

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS



CCWA AT 100

Sparkling Global Curiosity *in the 21st Century*



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CIVIC FORUM



CENTENNIAL GALA



CCWA STAFF



BAIJU
SHAH

CENTENNIAL | 1923–2023

Celebrating 100 Years of CCWA

CCWA was founded in 1923 to promote peace and international understanding. To celebrate our centennial and demonstrate our gratitude to the community that has supported us for the past 100 years, CCWA celebrated our special milestone birthday with two spectacular events.

In June, CCWA convened a free civic forum to discuss why global engagement matters for the greater Cleveland area. Over 250 community members and civic leaders discussed existing international assets and efforts, shared personal experiences of international engagement, and explored how to further Cleveland's global connectivity.

In October, our centennial culminated in an elegant celebration of CCWA's impact in the community. The evening featured the presentation of our Centennial Global Impact Award to the U.S. Diplomatic Corps for serving our country on the world stage. The Dr. Wael Khoury Award for Emerging Global Leader was presented to Baiju R. Shah of the Greater Cleveland Partnership.

The Beginning of a New Century of Curiosity and Global Connection

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As we kicked off our second century of inspiring engagement in world affairs, we had an opportunity to envision what sparking curiosity for the world will look like in our next 100 years. In this context, we were excited to launch our inaugural Global Ambassadors program, and to witness the enduring appeal of our core programs and the impact that they have on participants.

The past year saw increased attendance and demand for all of our program areas from speaker forums to global education and international exchanges. We could not do all of this without the support of our

many members and partners: your active engagement means the world to us and we are so happy you are part of the CCWA family!

Thank you for your support, active engagement, and global curiosity.



Carina
Van Vliet

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Heather
Hodges

PRESIDENT AND
AMBASSADOR-IN-RESIDENCE,
R. HENRY NORWEB CHAIR



Paul G.
Clark

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT
SPARKING GLOBAL CURIOSITY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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CCWA SUPPORTERS

CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Watch a video recap, read our centennial publication and more at CCWA.ORG/ABOUT/#CENTENNIAL

SPEAKER PROGRAMS



IMAGE C/O HATHAWAY BROWN



FOREIGN POLICY FORUMS

The Bin Laden Papers: Exposing the U.S. Misunderstanding of Terrorism

DR. NELLY LAHOUD

The Global Economic and Geopolitical Outlook for 2024: More Uncertainty Ahead?

MICHAEL WEIDOKAL

What's Next for Ukraine?

AMBASSADOR PAULA DOBRIANSKY

India: The Emerging Geopolitical and Economic Power – Prospects and Challenges

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Global Population: Sorting Fact from Fiction

DR. JENNIFER SCIUBBA

Geopolitics and National Security in the World of Tomorrow

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CLEVELAND COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS PROGRAMS

An Inside Look into the Chinese System

MARTIN CHORZEMPA

Empires and International Conflict

DR. LAUREN BENTON

Trade or Aid? Is There a Future for the International Development System?

DANICA R. STARKS

Türkiye: Power Broker at Last?

AMBASSADOR W. ROBERT PEARSON

Instability in the Sahel: How Africa's "Coup Belt" Is Impacting the Continent

AMBASSADOR J. PETER PHAM

The Ripple Effect: How the War in Ukraine Is Causing Waves Across the Black Sea

DR. IULIA JOJA

A Crucial Piece of Foreign Policy: Why U.S. Aid Continues to Matter

MARK SIMAKOVSKY

The Next Six Years: What to Expect from Mexico's New President

DR. RYAN BERG

SPEAKERS BY THE NUMBERS

1185 Program Attendees

17 Programs Presented

116 Students at Speaker Forums

9 Schools Visited

FORUMS & EVENTS

Exploring Global Issues on a Local Level

Events around the world impact us here in Northeast Ohio. Global development and trends cross national borders. It is at this intersection of global and local that our Foreign Policy Forums explore what is at stake for Northeast Ohio, for our nation, and for the world. This past year, we engaged over 1,185 attendees at our Foreign Policy Forums, Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations events, and programs hosted by our Young Professionals Advisory Committee.

