

SHAPING UTAH'S FOREIGN RELATIONS ONE HANDSHAKE AT A TIME

Diplomatic Cable

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM UTAH GLOBAL DIPLOMACY



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UTAH GLOBAL
DIPLOMACY

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends of Utah Global Diplomacy,

In today's global affairs landscape, the importance of citizen diplomacy cannot be overstated. As we grapple with complex global challenges, it is evident that the power to shape the world lies not only in the hands of policymakers but also in the collective actions of engaged and informed everyday people.

As the CEO of Utah Global Diplomacy, I often reflect on the role our community plays in fostering positive change worldwide. In this issue of the Diplomatic Cable, you will learn how international relations took place right here in Utah when UGD hosted two women-focused international delegations and the Rumsfeld Foundation's Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan (CAMCA) Fellowship Program.



Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann

You will also read about how we recognized seven outstanding young people in our community who are working tirelessly to make the world a better place for everyone.

Also included here is information about the two symposiums we hosted this fall - Our Global Changemakers Symposium focused on strengthening young people's ability to take action for the causes they are most passionate about. Our Sports Diplomacy Symposium focused on how the delicate relationships of sports, social causes, and the economy level the playing field for everyone.

Finally, make sure to check out the five individuals who received our 2023 Citizen Diplomat Award at our annual Volunteer Tribute Dinner featuring special guest speaker Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann.

You will see in this issue of the Diplomatic Cable that citizen diplomacy transcends political affiliations and boundaries, emphasizing the role each of us can play in building bridges, fostering understanding, and creating a more interconnected world; the beauty of citizen diplomacy is that it's so simple to accomplish. It's done one handshake at a time!

In a world where traditional diplomatic channels face challenges, our collective strength as Utah's leading nonprofit in international relations lies in the positive impact we can make beyond our immediate business goals. Through professional and cultural exchange programs and global and cultural education programs for people of all ages, we become agents of positive change, shaping a world where collaboration triumphs over conflict and where the values we hold dear resonate on a global scale.

As we navigate the complexities of a globalized world, let us embrace the responsibility we have as individuals and as an organization that contributes positively to international relations. Our actions, no matter how small, have a ripple effect that extends far beyond our immediate reach.

Finally, as we reach the end of the year, I want to take this moment to say thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey. Your dedication to Utah Global Diplomacy is not only instrumental to success in Utah but also pivotal in contributing to a world where the power of citizen diplomacy becomes a driving force for positive and lasting change.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you in 2024!



Globally,
Felecia Maxfield-Barrett
President & CEO

MISSION

To promote respect and understanding between the people of Utah and other nations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Citizen Diplomacy is the concept that all individuals have the right, even the responsibility, to shape U.S. foreign relations one handshake at a time.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES

*Respect for all people and diverse perspectives
Personal and social responsibility
A belief that the people of the world are interconnected
Open and respectful dialogue*

WELCOME, JEREMY HARMON



We are delighted to welcome Jeremy Harmon to the Utah Global Diplomacy team as our new Chief Operations Officer!

With over two decades of experience in journalism and leadership, Jeremy brings a wealth of expertise to our organization. He has steered visual storytelling teams and served as Director of Photography and Visuals at respected publications, including The Tennessean and The Salt Lake Tribune. Jeremy's extensive background in leading photojournalism efforts and his past role as President of Associated Press Photo Managers make him a valuable addition as we navigate the complexities of our global landscape.

We are thrilled to have Jeremy's expertise and commitment on board as we continue our mission of promoting citizen diplomacy and fostering understanding across borders.

The Future of Diplomacy in Utah, Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann

VOLUNTEER TRIBUTE DINNER

Our Volunteer Tribute Dinner honored the Citizen Diplomat Award recipients, recognized in front of an audience of fellow volunteers and international enthusiasts. This recognition event included remarks by Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann, a distinguished diplomat, having served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and three times as Ambassador to Algeria, Bahrain, and Afghanistan. Today, Neumann is President of the American Academy of Diplomacy.



