



# Building Bridges & Creating Connections



2021  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



FIONA HILL AND HEATHER HODGES



LEADS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASS



STÉPHANE DUJARRIC AT MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



GLOBAL IMPACT AWARD EVENT

# Guided by Our Mission in Times of Global Change

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

For nearly a century, CCWA has inspired, informed and engaged our community in world affairs. The current state of world affairs is complex, but we remain grounded in and guided by our mission to foster a globally-minded and internationally-connected region.

This past year was filled with many joyful moments for CCWA. We welcomed our first international exchange groups back to Cleveland since the beginning of the pandemic; we celebrated global and local changemakers at our Global Impact Award event; students returned to our in-person Model UN conferences and workshops; and we hosted a spectacular season of sell-out speaker forums with

nationally renowned speakers such as Fiona Hill and David Pogue.

We hope that you enjoy reading about these and other shining moments in this 2021-2022 annual report. We are thankful for all our members, supporters, Citizen Diplomats, and partners, who participated in our programs and supported our mission to inspire engagement in world affairs throughout the year.

**Carina Van Vliet**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Heather Hodges**  
PRESIDENT & AMBASSADOR-IN-RESIDENCE,  
R. HENRY NORWEB CHAIR

**Carter Strang**  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
BUILDING BRIDGES &  
CREATING CONNECTIONS

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## SPEAKER PROGRAMS



**FIONA HILL WITH  
HEATHER HODGES**



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S  
JILL TIEFENTHALER**

### FOREIGN POLICY FORUMS

**Germany after Angela Merkel:  
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**Afghanistan's Lessons for a  
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**Art and International Cooperation:  
The Bridges Cleveland Helps Build**  
ANDRÉ GREMILLET  
HEATHER LEMONEDES-BROWN  
YARON KOHLBERG  
BISHARA HARONI

**How to Prepare for Climate Change**  
DAVID POGUE

**From Russia to Rustbelts:  
Witness to Democratic Fragility**  
FIONA HILL

### CLEVELAND COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS PROGRAMS

**The U.S.-Israel Relationship  
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**Emerging Powers and the  
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**Space Security - Threats and  
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KAITLYN JOHNSON

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TERRY ROBERTS

**Adapting the U.S.-South Korea  
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**The Horn of Africa and Its  
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CAMERON HUDSON

**Getting U.S. Security  
Assistance Right: Lessons  
from Mexico, Central America,  
and Colombia**  
PAUL ANGELO

**The Future of Europe:  
A French Perspective**  
PIERRE MORCOS

## SPEAKERS BY THE NUMBERS

1213 Speaker Forum Attendees

17 Programs Presented

308 Students Participated

## FORUMS & EVENTS

# International Dialogue for Our Local Community

We live in dynamic global times, and our speaker forums help interpret the issues and events making the news headlines and shaping our foreign policy.

**SPEAKER FORUMS** | With war in Ukraine and a mounting refugee crisis in Europe, our speaker series examined what is at stake for the U.S. with Dr. Fiona Hill, one of our nation's leading experts on Russia. David Pogue, six-time Emmy winner and bestselling author, explored what we can do to navigate climate change, one of the most consequential global issues of our time. During the 2021-2022 program season, we engaged 1,213 inquisitive and globally-minded citizens through our Foreign Policy Forums, Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations events, and other programs. A special thank you goes to FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas, the Presenting Sponsor of our 2021-2022 Foreign Policy Forum Series.

**NEXT GENERATION OF VOICES** | A special focus this year was on inviting the next generation of local leaders to add their voice to the conversation at CCWA programs: five Richard W. Pogue Fellows

joined us during our Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations season; our Young Professionals Advisory Committee hosted its first Global Gatherings event; and 308 students interacted with our speakers during speaker forums and school visits.

