



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Former Cabinet member and Congressmen join World Affairs Council- DC Board**

WASHINGTON, DC, April 22, 2015: Former Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood (R) of Illinois, and former Congressmen Jim Moran (D) of Virginia and Nick Rahall (D) of West Virginia are now members of the [World Affairs Council – Washington, DC](http://www.worldaffairsdc.org) Board of Directors.

All three have also accepted invitations to serve on the Board's International Affairs Committee, which provides experienced guidance on the Council's public programming.

“Building bridges between people, cultures, and countries is at the heart of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC mission,” said LaHood. “Our teachers and students need to have the skills necessary to effectively communicate, connect, and participate, within our global community.”

“The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC's focus on global education, international affairs, and global communications programs for students, teachers, and other publics is addressing a serious ‘knowledge gap’ in our interconnected world,” said Moran. “WAC-DC is innovating programs that lead the way to closing that gap.”

“The work of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is critical to our young people operating effectively in our diverse geopolitical, international business, and multicultural global community,” said Rahall. “The US urgently needs to encourage increased entrepreneurship, critical thinking, creativity, language skills and social studies in our high schools, colleges and universities.”

“The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC helps create global citizens through its work with teachers, students and policymakers in Washington, DC, nationally, and internationally,” said Edie Fraser, Chairwoman of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC. “I am delighted that three distinguished public servants – Hon. Ray LaHood, Hon. Jim Moran, and Hon. Nick Rahall – are active leaders on our Board.”

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is ‘A Leading Forum for Global Education and International Affairs’ and an institution ‘Where Learning Happens’. The Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community, of geopolitical, business, environmental and civil society issues, in our inter-connected world.

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**Hon. Ray LaHood**, a former U.S. Representative from Illinois (1994-2008), became the Secretary of Transportation under President Barack Obama in 2009. Until his nomination by Obama, his most prominent moment as a member of Congress came in 1998, when he presided over House impeachment hearings for President Bill Clinton. Previously, he served in the Illinois House of Representatives in 1982 and 1983, and, before and after that period, as an aide to other Illinois congressional representatives (1977-1982 and 1983-1994). LaHood studied education and sociology at Bradley University, earning a bachelor of science degree in 1971. He taught junior high and worked as a local-government planner before entering politics in 1977.

**Hon. James Moran** is a retired U.S. Representative from the 8th District of Virginia. Congressman Moran served twelve terms in the U.S. House of Representatives; serving as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment, while also serving on the Defense and Military Construction Subcommittees before retiring in 2014. Throughout his more than two decades of service Congressman Moran lead efforts on regional transportation, fair and open trade, and fiscal discipline. He helped boost investments in Northern Virginia's defense and technology sector and advance procurement reform at the Pentagon. Congressman Moran also helped fund the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.

**Hon. Nick Rahall** is a retired U.S. Representative for the third congressional district of West Virginia. First elected in 1976 Rahall served 19 terms in the United States House of Representatives. Congressman Rahall was a longstanding member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leading Federal Highway debates, working to rebuild bridges and repair highways, improve and modernize airports, and improve water and sewer systems. Rahall also served on the Natural Resources Committee. Congressman Rahall is a 33rd Degree Mason, a life-time member of the National Rifle Association, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of the Moose, and the NAACP.

**Edie Fraser** is CEO of STEMconnector and MillionWomenMentors and Vice Chair of Diversified Search. Ms. Fraser was Founder and CEO of Diversity Best Practices (DBP). She was publisher of the CEO Magazine, The Diversity Primer and The Diversity Officer. Ms. Fraser is also the founder of the Business Women's Network (BWN) and Best Practices in Corporate Communications (BPCC), and is former President of a PR agency. She has won 43 major awards in Diversity and Women's Leadership. Ms. Fraser sits on numerous boards and advisory boards which include: World Affairs Council of Washington; Enterprising Women Magazine.