Photo of Ambassador Neumann, center, at World Trade Center Utah

While visiting Utah, Ambassador Neumann met with businesses and policymakers at World Trade Center Utah, students at Westminster University, and participated in an interview with Boyd Matheson, Inside Sources Podcast Host at KSL Radio.

Thank You To Our Event Sponsors:



Our Citizen Diplomacy Award Recipients



FRANZ KOLB

Franz Kolb is considered a pillar of Utah's international trade and diplomacy community. Known for his exceptional contributions to fostering global cooperation and economic opportunities, Franz has dedicated his decades-long career to strengthening ties between Utah and countries across the globe, promoting economic growth, and enhancing diplomatic relations. Franz's exceptional diplomatic acumen led to his current appointment as the U.S. Department of State's Honorary Consular to Austria in Utah.

DEANNA AND LYNN DEBRY

DeAnna and Lynn DeBry have made significant contributions to the local and global communities through their selfless dedication to volunteerism, education, and community enrichment. They have fostered positive change and forged meaningful connections with hundreds of foreign visitors over the last 40 years. Together, they epitomize the values of volunteerism and community enrichment through cross-cultural understanding.



ERLYNN AND CHRIS LANSING

Erlynn and Chris Lansing have distinguished themselves as exceptional leaders in fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting international goodwill through their roles as Directors of the Church Hosting Office at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their dedication to creating meaningful connections among diverse communities and promoting open dialogue has left an indelible mark on the world of citizen diplomacy. Together, they have hosted over 1,700 delegates from over 100 countries.

GLOBAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND



From October 12-15, 2023, the Global Leaders Scholarship Fund (GLSF) recipients had the distinct privilege of participating in the 25th International Leadership Association (ILA) Global Conference held in Vancouver, Canada. This esteemed event gathered leaders and scholars from around the world to explore innovative ideas, share insights, and discuss pivotal issues in leadership and global affairs.

Representing the GLSF, our scholars engaged in a series of thought-provoking sessions, workshops, and discussions led by prominent figures in leadership studies. The conference provided a platform for our scholars to connect with like-minded individuals, broaden their perspectives, and contribute to the global discourse on leadership in the 21st century.

Applications Now Open

GLOBAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Know of someone who has a passion for changing the world and might be interested in joining the 2024 cohorts of GLSF recipients? Applications are open until January 1!

The Global Leaders Scholarship Fund (GLSF) is a prestigious scholarship program offered by Utah Global Diplomacy to empower emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds here in Utah. This scholarship aims to provide opportunities for students to expand their knowledge, skills, and networks through international conferences, fostering a deeper understanding of global affairs, diplomacy, and cross-cultural collaboration. The scholarship covers travel expenses related to participating in these programs, enabling scholars to engage in transformative experiences and cultivate essential skills for future leadership roles in an interconnected world.

For application requirements, scan the QR code below or visit: <https://bit.ly/glsf>



Thank you to our 2023 GLSF sponsor:

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Global Changemakers: The Ripple Effect

AMBASSADOR JOHN PRICE & MARCIA PRICE WORLD AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM SERIES

Our third annual International Youth Symposium - and third symposium in our Ambassador John Price & Marcia Price Symposium Series - saw some changes this year and was reintroduced as the Global Changemakers Symposium. This change reflects our shift from monthly speakers to quarterly symposiums, and reflects the symposium's goal to inspire youth to make real change in their communities and the world.

We were honored to hear from Mohan Sudabattula, a local young entrepreneur and founder of Project Embrace, as well as our other incredible speakers and panel discussions. From high schoolers to young professionals, each participant left invigorated and inspired, with new connections and resources to make a bigger, better impact.

Thank you to our event sponsors:



7 for 17 Winners YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF UTAH

The 7 for 17 Awards were awarded at the Global Changemakers Symposium, recognizing young Utahns working to achieve the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while exemplifying Utah Global Diplomacy's core values of respect, social responsibility, and open dialogue.