SPEAKER SERIES | During the 2023-2024 program season, our Foreign Policy Forums explored issues like the war in Ukraine, predictions for the global economy, demographic shifts and their impact on global migration, and national security. A total of 996 attendees joined us for our 2023-2024 Foreign Policy Forums and Cleveland Committee on Foreign Relations programs, and over 116 students engaged with CCWA speakers. A special thank you goes to Margaret W. Wong & Associates, the presenting sponsor of our 2023-2024 Foreign Policy Forum series, and to Wael and Sawssan Khoury, to Raj and Karen Aggarwal and to the John Hellman Estate for their support of our programs.

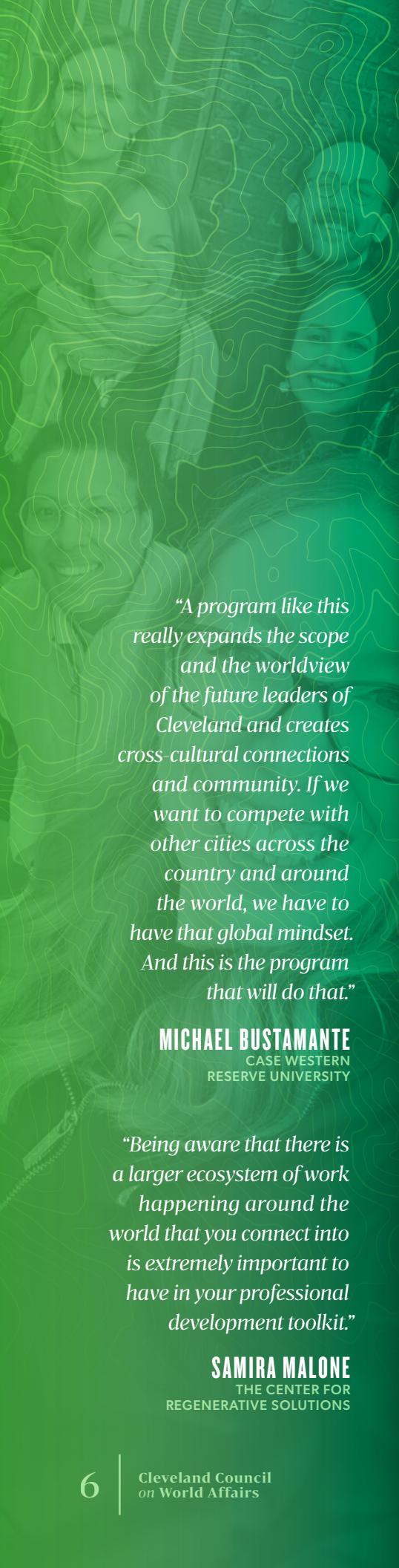
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS | World Affairs belong to everyone, and CCWA specifically welcomes young professionals to join the conversation. Through our Carter E. Strang Young Professionals Advisory Committee (YPAC) and Richard W. Pogue Fellowship, CCWA has benefited from the energy and enthusiasm of the next generation of globally-minded Clevelanders.

"CCWA provides the ability to connect with peers who are curious and enthusiastic about global affairs", reflects Bre Ganuelas-Tischler, member of YPAC. "I'm excited to be in a group of dynamic individuals who are dedicated to contributing to CCWA's mission. We can harness our passion for international affairs and shape the organization's trajectory."



"Working with CCWA speakers and engaging in their discussions have allowed our classroom to expand far beyond the walls of our school. We get to interact with speakers who are directly working on solving global incidents. CCWA speakers have made the content we learn at school believable and meaningful."

STUDENT PARTICIPANT
MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EMERGING LEADERS

CCWA's New Global Ambassadors Program Puts Cleveland on the Map

"A program like this really expands the scope and the worldview of the future leaders of Cleveland and creates cross-cultural connections and community. If we want to compete with other cities across the country and around the world, we have to have that global mindset. And this is the program that will do that."

MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE
CASE WESTERN
RESERVE UNIVERSITY

"Being aware that there is a larger ecosystem of work happening around the world that you connect into is extremely important to have in your professional development toolkit."

SAMIRA MALONE
THE CENTER FOR
REGENERATIVE SOLUTIONS

CCWA's new Global Ambassadors program for emerging leaders sparked global connections during an unforgettable global study trip and leadership development program.

This past year, eight emerging leaders, representing diverse professional backgrounds, were a part of CCWA's inaugural Global Ambassadors cohort. After participating in a year-long immersive leadership and professional development course, they traveled to Finland and Spain to learn about challenges and opportunities for global cities.

The Global Ambassadors delegation traveled to Helsinki and Madrid to explore

how these cities are leveraging their strengths as global cities, specifically in the areas of economic development, community building, and sustainability. They exchanged views with European leaders on best practices in these areas and strengthened ties between Helsinki, Madrid, and Cleveland. The Global Ambassadors returned to Cleveland, inspired by the experience, determined to help build a more global future for our city!



GLOBAL AMBASSADORS



MEET THE 2023-2024 GLOBAL AMBASSADORS COHORT

Bishara Addison

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AT
THE FUND FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

Patrycja Ajdukiewicz

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES
& CAPITAL AT JUMPSTART

Dr. Anibelky Almanzar

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT AT CASE WESTERN
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SENIOR ADVISOR ON TRANSPORTATION
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MANAGING DIRECTOR, SDLE RESEARCH CENTER
AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY,
PROGRAM MANAGER, THINKENERGY FELLOWS,
THE GREAT LAKES ENERGY INSTITUTE

"As we become an increasingly global society, we're building a network of global thinkers who are going to see beyond any one institution and really connect dots across the world."

BISHARA ADDISON

THE FUND FOR OUR
ECONOMIC FUTURE

BACKGROUND The global ambassadors tour recent renovations at Real Madrid's stadium.

GLOBAL EDUCATION



BRIDGES TO THE WORLD



BRIDGES TO THE WORLD



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

"It has been an incredible experience to partner with CCWA to bring guest speakers to our school for small-group interaction or to attend speaker events in the evening. This partnership with CCWA helps to create experiences for my students that leads them at the end of the day to tell their parents, 'You won't believe what we learned in school today!'"

MICHAEL HUGHES
MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

1722 Model UN Participants

53 Schools Sent MUN Students

50 Workshops for Students & Teachers

344 Global Competence Assessments Given

The CCWA diplomacy simulation was excellent. My students deserve experiential learning opportunities that give them space to think critically, negotiate, and advocate. It was amazing to watch this room full of English Language Learners spring to life and negotiate solutions to complex problems. They were willing to meet in the middle and find a peaceful path forward. Thank you so much CCWA for making this possible.

BEKAH LEJARDE
JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Global Learning in Cleveland Classrooms

“When I was fourteen, I decided to join my high school Model UN team, which would serve to be one of the best decisions I made as a high school student,” reflects Model UN program alumna Sasha Seckers, echoing a sentiment shared by many students who have had their global curiosity catalyzed by CCWA’s educational programs.

“Model UN taught me so many valuable skills – from diplomacy, grace, public speaking and compassion, to an increased awareness of global issues and topics. I became a more well-rounded and globally minded individual as a result”, Seckers continues. “Model UN helped me develop a sense of confidence, and it left me with lifelong skills that I will forever utilize.”

CCWA is proud to provide global learning experiences that have such a big impact on students like Sasha. During the 2023-2024 academic year, we engaged record numbers of students and teachers in our programs. This past year saw an expansion of Model UN’s student leadership committee, and in total CCWA’s Model United

Nations Conferences brought together 1,722 students to discuss global challenges.

BRIDGES TO THE WORLD | Our engagement with schools went far beyond Model United Nations. In the past year we’ve connected to countless classrooms across the region through our Bridges to the World program: we convened a global education roundtable for educators and school administrators; trained teachers on how to incorporate refugee issues into their curriculum across a diverse selection of subject areas; provided over 20 experiential learning sessions on diplomacy and refugee issues at local schools; engaged teachers in the U.S. Institute of Peace Day of Peace event; and hosted the local Academic WorldQuest competition.



