



#### Advisory Council

Hon. Brent Scowcroft

Hon. Lee Hamilton

Jessica Tuchman Mathews

Hon. Thomas R. Pickering

#### Board of Directors

Hon. Franklin D. Kramer  
Chairman

Patrick W. Gross  
Co-Founder & Former Chairman  
1992-2002

Philip A. Odeen  
Former Chairman  
1982-1992

Thomas J. Reckford  
Vice Chairman

Robert J. Berry  
Treasurer

Dr. Michael Haltzel  
Secretary

Hon. Julia Chang Bloch  
US-China Education Trust

Hon. Roel Campos  
Cooley Godward Kronish, LLP

Joseph Caracul  
Bank of America

Tony Culley-Foster  
CFCO International

Hon. Diana Lady Dougan  
Cyber Century Forum

John M. Duff, Jr.  
Duff Ackerman Goodrich, LLC

A. Edward Elmendorf  
United Nations Association

Eddie Fraser  
Diversified Search Ray & Berndtson

Hon. Chas W. Freeman, Jr.  
Projects International, Inc.

Carl J. Green  
Hitachi, Ltd.

Heidi Hatfield  
Washington Fine Properties

Jefferson S. Hofgard  
The Boeing Company

Rebecca Klemm  
Klemm Analysis Group

J. Richard Knop  
BB&T Capital Markets

Tobia Mercurio

Richard P. Merski  
American International group

Robert Pence  
Pence-Friedel Developers

Helmut Sonnenfeldt  
Brookings Institution

Nigel Sutton  
Raytheon Company

Hon. Togo D. West, Jr.  
TLI Leadership Group

Howard E. Woolley  
Verizon Wireless

Hon. R. James Woolsey  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.

Noel V. Lateef (ex officio)  
Foreign Policy Association

**FOR RELEASE - MONDAY JUNE 15 2009 - WASHINGTON, DC:**

## **SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL – WASHINGTON DC GALA**

**The Hon. Janet Napolitano**, US Secretary of Homeland Security, will receive the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC (WAC-DC) International Affairs Award at its 20th annual Global Education Dinner at The Willard on June 17.

The other WAC-DC honorees are: **Sir Nigel Sheinwald** KCMG, British ambassador to the United States, receiving the Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award; **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** (accepted by **Dr. Vicki Phillips**), receiving the Global Education Award; and Michelle Rhee, chancellor of DC Public Schools, receiving the Educator of the Year Award.

In anticipation of receiving his award **Sir Nigel Sheinwald** said: "It is an honour to be the inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award."

"The award recognizes the efforts of the Embassy in Washington as well as our network of officials throughout the United States across the waterfront of the shared US/UK agenda -- the global economy, protecting the environment, international security and foreign affairs and top class service delivery to our citizens. The Council should be commended for their hard work around the world and for their commitment to promoting within the United States the importance of global education and international affairs."

**Eleanor Clift**, contributing editor of *Newsweek* and international journalist, will be the Master of Ceremonies for this 400-person event, including 35 ambassadors from the Washington, DC diplomatic corps, and leaders in business, government, civil society, and education.

WAC-DC is 'A Leading Forum for Global Education & International Affairs' and an institution 'Where Learning Happens.'

Its annual Global Education Dinner celebrates the council's regional, national, and global outreach programs that involve students, teachers, community leaders, the American public, and international community representatives in programs that expand their understanding of international affairs issues affecting the United States and the world.

The WAC–DC board of directors is composed of corporate, former governmental, and NGO representatives; educators; and civic leaders committed to implementing the council's global mission priorities.

**The Hon. Frank Kramer**, former Assistant Secretary of Defense and WAC–DC chairman said "Our board is delighted to join with private, public, and voluntary sector leaders and the international diplomatic community to recognize the exemplary contribution of our June 17 honorees to global education and international affairs, with the highest public awards our organization can bestow on those who help make our world a better place for this and future generations."

**Eleanor Clift** added, "Lasting global change comes from grassroots-driven education and empowerment programs. I am pleased to be associated with The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC – and the work that it does to provide American and international youth, teachers, educators, and community and civic leaders with knowledge of and insights to global issues in our increasingly interdependent world."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**Mark Fernando, Program Director** at (202) 293-1051 or at  
mfernando@worldaffairsdc.org

NOTES TO EDITORS: WAC-DC CASE STATEMENT (ON STATIONERY).

