

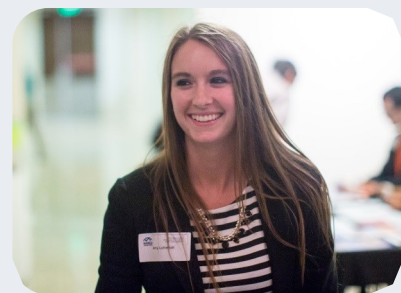
ENGAGE
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NETWORK
DIALOGUE



CONVERSATIONS

CREATE

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR **MISSION**

The mission of the World Affairs Council is to advance global understanding and engagement throughout the greater Seattle area. Our vision is to create a Seattle community that is connected, engaged, and inspired to create change in the world.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Programs (CP) is the platform through which the World Affairs Council engages its members and the greater Seattle community by providing opportunities for discussion, dialogue, and debate on global issues. The Council is nonpartisan and hosts events on a broad range of issues that feature experts with diverse perspectives. In 2015, Community Programs hosted over one hundred programs, offering frequent opportunities for community members to become more knowledgeable about international issues and their local relevance, to become inspired to learn more, and to become more connected to community members who share an interest in global issues as well as the roles of the United States and Seattle in the international community.

- **Events:** The Council's events are formatted as discussions, rather than lectures, so that attendees can engage directly with our speakers and each other. The size of events can range from hundreds of attendees to smaller roundtable discussions, such as our monthly Member-To-Member Lunches. We make sure that participants have a chance at every event to address their specific interests as active

participants in a meaningful conversation through a moderated Q&A. In keeping with its mission, the World Affairs Council hosted events to promote engagement and better understanding of the many important developments in global affairs that happened in 2015. For example, in November Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, discussed the actions the United States and international community are taking to respond to the rise in the number of refugees fleeing conflicts in Asia and Africa. Other topics included the significance of the Iran nuclear deal, the normalization of U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations, and cybersecurity as an issue of national security.

- **Partner events:** The Council also hosts events throughout the year with our business, education, government, and civic group partners. These partner events allow us to expand our reach in the community and broaden the conversation so that we continue to effectively address the varied interests and issues that are important to the greater Seattle community. One 2015 partner event with the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies was a May panel on the progress that has been made in expanding LGBT rights and the challenges that remain for the LGBT community in the West, Africa, the Caribbean, and throughout the world.





- **YPIN:** The Young Professionals International Network (YPIN) hosts events catering to individuals in their 20s and 30s. It is managed by a board of Council members in that age group. YPIN works to expand young adults' engagement with global issues and provide a platform for those with an interest in international news and foreign cultures to connect with individuals with similar interests. A few of the events held by YPIN in 2015 include: a group discussion on land rights and the role they play in empowering communities across the world; a panel on the potential benefits and drawbacks of volunteer tourism; a dinner event with Lisa Cohen, director of the Washington Global Health Alliance, to discuss Seattle's role in the global health sector and her insights into career development and leadership; and a coffee tasting where participants learned about the differences between direct trade and fair trade coffee and their impacts on coffee growers around the world.
- **Fellows Program:** The World Affairs Council's Fellows Program is a unique professional

development opportunity for a carefully selected cohort of greater Seattle business and community leaders. The program gives Fellows an opportunity to connect with their local counterparts and fosters dialogue on how global issues affect their respective fields on a local, state, national, and international level. The Fellows meet once a month for a breakfast discussion with world-renowned experts who provide unparalleled insight into important global issues. A few of the speakers in 2015 were: Birger Steen, CEO of Parallels, who discussed the effect of Western sanctions and sinking oil prices on the Russian economy; James Bradley (author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, *The Imperial Cruise*, *Flyboys*, and *The China Mirage*) who discussed the history of the U.S.-Chinese relationship and how that history continues to influence the relationship today; and Mark Ward, Director of the Syrian Transition Assistance and Response Team in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, who discussed the effect of the Arab Spring on Middle East politics, U.S. aid to the Middle East, and the civil war in Syria.