JAKEY SIOLO
SDG #1: No Poverty

Jakey Siolo is a queer Sāmoan, community and political organizer, and community advocate. Currently, Jakey oversees Case Management and advocacy for PIK2AR Pacific Island Knowledge 2 Action Resources, as well as the Senior Engagement and Major Gift Officer at YWCA Utah leading efforts in fundraising and events to support eliminating racism and empowering marginalized communities. Jakey is also the Director of Nuanua Collective, Utah's only organization for LGBTQ+ Native Hawaiian & and Pacific Islanders.

RUBY VEJAR
SDG #2: Zero Hunger

Ruby Vejar is a student at Weber State University who uses her spare time to offer free art classes, family photos, music lessons, and scholarships to those in need. She collaborates with the Center for Community Engaged Learning, assisting students dealing with food insecurity and serving as a mentor to support their success. She is a board member of USHEAN, focusing on accessibility and poverty-related issues, and the UServeUtah College Council.



YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF UTAH



GABRIELLA MIRANDA
SDG #3: Good Health & Well-being

Gabriella Miranda is a Senior at Rowland Hall who works as an educator for Planned Parenthood on their peer-led sex ed council, serves on the American Institute of Research national Youth Engaged 4 Change editorial board and is a member of the United Nations Girl Up Teen Advisory Board. She's served as a part of the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Committee, worked for the Library of Congress, and volunteered with Alliance for a Better Utah, reporting on ongoing gerrymandering legislature in the state.

Anika Rao is a first-year student at The University of Utah studying Political Science and Quantitative Analysis of Markets and Organizations. She has served as the Editor-in-Chief of her high school's newspaper, volunteered with the Salt Lake City Public Library, and mentored for the Salt Lake Peer Court, a restorative alternative to the juvenile justice system. Anika tutors piano students in underserved communities and performs for senior centers with The Mundi Project, a Utah-based music nonprofit.

ANIKA RAO
SDG #4: Quality of Education



DANIEL ROMERO-GUERRERO
SDG #5: Gender Equality

Daniel Romero-Guerrero is a trans-masculine immigrant from Guadalajara, Jalisco, living in Salt Lake City, studying Gender, Ethnic, & Disability. Daniel is a community health worker with Alliance Community Services, primarily serving the Hispanic and Latine population, sits on the Board of Directors for Utah's LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce as the Ambassador Chair, and formerly with Salt Lake County's Mayor's Office of Diversity Inclusion where he led the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Rising Leaders Network.

ELIZA HUNTER
SDG #5: Gender Equality

Eliza Hunter fights to combat period poverty in Utah, serving as a Student Ambassador for two years with the Utah Period Project. Working with school administrators and Utah legislators, she promoted HB 162: Period Products in Schools, requiring all public schools in Utah to supply free menstrual products in restrooms, which passed unanimously. She received an honorable mention for her work with the Period Project and currently attends Brigham Young University.



JOSE MANUEL GONZALEZ VERA
SDG #10: REDUCED INEQUALITY

Jose Manuel Gonzalez Vera is a doctoral student at Utah State University, working under the mentorship of Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodríguez. His research interests involve improving the psychological well-being of undocumented people. Through his research, Jose Manuel plans to make psychological interventions more accessible to undocumented people. His passion for working with the undocumented community stems from his work with the Latine community, his review of literature on undocumented Latines, and his own experience as an undocumented Mexican.

Sports Diplomacy: Leveling the SocioEconomic Playing Field

AMBASSADOR JOHN PRICE & MARCIA PRICE

WORLD AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM SERIES

Our Sports Diplomacy Symposium had a first-string lineup of speakers, each bringing their unique perspectives and passion for sports diplomacy to the forefront. From the dynamic Abby Cox, Utah's First Lady and force behind the Show Up Initiative, to the indomitable Olympian Catherine Raney Norman, the discussions were as diverse as the sports they represented.

The day started with Dr. Neftalie Williams, San Diego State University and skateboarding diplomat, who demonstrated that action sports like skateboarding are powerful tools for dispelling stereotypes, breaking down barriers, and bridging societal and generational gaps.