SPRING MODEL UN CONFERENCE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS



CITIZEN DIPLOMATS | VOLUNTEERS IN OUR HOME STAY & HOSPITALITY PROGRAM

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Jennifer Brush
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Andreas and Julie Spintzyk
Emily Thome
Lucene Wisniewiski
Drew and Kori Zubin
Jackie Zubin

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

411 International Visitors

100 Countries Represented

145 Citizen Diplomats



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

Welcoming the World to Cleveland

Right here in Northeast Ohio, you can welcome the world to your dinner table. That is exactly what Linda Robertson has been doing as a CCWA Citizen Diplomat for the past twenty years. She has welcomed international guests hailing from countless countries, from Mali to Myanmar.

"I have had guests in my home from around the globe, from all walks of life, and speaking many languages. These dinner parties became a way to expose family, friends, and professional colleagues with the world," reflects Linda. "Hosting international visitors helps you see the humanity of the world. Within the time that you share one meal, you feel like you have a friend for a lifetime."

From pierogi parties to hot dogs at the ballpark, CCWA offers local citizen diplomats opportunities to break bread and build bridges with the rest of the world. During the 2023-2024 program year, CCWA welcomed Japanese women leaders working in manufacturing, disability educators from Indonesia, global public health officials from across Latin America, non-profit professionals from Chad, students from Ukraine, and so much more! A special thank you to all our Citizen Diplomats who helped give the international visitors a warm welcome to Northeast Ohio!

CITIZEN DIPLOMAT AWARD | The exchange work of CCWA was celebrated on the national stage at the Global Ties U.S. 2024 National Meeting in Washington D.C. in March. One of CCWA's community resources, Rid-All

Green Partnership, was a recipient of the prestigious Global Ties U.S. 2024 Citizen Diplomat Award. CCWA has connected international visitor groups with Rid-All on topics ranging from urban agriculture and food access to social entrepreneurship and youth outreach. In 2023 alone, Rid-All hosted over 60 international visitors through CCWA, including professional delegations and youth exchange programs.

OUTBOUND EXCHANGES | Although most of the CCWA exchanges bring visitors to Cleveland, last year, CCWA was able to select local participants for U.S. Department of State outbound exchanges. Dionne Huffman of Saint Luke's Foundation in Cleveland was part of the Professional Fellows Program outbound exchange program to Chennai, India, in August 2023. The trip exposed participants to the civil society and NGO sector in Chennai and helped build connections between the U.S. and India. "The concept of creating a more just and kind world by connecting people from different backgrounds on a personal and professional level is genius. It is a simple concept that carries so much weight," reflects Dionne of the experience.

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

"Through CCWA's professional fellowship program, I had the opportunity to work with Akanksha, a media consultant from India. She became a thought partner and offered new and creative ideas to support my work and added value to my clients. Akanksha and I have plans to stay connected. This experience is well worth the time and effort."

MAUREEN HARPER

FALLS & CO.



CCWA BY THE NUMBERS

Committed to Community, Locally and Globally



2023-2024 KEY FIGURES

12

Cleveland Council
on World Affairs

1185
FORUM ATTENDEES
including 116 students,
joined the global dialogue

17
PROGRAMS
presented as part of
our speaker series

411
GLOBAL VISITORS
from 100 countries took
part in exchanges

TOP International visitors from Indonesia learn about inclusive educational practices.

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STAFF AT THE
CENTENNIAL GALA



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145
CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

created meaningful
global connections

344
ASSESSMENTS

in global competence
given by CCWA

1722
STUDENTS

engaged with the world at
Model UN conferences

53
SCHOOLS

partnered with CCWA
in educational programs



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*“Thank you, CCWA, for a century
of enlightenment, and here’s to
a future filled with even greater
global curiosity and collaboration.”*

BRE GANUELAS-TISCHLER

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER | PAGE 5



FRONT COVER Fulbright scholars trade ideas at a CCWA-hosted welcome event.