2015 Speakers included:

- *His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania*
- *Representatives Dave Reichert (WA 8), Suzan DelBene (WA 1), Adam Smith (WA 9), and Jim McDermott (WA 7)*
- *Dr. Maura O'Neill, Former Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Counselor to the Administrator at USAID*



INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

The International Visitor Program (IVP) advances global understanding by connecting greater Seattle community members with emerging professional and youth leaders from around the world. These international exchanges allow citizens and visitors alike to recognize their shared values and to powerfully diminish the boundaries of language, culture, and nation.

IVP's core initiative is the Department of State sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Launched in 1940, the IVLP is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. The goal is to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the United States for current and emerging foreign leaders. Each program is tailored to the professional interests of the visiting leaders and supports the foreign policy goals of the United States. The World Affairs Council partners with the U.S. State Department and National Program Agencies to administer the program in Seattle.

In 2015, IVP administered the Department of State's inaugural Girl's Leadership Program for Japan and South Korea, which brought together young women leaders from Japan, South Korea, and the local Seattle community to explore topics of entrepreneurship and innovation. They met with a number of

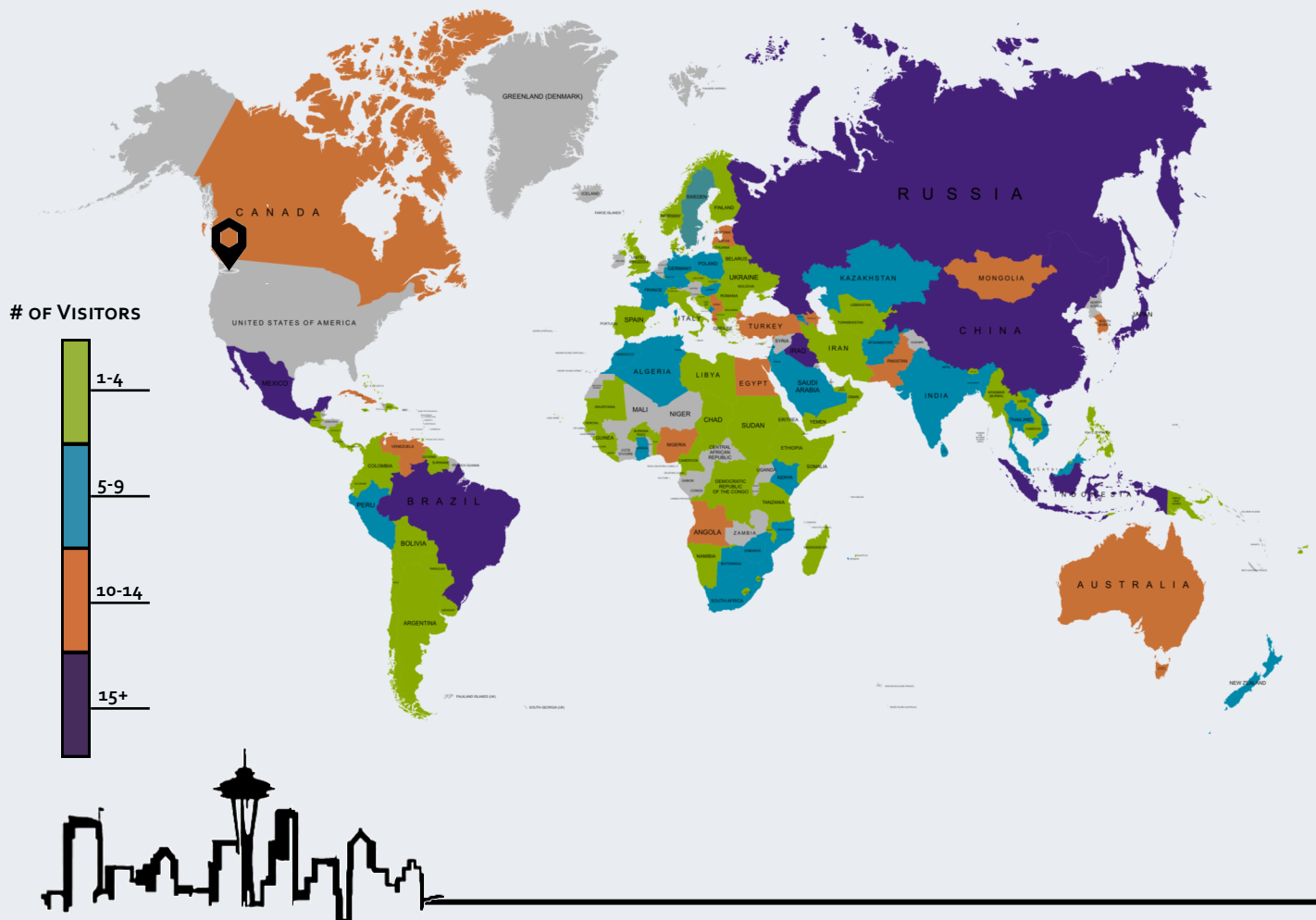


impressive local female leaders within Seattle and discussed their respective cultural barriers and barriers faced by women globally, as well as opportunities for empowering women's leadership.

IVP hosted a cohort of Department of State Professional Fellows from Egypt and Tunisia in Spring 2015 for an exchange program aimed at equipping NGO leaders in the field of disability rights with the knowledge and skills to make an impact in their home countries. For four weeks the Fellows shadowed local organizations and became familiar with American traditions, customs, and norms. Afterward, two of their Seattle supervisors traveled to Egypt and Tunisia for ten days as part of an affiliated reverse exchange program. In addition to site visits and cultural activities, a highlight of their trip was volunteering with Northwest Harvest's Cherry Street Food Bank.

These programs are only a sampling of the hundreds of visitors from all corners of the globe who were hosted by the International Visitor Program this past year.

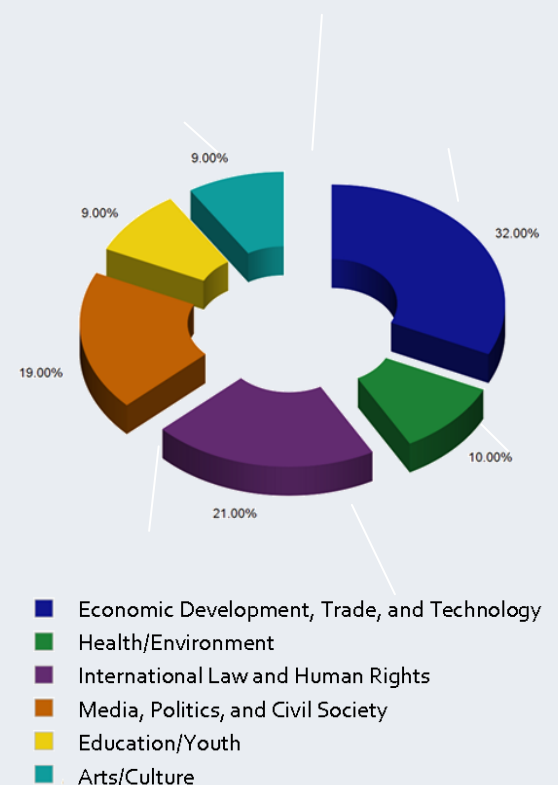




"Our interest in hosting these groups comes out of our own experience working and traveling broadly around the world—the most memorable moments occur when we are able to penetrate the surface of a place and get a glimpse of some vital layer beneath. Our home here and perhaps even our way of living, is not the image that people from afar might have carried with them to America—which is why we think it might in fact be interesting."

