantaged backgrounds. It was awe inspiring to see how they were making a difference.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

My service project is inspired by my participation in a Model United Nations forum at The Hague in the Netherlands. After preparing at home, I joined other students from schools across Europe who also were assigned to the Poland “delegation.” I led the group’s submission of a resolution on refugee issues, and worked with them to bridge divides in opinions and stances.

My communication, debate, and teamwork skills vastly improved as a result of the experience. I would love to bring that to younger minds around me so that they can have the same experience I did to eventually tackle global issues as a future diplomat, just as I hope to be.



Ty McGlynn

Global Ties Sacramento

ABOUT TY

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ty-mcglynn-3796a8285>

Degree

International Studies - Political Science

Hometown

Sacramento, CA

Fun fact

I love playing guitar and listening to rock music. My favorite band is Led Zepelin.

GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



**EMERGING
LEADERS**

What were/are your responsibilities as an intern/volunteer?

I researched and performed outreach to Sacramento organizations and state agencies to hold meetings for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. I also attended high-level meetings with groups of foreign dignitaries, documenting these meetings through photos and notetaking.

GLOBALTIES > Sacramento
A DIVISION OF WORLD TRADE CENTER NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

What is a highlight from your time working with the Global Ties Network?

My favorite highlight was the first IVLP program that I actually got to attend. I think it was my second week in and my supervisor Claudia told me that it would just be me going to lunch with the group from Moldova. I was super nervous but luckily we would be eating in Old Sac, one of my favorite places in the world. I showed the group around taking a visit to the candy store plagued with scary clowns, my favorite gag gift shop Evangelines, and then a classic lunch at the unforgettable Joe's Crab Shack.

What inspired you to choose your service project topic?

My idea for my service project came from an experience I had living in Belize. Going through major culture shock when I first moved there, the one thing that really made me feel comfortable and connected to the people of Belize was playing volleyball. It exposed me to so many different people, allowing me to learn so much about Belizean culture. Sports have the amazing ability to connect people who may not speak the same language or have the same norms.

EMERGING LEADERS FUND

“The Emerging Leaders Program was a catapult for my career....[T]he program was the first time I had the opportunity to visit DC and was introduced to the world of citizen diplomacy. The connections I made at the Global Ties U.S. National Meeting were eye-opening.”

–Emerging Leaders Alum

The Emerging Leaders program is 100% funded by donors.

Your support helps talented young people become global citizens and find their path to a meaningful career, with an experience that includes:

- Travel to Washington, DC to attend the Global Ties U.S. National Meeting and participate in networking sessions with leaders at the U.S. Department of State
- Virtual and in-person Q&A sessions with diplomats, policymakers, and business leaders
- Career panels, diplomacy simulations, and skills-building workshops with expert presenters
- Local-to-global service projects in their communities
- One-on-one mentoring from an Emerging Leaders alumni

Donate today at gties.us/EL