1. **The Honorable Franklin Kramer** is an independent consultant and was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs for President Clinton and Secretaries Cohen and Perry. Mr. Kramer is chairman of the board of the World Affairs Council - Washington, DC; vice chairman of the Atlantic Council, and chairman of its Committee on Asian and Global Security; a Capstone Professor at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs; and on the board of directors and board of advisers of other organizations.
2. **Chancellor Michelle Rhee** was appointed by Mayor Adrian Fenty on June 12, 2007 to lead DC Public Schools, a district numbering 50,000 students and 144 schools. Ms. Rhee was highly recommended to the mayor, based largely on her work that transformed many urban public school systems with The New Teacher Project. She made the front cover of *Time* magazine in 2008 and has received global media attention for her pioneering work to restructure Washington, DC's public school system and deliver quality education in the nation's capital.
3. **The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** partners with organizations and individuals across the world to tackle some of the most difficult problems facing the world today, including issues related to global poverty and development, healthcare, and education. The mission of the foundation's United States Program and Education Initiative is to help ensure greater opportunity for all Americans through the attainment of secondary and postsecondary education with genuine economic value. **Dr. Vicki Phillips**, director of the Education Initiative in the United States Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, oversees work to improve early learning in Washington State; to ensure U.S. high school students graduate prepared for success in college, career, and life; and to improve access to university education.
4. **Sir Nigel Sheinwald** joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1976 and has served in Washington, Brussels, and Moscow, as well as having served in a wide range of policy jobs in London. He took his position as British ambassador to the United States in October 2007. As ambassador, he leads the embassy in Washington and nine other consulates-general around the United States. His first posting to Washington DC was from 1983 to 1987 as first secretary (political) in the British embassy.
5. **The Honorable Janet Ann Napolitano** was sworn in on January 21, 2009 as the third Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Secretary Napolitano was mid-way through her second term as governor of the State of Arizona. While governor, she became the first woman to chair the National Governors Association, where she was instrumental in creating the Public Safety Task Force and the Homeland Security Advisors Council. She also chaired the Western Governors Association. Secretary Napolitano previously served as the attorney general of Arizona and as the US attorney for the District of Arizona.
6. **Eleanor Clift** became a contributing editor of *Newsweek* in September 1994, where she writes on the Washington power structure and the influence of women in politics. She is currently assigned to follow the flow of policy and politics under the Obama Administration, particularly related to the change that President Obama has promised in re-setting national priorities and transforming how Washington "does business."
7. Each year, **the World Affairs Council - Washington, DC** hosts its annual Global Education Dinner. The dinner is a high-profile forum to recognize the council's achievements over the previous year. It is also a time for the council to honor the work of citizens, teachers, government officials, diplomatic corps members, and council supporters for their commitment to educating the national capital area community about issues of international importance. Each year the council honors individuals and organizations for their contributions to the promotion of global education and public awareness of international affairs. The Global Education Dinner provides important financial, resource, and communications support to advance the mission priorities of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC.



The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC, ‘A Leading Forum for Global Education and International Affairs,’ is an institution ‘Where Learning Happens.’

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC (WAC–DC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community of geo-political, business, and civil society issues in our inter-connected world.

Since 1980, WAC–DC has been a **leading provider** of top-level and thought-provoking presentations, debates, and discussions of global education and international affairs in the Washington metro area. The council’s programs include public, diplomatic, political, and business events, town hall meetings, professional development seminars, and international communications programs.

The council provides a **neutral forum** for speeches by presidents, prime ministers, cabinet officials, economists, diplomats, scholars, academics, corporate leaders, authors, researchers, pundits, journalists, and Nobel laureates. These worldwide speakers join council members, VIP guests, online audiences and the public for in-depth discussions of major foreign policy and education issues that have global impact.

The council’s Ambassador, Embassy, Author, and Distinguished Speaker Series; Foreign Policy Fora; and Young Professional and News Maker programs engage over **5,000 members and guests each year**. Since 2000, more than 100 foreign ambassadors, 50 US ambassadors, 20 US cabinet secretaries, and two US presidents have shared their perspectives on international affairs with our audiences. In addition, since launching the council’s online programs in 2007, more than **150,000 people have viewed WAC–DC events** via the internet, video streaming, podcasts, and other new media distribution channels, in addition to C-Span and FORA.tv coverage.

To prepare young people to compete in the 21st century market, the council helps fill the global education and international affairs knowledge gap in the curricula currently offered by our country’s school systems. The council’s teacher development workshops, in-depth issue seminars, youth leadership forums, Academic World Quest competitions, internships, and international travel-study tours foster a balanced view of global issues. These programs **facilitate worldwide knowledge transfer and analytical insights** for American and international educators and their students.

Within the World Affairs Council of America’s 90-council nationwide network, WAC–DC is the recognized leader in **professional development programs for educators**. To date, over 1,000 American and international high school educators have participated in 20 annual Institutes on International Affairs, resulting in a direct impact on more than 500,000 students in the US and worldwide.

Since 2001, over 2,600 students from the national capital area have benefited from the council’s Youth Leadership Fora. Over the past ten years, the council’s Young Ambassador Scholarship program has created **international travel-study experiences** for over 50 deserving area high school students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. WAC–DC is aware of the need to bring this type of learning experience to the area school systems, and is actively engaged with an outreach program involving world history, geography, civics, social studies, and international affairs teachers and their students to help address this global education gap.

The council is governed by a board composed of international corporate executives, former high-ranking US government officials, senior development bank and NGO personnel, and academics. The board works with an experienced professional staff, interns, and dedicated volunteers to ensure that the council’s high-impact, targeted, and multi-disciplinary services are conducted according to **international best practices** and delivered with cost efficiency.

While the global education and international affairs results of the council’s programs are extensive, WAC–DC is expanding its American and international partnerships and services through a proactive **forward strategy for the 21st century**.