**2022 GLOBAL IMPACT AWARD EVENT** | At this year's Global Impact Award event we celebrated global and local changemakers. The 2022 Global Impact Award honored the National Geographic Society for helping spark the curiosity of generations of people all around the globe towards the wonders of our world and inspiring people to take action for the good of our planet. We also recognized Patrick Kearns of the Refugee Response with CCWA's inaugural Dr. Wael Khoury Award for Emerging Global Leaders. A heartfelt thank you goes to our presenting sponsor, The Cleveland Foundation, to all sponsors who supported our event, and to the 170 individuals who joined us to celebrate global impact.

**"Being a Pogue Fellow has allowed me the opportunity to sit in on events I would not normally have easy access to. It has been incredible hearing from high-level experts in the realm of international affairs. I look forward to the dinners each month as an opportunity to work on my networking skills and as a way to learn more about the international connections possible for my home city of Cleveland."**

Samantha Alonso

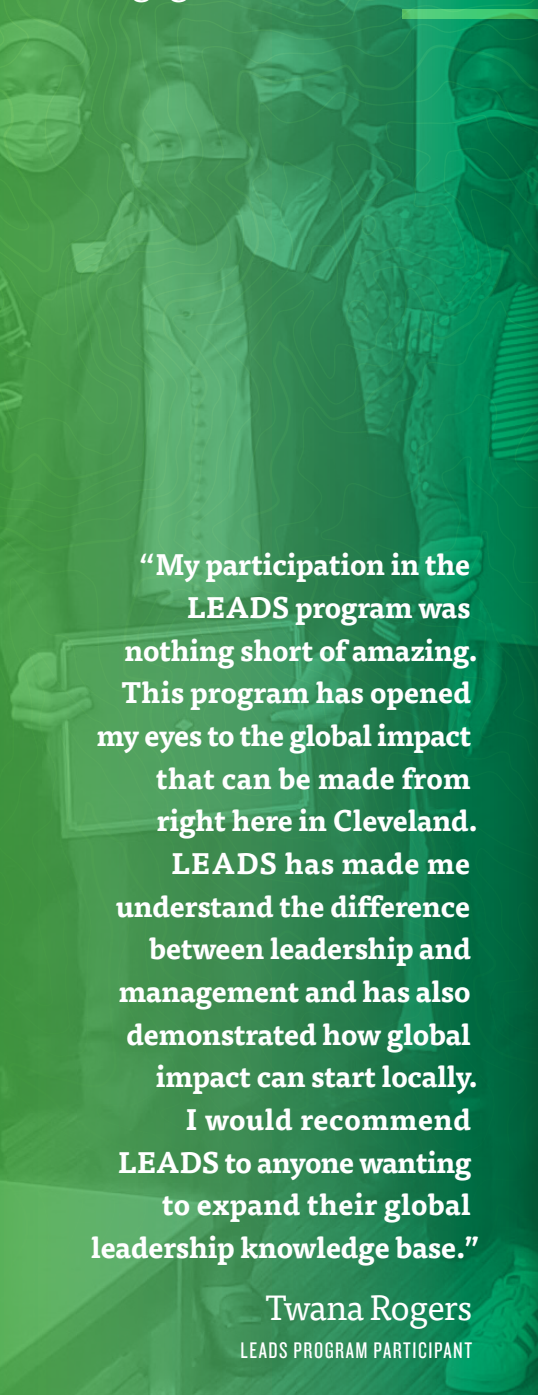
RICHARD W. POGUE FELLOW

## PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

Global Competency  
Workshop Attendees **269**  
ACROSS 11 WORKSHOPS

Global Competence  
Assessments Given **196**

Young Professionals  
Engaged in LEADS **16**



**“My participation in the LEADS program was nothing short of amazing. This program has opened my eyes to the global impact that can be made from right here in Cleveland. LEADS has made me understand the difference between leadership and management and has also demonstrated how global impact can start locally. I would recommend LEADS to anyone wanting to expand their global leadership knowledge base.”**

**Twana Rogers**  
LEADS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

## DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

# Global Perspectives for the Workplace and the Classroom

Global learning is a life-long journey. Our professional development and continuous learning programs engage students, educators, young professionals, and members of the corporate community to explore their professional and personal growth with a global lens.

