Creating Connections in a Changing World

ABOVE Local students join in the discussion at Foreign Policy Forum event featuring Ambassador William J. Burns.
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The past several months have been challenging, worldwide. This global COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of the work that we do here at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. Our efforts to facilitate greater understanding of the world, and its challenges, are now critically important and we are more than ever committed to our mission of international engagement.

We hope you enjoy this annual report that celebrates our collective engagement in world affairs through the accomplishments, programs and events of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs over the past year.

The 2019-2020 program year offered many causes for celebration: we hosted exceptional speakers, such as Ambassador William Burns and Richard Haass, to name a few. We received national recognition for our international exchange work and were awarded a special recognition for our global competency training program. We expanded our reach with local students and schools – both in person and virtually. We also recently hosted our first ever virtual speaker forums.

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. Thank you for being globally-minded citizens!

We all look forward to the day when we can engage internationally again with you in person.

CARINA VAN VLIET  
Chief Executive Officer

HEATHER HODGES  
President and  
Ambassador-in Residence  
R. Henry Norweb Chair

WAEL KHOURY, M.D.  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors
Council’s Board of Directors Recognizes its Longtime Leader

CCWA’s long-time chairman of the board, Dr. Wael Khoury, M.D., will step down from this role on June 30, 2020. During Dr. Khoury’s tenure, CCWA significantly expanded its reach by growing participation and engagement across all our program areas. It also developed a whole new set of programs, including our annual Global Impact Award event, and the programs of the Maura O’Donnell-McCarthy Center for Global Understanding. CCWA greatly benefited from his generous and enthusiastic leadership over these years, and we thank him for his exceptional dedication to the organization. Dr. Khoury will continue to be an active member of CCWA and our Board, and he looks forward to enjoying our programs in the future.

The Board of Directors has elected Carter Strang as its new Chairman. Mr. Strang will assume his new role on July 1. He has been an active participant in our programs over the years. "We are excited about the energy, expertise and talent that Carter brings to his new role,” says Carina Van Vliet, CCWA’s CEO. Mr. Strang is a partner in the law firm Tucker Ellis, and worked in education prior to his legal career.
During the 2019-2020 program season, globally-minded and inquisitive local citizens joined subject matter experts, diplomats, policy insiders, and prominent voices in exploring world affairs and global issues at our Foreign Policy Forums and Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations speaker series.

Our 2019-2020 season explored humanitarian issues, changes in U.S. global leadership and shifts in geopolitical trends. This spring, CCWA also delivered our first ever digital forums. A special thank you goes to Hitachi Healthcare Americas, the presenting sponsor of our 2019-2020 Foreign Policy Forum series, for their support and engagement during the program season.
**Having returned to Cleveland after living overseas,** CCWA has been a wonderful resource for me to find the internationally minded folks in the Cleveland business community. I can count on CCWA to bring compelling speakers from leading institutions to discuss hot-button topics in international affairs. The organization was instrumental in helping me connect with fascinating and diverse people in the area — CCWA really does connect Cleveland to the world.

*Ben Gebhardt, Member*

### 2019-2020 Foreign Policy Forum Speakers and Subjects

**Ambassador Kathleen Stephens**  
*The U.S.-South Korea Alliance: Addressing North Korea and a Changing World*

**Jarrett Blanc**  
*Back to (Merely) Bad: The Future of U.S. Policy Towards Iran*

**Loung Ung & Paul Frankmann**  
*How to Plan a Refugee Camp*

**Marcus Noland**  
*Trade, Politics, and the Global Economic Outlook 2020*

**Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield**  

**Ambassador William Burns**  
*American Diplomacy in a Disordered World*

**Jarrett Blanc**  
*Coronavirus in Conflict Zones *

**Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**  
*COVID-19 and the Transatlantic Relationship *

### 2019-2020 Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations Programs

**Kemal Kirişçi**  
*Turkey, A U.S. Ally Adrift: Is Reversal Possible?*

**Dany Bahar**  
*Venezuela: How We Got Here, and What’s Next?*

**Ambassador Richard Hoagland**  
*The New Silk Road: U.S. Strategic Interests in the Caspian Sea Region*

**Ambassador Stephen Young**  
*Taiwan and the U.S.: What Does the Future Hold?*

**Richard Rossow**  
*India’s Rise as an Economic and Military Power*

**Farah Pandith**  
*How We Win: Defeating the Extremist Threat*

**Chris Demchak**  
*Cyber Conflict and New Global Reality *

**Frances Burwell**  
*The Post-COVID19 Transatlantic Relationship *

*Virtual Forum*

### Global Impact Award

**2019 Award Honors a Renowned Foreign Policy Thinker**

Our 2019 **Global Impact Award** event honored Dr. Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), for his distinguished career as one of the most knowledgeable observers of international affairs in America, and for this work at CFR to help Americans better understand the world by promoting discussion of global issues and foreign policy. This year’s event also recognized Richard W. Pogue for his 60 years of membership in CCWA. Our heartfelt thanks go to our Presenting Sponsor, The Cleveland Foundation, and to all sponsors who supported CCWA’s mission through their sponsorship.
Global Center’s Programs Promote an Internationally-Minded Northeast Ohio