- Don Fels, Home Hospitality Host

- 715 participants from 144 countries in 2015
- 97 professional and youth leadership programs
- 565 professional meetings, workshops, and site visits
- 46 volunteer activities and school visits
- 90 youth leaders from 20 countries
- 89 homestays
- 15 reciprocal international exchanges



GLOBAL CLASSROOM



Global Classroom (GC) extends the World Affairs Council's message of global understanding to K-12 classrooms. GC empowers teachers with the tools, knowledge, and perspectives to engage students in global studies, cultivate 21st century skills, and act consciously as informed global citizens. Our children's lives will be defined by the world within and beyond our borders and our goal is to ensure that the education system reflects this reality. We bring the world to the classroom to ensure that our children are prepared to live, work, and play in a world of diverse cultures, histories, and economies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Teacher Professional Development:** Global Classroom offers teacher training on a variety of relevant international topics. Monthly programs include guest speakers, meaningful discussion, and teacher clock hours. Educators leave with a greater understanding of global issues, interdisciplinary resources to bring a global issue into the classroom, and stronger connections to their colleagues in the greater Seattle community.
- **Educator Tours to Turkey:** Each summer, Global Classroom selects local educators to travel to Turkey with the Turkish Cultural Foundation. This 14-day study tour allows teachers to explore the historical and cultural wonders of Turkey and bring the knowledge gleaned from their travels back to their students and colleagues.
- **World Educator Award:** Each year, the World Affairs Council honors a local educator who has made exceptional contributions in broadening the global horizons of students and colleagues.
- **Educator Book Club:** This year, teachers read *City of Thorns*, a book about the largest refugee camp in the world, located in Kenya. Global Classroom created curricular resources for reading, and teachers met author Ben Rawlence, participated in community discussions, and created their own lesson plans around the book.

2015 World Educator Award

Recipient

Patrick Grant, 12th grade Dean and Economics and History teacher at University Prep, received the 2014-15 World Educator Award for his outstanding work promoting international understanding in the classroom and beyond. Patrick started the international exchange student program at University Prep, has led student groups to Japan, Germany, New Zealand, and China, and was awarded Washington State Social Studies Teacher of the Year 1997-98. Patrick will be celebrated at a public award ceremony where teachers, students, and community members will have the opportunity to learn more about his career.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

- **Community Programs:** K-12 students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of community programs featuring renowned international experts and political figures discussing critical global issues.
- **World Citizen Essay Contest:** Our annual essay contest for Washington State 3rd through 12th grade students promotes discussion among students, teachers, families, and community members about the ways that individuals can affect positive change in the global community.
- **National Euro Challenge Competition:** The competition challenges 9th and 10th grade students to create presentations on the European economy. Students in The Northwest School had the opportunity to travel to New York City to compete in the Nationals, marking the first time a school from the West Coast has competed in this opportunity.
- **Classroom Visits:** Global Classroom offers opportunities to bring international visiting delegations and professionals engaged in international affairs—including returned Peace Corps volunteers, ambassadors, and academics—into Seattle-area classrooms.

"Because our school's focus is helping develop global citizenship through our different programs, I greatly appreciate having these kinds of opportunities where students are able to think beyond themselves and understand better how their choices affect the greater society. Keep doing what you are doing in bringing awareness of global issues to the next generations of leaders!"

- Teacher at Hamilton International Middle School, reflecting on World Citizen Essay Contest