**GLOBAL COMPETENCY TRAINING** | Our work is all about fostering a more globally engaged Northeast Ohio. This is critically important as international trade, global migration, and technology increasingly bring the world to Cleveland and add cultural diversity to our teams, partnerships, and workplaces. CCWA's global competency programs offer strategies for fostering this cultural diversity in offices and classrooms. During the 2021-2022 program year, we engaged 234 individuals through nine global competency workshops, and administered 196 Global Competence Aptitude Assessments®. Our global competency programs prepare our community to better compete, collaborate and engage globally.

“By participating in the CCWA global competency training, I got a deeper understanding of the role culture plays in enhancing our global competency,” says one international student who participated in the training. “I came to the United States with barely any U.S. cultural experiences. Trying to be a successful

businesswoman and to work well with my future partners from different cultural backgrounds is not easy. It was beneficial to learn about my own culture, their cultures, and overcome some communication and behavior biases.”

**LEADS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** | “Interacting with people from different backgrounds, not only as participants but as guest speakers, aligned with the concept of how to be global citizens,” reflects Angie Lastovka on her LEADS experience. She, along with 15 other young professionals, participated in our LEADS program in fall 2021. LEADS is an interactive leadership and professional development program for young professionals. Through this experiential program, participants explored their own leadership style and how they can become global citizens and globally minded leaders. This interactive and introspective course is focused around three key program pillars: leadership development, global competency, and international exchange.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**LEADS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**



**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE GLOBAL GATHERINGS**



**GLOBAL COMPETENCY TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**

### CCWA WELCOMES THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Last year, CCWA launched our new Young Professionals Advisory Committee (YPAC). YPAC is a body of young professionals who support the work of CCWA in its efforts to engage young professionals and students in our programming. YPAC members do this by providing program feedback and insight to the CCWA board and staff, coordinating young professional events, and serving as

community ambassadors for CCWA. The inaugural Young Professionals Advisory Committee members are: Maryam Assar, Daniel Bollinger, Sean Delay, Nate Flauto, Maria Garcia-Olalla, Melanie Mohler, Pacifique Niyonzima, Hannah Smith, and Kevin Warman. We are excited to include the voices of the next generation in helping us shape the future of CCWA.

# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## STUDENT PROGRAMS



JUNIOR MODEL UN



MODEL UN



MODEL UN



ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST

**“I love the Model UN program because I get to meet people who want to see change in the world and who value education, communication and action. I get to learn about prevalent issues and countries’ stances on them. Model UN makes me a better student, communicator and citizen.” Allison MODEL UN STUDENT**



## PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

**52** Academic WorldQuest  
Students from 6 Schools  
ACROSS 13 TEAMS

**1098** Model UN  
Participants

**46** Schools Sent  
MUN Students

**17** Workshops for  
Students & Teachers

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

# CCWA Programs Bring the World to Local Classrooms

CCWA's student programs inspire students to explore the world and expand their global perspectives. CCWA supports students in learning to think critically, helps students better communicate and collaborate with others, invites them to apply learning to the real world through hands-on experiential learning, and prepare students to become informed civic participants in our global society.

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS** | It brought us much joy to see the many yellow school buses line up at our Model UN venues this year as we returned to in-person Model UN conferences. 1,098 students from 46 schools stepped into the shoes of diplomats at our five Model UN conferences and 17 Model UN workshops to discuss global topics and seek solutions to global challenges. CCWA is proud to provide this opportunity for students to explore global issues, find their voices in advocating for a better world, and gain learning and life skills that benefit them in the classroom and beyond. Thank you to all the schools and students who participated!

**JUNIOR WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS** | CCWA's Junior World Affairs Councils program inspires students to be curious, informed and

engaged citizens by providing discussion guides on world affairs and global issues. CCWA provided schools access to the guides and activities on 13 different global topics at no cost to participating schools.

**ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST** | What is China's main concern with Taliban's take-over in Afghanistan? What is the Arctic Council and how does it operate? Local students answered these and many other questions about foreign policy in this year's Academic WorldQuest competition. A total of 52 students from six schools participated in the Northeast Ohio competition hosted by CCWA. Congratulations to the students from Mayfield High School for winning first place and advancing to the national competition in Washington D.C., and thank you to all the students for their participation!

**"Model UN has enhanced my students' public speaking abilities, increased their self-confidence and sharpened their writing skills. I believe Model UN has helped to open their eyes to new academic and professional opportunities. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities that CCWA has provided to my students."**

Margaret Reed

MODEL UN TEACHER,  
ARCHBISHOP HOBAN SCHOOL

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS



RWANDA | ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



POLAND | BEST PRACTICES IN IMPROVING AIR QUALITY



FULBRIGHT ENRICHMENT SEMINAR  
IMAGE : EMANUEL WALLACE

## VOLUNTEERS IN OUR HOME STAY & HOSPITALITY PROGRAM

The Aspelin Family  
Linda Robertson  
Rick and Elena Ray  
Kathiann Kowalski  
Norma Polanco-Boyd

Margaret Reed  
Alisa Warshay  
Diane Citrino  
Wendy and Paul Morales

Katie Ferman and Fabian Abarca  
Danielle Ross  
Renee Jones  
Shalini Singh

## PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS ■■

**529** International  
Visitors

**124** Countries  
Represented

**108** Citizen  
Diplomats

### GUESTS RETURN TO CLEVELAND

# International Exchanges Advance Global Connections

March 10, 2022 was a day of celebration for our international exchange programs: after two years of virtual exchanges, our team welcomed the first in-person international visitor group since the beginning of the pandemic.

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES** | With open arms and plenty of Covid tests, we welcomed a group of professionals from Poland who promote clean air efforts and sustainable development across their country. "Hosting the group of professionals from Poland for a discussion on air quality and sustainable neighborhood development was incredibly inspiring, as it brought together various perspectives on best practices," says Sarah O'Keeffe, Director of Sustainability for MetroHealth. "The inclusion of diverse ideas will always make environmental sustainability collective action stronger and more effective on the regional, national and global scales."

We also welcomed a group of disability activists from Rwanda, a group from Mexico that was here to learn about the mechanisms that enable citizens to foster good governance and government accountability, and 36 other groups exploring topics including the role of media in democracy, supporting women entrepreneurs, promoting cyber security and more.

This past year, we welcomed a total of 388 exchange participants from 124 countries through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchanges. 28 of the exchanges were virtual, and ten programs welcomed participants to Cleveland in person.

FOR MORE ON INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, SEE THE IMPACT SECTION ON THE NEXT PAGE

**"Working with the CCWA exchange participants was such an amazing experience! It is imperative for changes to be made in our world, and the only way to do that is to start a dialogue, answer difficult questions, and share in the progress that is being made! CCWA promotes these universal changes by fostering innovative thinking through introspective topics and teamwork."**

Heather K. Pederson

DEAN OF STUDENTS, EDWINS  
LEADERSHIP & RESTAURANT INSTITUTE

THE COUNCIL BY NUMBERS

# The Story of Our Outreach, Locally and Globally



## INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TOPICS

Select topics of CCWA-hosted International Visitor Leadership Program included:

Economic Empowerment and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Using Visual Arts to Drive Social and Economic Change

Combating Trafficking in Persons

Environmental Engagement and the Economy

Transparency and Accountability in Government

Women and Entrepreneurship

Environmentally Friendly Urban Planning

Dismantling Racial and Social Injustice

2021-2022  
**KEY FIGURES**

**1213**  
FORUM ATTENDEES  
contributed to the global conversation

**17**  
PROGRAMS  
presented as part of our speaker series

**529**  
GLOBAL VISITORS  
from 124 countries took part in exchanges

## STAFF & BOARD

Strong leadership has helped CCWA adapt, endure, and grow for almost a century. In their work, our staff and board continue to embody our founding principles.

### CCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carter E. Strang   <i>Chair</i>	Hiroyuki Fujita, Ph.D.	Linda F. Robertson, Ph.D.
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Raj Aggarwal, Ph.D.	Fritz Heintel	Martin C. Schulz
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Paul Clark	James Meil	Carter E. Strang
Wael Khoury	Stephen Petras	

### CCWA STAFF

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<b>Elizabeth Colvin</b> MANAGER OF GLOBAL EDUCATION
<b>Andrew Kovach</b> SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
<b>Maria Garcia-Olalla</b> PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES
<b>Veronica Ruhe</b> PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, STUDENT PROGRAMS
<b>Grace Blanchard</b> OFFICE COORDINATOR
<b>Doug Firman</b> FINANCE

### INTERNS

Lelia Durand
Caroline Kuntzman
Joy Mason

1098  
STUDENTS

engaged with the world at  
Model UN conferences

46  
SCHOOLS

partnered with CCWA  
in educational programs

269  
PARTICIPANTS

attended 11 global  
competency workshops

196  
ASSESSMENTS

in global competence  
given by CCWA

## CCWA SUPPORTERS

### THE COUNCIL'S CHAMPIONS

# With Gratitude *to* Those Who Make Our Mission Possible

## ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DONATED MORE THAN \$250 IN THE PAST YEAR

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## ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED OUR PROGRAMS & EXCHANGES

216Digital	Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland Clinic	Cuyahoga County Department of Information Technology
ACLU of Ohio	Swetland Center for Environmental Health	Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute	Cuyahoga County Office of Inspector General
ADA Cleveland Coalition	Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland Division of Police	Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department
Aespire	Weatherhead School of Management	Cleveland Foundation	Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland	Citizens League of Greater Cleveland	Cleveland Metroparks	Dancing Wheels
ASIA Services, Inc.	City Club of Cleveland	Cleveland Museum of Art	DigitalC
Birthing Beautiful Communities	City of Cleveland	Cleveland Neighborhood Progress	Eaton Corporation
Black Environmental Leaders Association	City of Cleveland Department of Economic Development	Cleveland State University Center for Emergency Preparedness	EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute
Business Volunteers Unlimited	City of Cleveland Division of Air Quality	Cleveland State University School of Nursing	Environmental Health Watch
Candid	City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability	Cleveland Tree Coalition	Esperanza, Inc.
Case Western Reserve University	City of Cleveland Planning Commission	Cleveland VOTES	
Case Western Reserve University School of Law		Cuyahoga Community College, Women in Transition Program	

## DONORS & PROGRAM PARTNERS

Cleveland Council on World Affairs owes much of its success to the generosity of our donors and the tireless efforts of our individual and institutional partners.

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Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage  
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NOACA  
Northeast Ohio Black  
Health Coalition  
Northeast Ohio Regional  
Fusion Center  
Northeast Ohio Regional  
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Northeast Ohio Trauma System  
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Ohio Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Ohio Ethics Commission  
Ohio Transformation Fund  
Playhouse Square  
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Policy Matters Ohio  
Positive Education Program  
R.A. "Rafiq" Washington  
Refresh Collective  
Regional Income Tax Agency  
Rid-All Green Partnership  
Services for Independent Living

SPACES  
The George Gund Foundation  
Think[box]  
Thompson Hine  
Two Café & Foundation  
University Circle, Inc.  
Urban League of Greater Cleveland  
Sean Watterson  
Michael Weidokal  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
Women's Business Center of  
Northern Ohio  
Young Entrepreneurship Institute



“CCWA programs provide a wonderful opportunity to explore world events and engage with passionate people. CCWA offers so many opportunities to **build bridges and make connections** while learning from content experts. I love CCWA for its world class programs and the community it builds.”

KEVIN WARMAN, MEMBER | SPEAKER PROGRAMS | PG. 5