The Maura O’Donnell-McCarthy Center for Global Understanding hosts our professional development and continuing education programs. These global education programs help prepare our region and our community for an increasingly global future.
CENTERS FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING PROGRAMS

Global Competency Program Recognized for Its Achievements

Our Global Competency Training Program helps improve participants’ intercultural communication skills and equips them with strategies to work successfully in diverse workplaces and across cultures. This past year, we organized seven workshops, engaging 89 participants and delivering 395 global competency assessments. Business professionals, students, educators, and non-profit leaders explored fundamental dimensions of culture that impact how we think and act, and acquired strategies to appropriately address cultural differences through meaningful discussions with the facilitator and other participants.

In 2019, CCWA’s Global Competency Training Program was awarded a special recognition for our work in promoting cross-cultural communication. The Council received both the Global Competence Associates’ Global Competence Organization designation, and the Global Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA)® Authorized Representative recognition.

When we work with individuals outside the U.S., they come with a different set of cultural norms. We have to meet people where they are. You have to be globally competent in order to do business globally. Since the training, I think more deeply about my engagements with international clients.

MINDY MCLAUGHLIN, TEAM NEO, PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshops Held</th>
<th>Participants Attended</th>
<th>Assessments Given</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
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Bridges to the World Creates Global Education Connections

CCWA’s Bridges to the World program comes by its name honestly: the program builds “bridges” that connect classroom conversations in Northeast Ohio to events, issues and people around the world.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we engaged 66 educators from 21 schools in this professional development program. Bridges to the World gives local teachers tools and resources to confidently teach current events and global issues in the classroom. Participating educators explored well-vetted curriculum materials, online platforms for connecting with classrooms around the world, project-based learning opportunities, and many more creative resources to help them bring current global issues to life for their students. Our workshops focused on climate change through the lens of STEM, explored global migration and the refugee crisis, and took a deep dive into the Middle East, U.S.-Russia relations, and more.

It was incredible to collaborate with like-minded educators from diverse backgrounds and different ways of thinking, while focusing on a relevant topics. The collaboration of the participants and the process by which the information was delivered was top-notch.

KRISTEN NIEDZIECKI, CHARDON HIGH SCHOOL
"My involvement with CCWA's Model UN program has significantly impacted all aspects of my life from my academics to my career plans to my personal development," says Joy Mason, a college student on CCWA's Model UN leadership team. "MUN pushed me to step out of my comfort zone and has created an environment where I am able to grow both as a leader and a person."

During the 2019-2020 school year, 1,542 local high school and middle school students participated in a simulation of the United Nations to discuss the spread of infectious disease at a refugee camp in Jordan, combating extremism in Northern Africa, protecting our globe against deforestation, and many other topics. Their challenge was to work as an international community to address these and other global issues and develop solutions through collaboration and diplomacy.

"CCWA has opened my eyes to the value of collaboration and the importance of engaging in diplomacy, no matter your age or experience," reflects Joy Mason. CCWA's Model United Nations program encourages local students to learn about the world, enhances their critical thinking skills, and strengthens their communication and research skills – all skills that will help students succeed in school and life.
ADDITIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

**Academic WorldQuest** Brings Students Together for Global Trivia

Competition was fierce at our 2020 **Academic WorldQuest** in January. Sixty-seven high school students representing nine different schools competed to test their knowledge of world affairs and foreign policy for a spot at the national competition in Washington, D.C. After ten rounds of questions about Brexit, China’s Belt and Road Initiative, South Korea, U.S.-Russia relations and more, a team from Hathaway Brown emerged as the winner. Congratulations to the winners and to all the students for participating!

**Junior World Affairs Councils** Encourage Students to Engage in International Affairs in the Classroom and Beyond

The goal of our **Junior World Affairs Councils (JWAC)** program is to spark joy and interest in students for engaging with the world. The program encourages students to explore current international events and global issues through interactive resources and community engagement while offering curriculum support for teachers. During the 2019-2020 school year, eight schools participated in this program. In addition, several schools used our JWAC study guides to remotely engage their students during the spring distance learning period.

**JUNIOR WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS TOPICS EXPLORED BY STUDENTS:**
South Africa and Apartheid | Israel-Palestine Conflict | UN Peacekeeping Missions | Haiti and the uses of Foreign Aid
Visitor Programs Offer Participants New Perspectives on the World

In bringing international exchange participants to Cleveland, we bring the world to you. Last year, 72 Citizen Diplomat households hosted these visitors for dinner or overnight, and had a unique opportunity to compare experiences across borders.