The day continued with Adam Miles, the visionary behind Refugee Soccer; Andy Chesnut, General Manager of Warriors Rugby; Danelle Umstead, Paralympian and Sisters in Sports Foundation founder; and duathlon champion Tiffany Schwartz; all speakers illustrating that every sport is a pathway to building bridges and transcending cultural boundaries.

As we gear up for the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2034, these discussions take on added significance. The Sports Diplomacy program served as a rallying point, underlining the potential of sports to create lasting connections and cultural exchanges.

Thank you to our event sponsors: & partners



International Visitor Leadership Program

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

The International Visitor Leadership Program covers a wide variety of subjects and delegates from all over the world. We were excited to wrap up the year with two incredible women-focused IVLP programs.



Women Entrepreneurs

The International Visitor Leadership Program focused on women entrepreneurs and was a dynamic exploration of entrepreneurship in Utah and the United States. The objectives included examining women-led business efforts and exploring the pivotal role of non-governmental organizations in supporting women-owned businesses. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the societal, economic, and political factors influencing private enterprise in the U.S.

The program wasn't just about theory; it delved into practical strategies for job creation and addressed barriers faced by entrepreneurs, especially women and disadvantaged groups. Various business models, from micro-lending to multi-level marketing, were explored, offering a comprehensive view of the entrepreneurial landscape.

Delegates participated in a workshop at The Mill at Salt Lake Community College and a visit to the Salt Lake City Government's Department of Economic Development. It culminated in a program evaluation session and cultural transportation, fostering connections among participants from diverse corners of the globe, including Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Nigeria, and Ukraine.



Women Leaders: Promoting Equality

The International Visitor Leadership Program focused on women's leadership and welcomed delegates from the Near East and North Africa, with a focus on illustrating the rule of law in the U.S. and promoting fair, inclusive, transparent, accessible, and independent judiciaries.

Through various sessions and activities, participants delved into the legal landscape, exploring inspiring female leaders in academia, public service, and the private sector. The agenda included a workshop on the Utah Center for Legal Inclusion, offering insights into leadership skills and mentorship models vital for female lawyers to overcome barriers to professional advancement.

The program facilitated linkages among legal professionals, fostering international cooperation to strengthen women's leadership in and access to justice. A sincere thank you to all who contributed to the success of this enriching exchange.



Rumsfeld Foundation CAMCA Fellowship Program

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS



In an exciting collaboration, the Rumsfeld Foundation Central Asia, Mongolia, and Caucus, Afghanistan (CAMCA) Fellowship Program and its Graduate Fellowship converged in Salt Lake City in October 2023. Utah Global Diplomacy, in partnership with the Open World Leadership Center, orchestrated the fellows' stay and programming, showcasing our organization's pivotal role in fostering international connections.

Dr. Kimberly Madsen, a Graduate Fellowship alumna and Chair of the Board of Directors of Utah Global Diplomacy, not only welcomed the

delegation to Utah and accomplished the CAMCA fellows throughout the program, but she and her family were a host family to one of the fellows during their stay in Utah. This unique intersection highlighted the meticulous planning and execution by Utah Global Diplomacy, emphasizing our commitment to creating impactful cross-cultural experiences. We extend our appreciation to the Rumsfeld Foundation for their continuous support, enabling us to contribute to the global dialogue and promote citizen diplomacy.

La Follia

VIVALDI BY CANDLELIGHT

With more candles than ever, Vivaldi by Candlelight was a beautiful experience yet again! For 41 years, this concert by candlelight has been the start of the holiday season for the audience and musicians alike.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the enchantment of the evening! By embracing diverse viewpoints and recognizing the complexity of our shared human experience, we can work towards bridging divides and finding common ground.



This year's concert stands as a poignant reminder that, just like the harmonies in each composition, our collective strength lies in embracing differences and fostering empathy, understanding, and unity. Your continued support means the world to us. Here's to another year of music, warmth, and shared joy!

THANK YOU TO OUR AFFILIATES, DONORS, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS



International Visitor
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*A special thank you to the numerous individuals who donated to Utah Global Diplomacy in 2023.
At the heart of our mission, individuals make a difference with – and through – our organization. Thank you!*



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