2015 Highlights

Teacher Training

10 professional development workshops

attended by 425 teachers

from 125 schools

representing 33 school districts

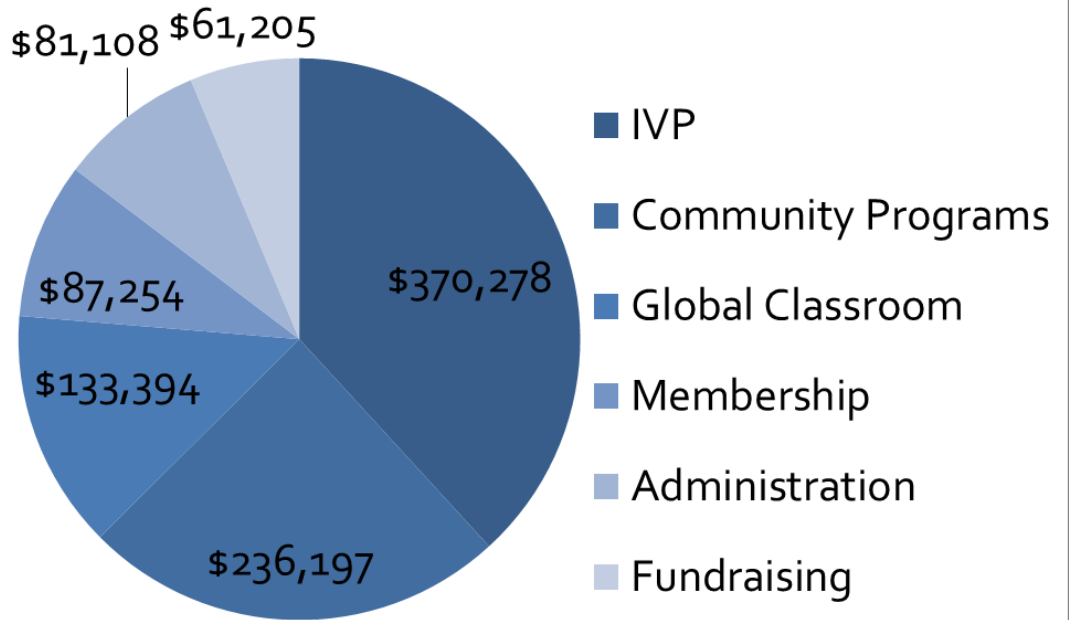
2015 World Citizen Essay Contest

359 students participated

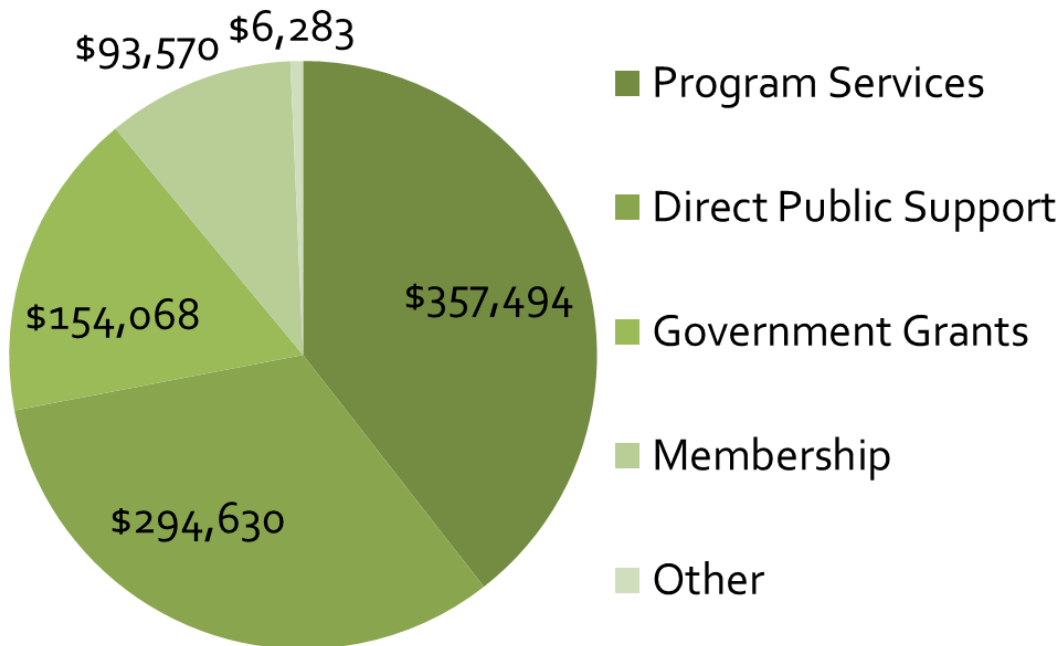
representing 23 schools



EXPENSES



REVENUE



2015 FINANCIALS

"The World Affairs Council framework for small group discussions between guests and presenters is an outstanding program!"

- Doug Larm , SPD,
Washington State Fusion
Center, Seattle University



"It is always so interesting to learn that so many of the challenges that we face are often the same ones seen around the world..."

– Linda Neunzig, Agriculture
Coordinator for Snohomish



*" It is so important to sit down
and have meaningful
conversations and interactions
with people from other countries"*

- Mark, Antioch University



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