Hosting has been the most rewarding adventure we've had as a family. The people we've met have become like family, and each one of them has opened up our understanding of the world a little bit more. It's an easy investment of time that yields profound rewards.

MARISSA SIEBERT, CITIZEN DIPLOMAT

Wondering what life is like in Afghanistan? Interested in what Europeans think about Brexit? Curious about the role of the arts in creating social change in the Middle East? While breaking bread with someone from a different country, our Citizen Diplomats hear what life is like behind the news headlines.

International Visitors Leadership Program Celebrates 80 Years

The International Visitors Leadership Program, IVLP, celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2020. This is the U.S. Department of State’s flagship public diplomacy program, coordinated by CCWA in the Cleveland area. “Cultural diplomacy is the cornerstone of our people-to-people exchanges, which are a critical tool of American foreign policy,” says Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. “It enables us to reach diverse audiences throughout the world.”
SPOTLIGHT ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Cleveland Serves as a Home and Destination for Global Leaders

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES A Korean sports news producer, an advisor to the Congolese President, and an Egyptian theater director were among the 349 emerging leaders from 86 countries that CCWA hosted for professional and learning exchanges. As a result of the meetings, conversations and experiences they had here in Cleveland, international visitors were inspired to make a difference and take action in their home communities. CCWA is proud to facilitate these transformative experiences and do its part in advancing peace, innovation and collaboration around the world.

OUTBOUND EXCHANGES Last year, two local change-makers from Cleveland were nominated by CCWA and selected by the U.S. Department of State to participate in professional outbound exchanges, one to India and one to Nepal. In addition, CCWA provided an opportunity for three local high school students to travel to Taiwan for an official cultural exchange.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT Cleveland is a leader in Citizen Diplomacy and exchange programming. In recognition of CCWAs work, our very own Katie Ferman, Senior Program Officer for International Visitor Programs, was selected by our national partners to chair the network’s 2020 National Meeting. In leading this conference, Katie showed how Cleveland rocks in the world of Citizen Diplomacy.
Recognizing the Council’s Champions

CCWA owes much of its success to the generosity of its donors and the tireless efforts of its volunteers.

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- 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT
- AT TOP Visitors from the Women and Entrepreneurship group share time at the home of CEO Carina Van Vliet.
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Cynthia Bassett

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Cynthia Bassett

In 2020, CCWA established the 1923 Society, our legacy giving society. Cynthia Bassett, CCWA member and supporter since 1965, is one of the inaugural members of this society that honors the individuals and families who have included CCWA in their legacy plans. Cynthia is an avid traveler and has a passion for international understanding. She decided to include CCWA in her legacy plans because she wanted to make sure that her contributions to international understanding will have an impact for years to come.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED OUR PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES

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American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio
Anti-Defamation League
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Baldwin Wallace University School of Business
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CHN Housing Partners
The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland
The City Club of Cleveland
City of Brooklyn
City of Brook Park
City of North Royalton
City of South Euclid
City of Cleveland Office of the Mayor
City of Cleveland Department of Aging"
The Aggarwal Family

Raj and Karen Aggarwal are long-time supporters and active members of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. They want to ensure a bright future for the Council and to make sure that conversations of consequence on global issues continue to thrive in our community. They made a significant donation to endow the Dr. Raj and Karen Aggarwal Annual Forum. We are grateful for Raj and Karen’s generosity and support of our public speaker programs.
DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Hitachi Healthcare Americas

Hitachi Healthcare Americas has been a generous and engaged corporate partner with CCWA. Hitachi Healthcare Americas was the presenting sponsor of our 2019-2020 Foreign Policy Forum. We are most grateful for their support of CCWA’s mission and their commitment to the values of international dialogue and engagement. “The current global circumstances are getting increasingly complex, and education on international affairs will be critically important in our community,” said Yasuhiko Taniguchi, President and CEO of Hitachi Healthcare Americas.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING OUR EXCHANGES, CONTINUED

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Redeemer Crisis Center
Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA)
ReNew Kids
Republican Party of Cuyahoga County
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Rid-All Green Partnership
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland
Sears think[box]
Society of Professional Journalists, Cleveland Pro Chapter
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United States Commercial Service Northern Ohio
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# CCWA By the Numbers

For the latest news on new and upcoming events, visit [www.ccwa.org](http://www.ccwa.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Partner schools took part in CCWA's educational programs during the year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1542</td>
<td>Students engaged with the world at Model UN conferences</td>
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<td>1358</td>
<td>Attendees contributed to the global conversation in our speaker series</td>
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<tr>
<td>349</td>
<td>Visitors from 86 countries came through international exchanges</td>
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