

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

Global Perspectives, Local Conversations

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

World Affairs Council of Greater Houston is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of the world – its people, politics, economies, and cultures – to enable the Houston community to participate more effectively in the world.

World Affairs Council of Greater Houston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded by individual and corporate members.



PILLARS OF SERVICE



PROGRAMS

The Council hosts expert-led lectures, panel discussions, luncheons, film screenings and networking events.



EDUCATION

The Council connects students to global leaders and offers educators personal and professional development opportunities.



GLOBAL TRAVEL

The Council specializes in small group travel exploring remarkable locations and providing unique travel experiences.

A woman with dark hair, smiling, is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace. A large, white, stylized 'NO' is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering her. The background is a solid dark color.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As leader of one of the Houston's premiere educational organizations, focused on global affairs, I am proud to report a year full of exciting programming. The staff, partners, and board members played a crucial role in achieving the Council's educational goals while successfully navigating the constraints imposed by the ongoing covid pandemic.

While 2021 continued to be a challenging year for many organizations, the Council remained committed to its mission -- to provide world-class international programming for adults and students throughout Greater Houston.

The Council continues to be an integral part of the vibrant and diverse Houston international community, and aligning with our region's growth, the Council identified new opportunities to include an increasingly important multi-cultural population.

In 2021, the Council delivered 78 programs to our members, guests and students, and was honored to host international leaders and speakers such as, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates; former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner; Chelsea Clinton from the Clinton Foundation; former editor of TIME magazine Walter Isaacson; and Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum and the Davos Summit, among others.

We remain grateful to the program registrants who continued enjoying the Council's programming, by joining us both virtually and in person. The Council's operation would not be possible without the support of our members and corporate partners, who went the extra mile to support the Council.

In this time of increased international concern, the Council reaffirms its commitment to provide objective, bi-partisan conversations to help all of us achieve greater international understanding and collaboration.

With appreciation,

Maryanne Maldonado, CEO

PROGRAMS

The Council hosts international speakers, thought-leaders, and expert-led lectures, panel discussions, luncheons, and film screenings.

2021 SUMMARY

78 Events

48 Global Affairs Webinars

16 Global Connections Programs

10 Global Young Professionals

4 Council Cabinet Programs

FEATURED SPEAKERS

John Boehner

53rd Speaker of the House of Representatives

Representative Adam Schiff

28th District of California

Admiral James Stavridis

16th Supreme Allied Commander NATO

Princess Reema bint Bandar

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the U.S.

Borge Brende

President World Economic Forum & Davos Summit

Mary McCord

Fmr. Assistant Attorney General of the U.S.

Walter Isaacson

Fmr. Editor of TIME Magazine

Robert O. Work

32nd Under Secretary of Defense of the U.S.

Vicki Hollub

President & CEO of Occidental Petroleum

Stephen Slick

Fmr. Director for Intelligence, National Security Council

Rt. Col. Christopher Kolenda

1st. U.S. Commander to fight & negotiate with Taliban

Andrea Kendall-Taylor

Fmr. Dep. National Intelligence Officer for Russia, NIC

Robert Gates

22nd Secretary of Defense of the U.S.

Representative Dan Crenshaw

2nd. District of Texas

Ben Rhodes

Fmr. Chief Speechwriter for President Obama

David Rank

Fmr. Acting U.S. Ambassador to China

James Olson

Fmr. Director of Counterintelligence, CIA

Chelsea Clinton

Clinton Foundation

David Rubenstein

Co-Founder of The Carlyle Group

Sharon Nazarian

Vice President of Anti-Defamation League

Robert Costa

Washington Post - National Political Reporter

Michael O'Hanlon

Dir. Foreign Policy Research,
Brookings Institution

Gustavo Tardin Barbosa

CEO of Petrobras Americas

Rushan Abbas

Founder of Campaign for Uyghurs



2021

Virtual Events



2021

2021 JESSE H. JONES AWARDS LUNCHEON

In celebration of the 23rd Annual Jesse H. Jones Award, the World Affairs Council was proud to recognize Starlee Sykes, Senior VP of Mexico & Canada of bp America, and Alistair Vickers, CEO of bp Wind Energy as 2021 International Citizens of the Year.



Starlee Sykes
Senior Vice President
Gulf of Mexico and Canada, bp



Alistair Vickers
Chief Executive Officer
bp Wind Energy



2021 Global Leaders of Influence



Sofia Adrogué
Partner
Diamond McCarthy, LLP



Cristal Montañez Baylor
International Coordinator
Hope for Venezuelan Refugees Project



Heather Cykoski
Group Vice President
ABB



Randy Czarlinsky
Regional Director
American Jewish Committee



Linda Head
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor
Lone Star College



Deanea LeFlore
Senior Director, Partnerships
The Ion



Katie Mehnert
Founder and CEO
ALLY Energy



Dr. Laura Murillo
President and CEO
Houston Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce



Alicia Kerber Palma
Consul General of Mexico
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Miguel Sanchez
Vice President, International Operations
Nabors Industries



Y. Ping Sun
University Representative, Rice University
Of Counsel, Yetter Coleman, LLP



SPECIAL THANKS TO JESSE H. JONES AWARD SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

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LONE STAR
COLLEGE

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& MARTHA ROCKS



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EDUCATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Council designs educational programs:

- to generate discussion and deepen knowledge of global issues;
- to increase cross-cultural awareness and understanding;
- to provide international networking opportunities.



Outreach

60

Global Scholar Academy Students

40

Student World Affairs Councils (SWACs)

35

SWAC Councils Served

21

School Districts Served

ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST 2021 INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA COMPETITION

1st Place
Episcopal
High School



2nd Place
Dulles High School
(Fort Bend ISD)



3rd Place
The Post Oak
School

200 students competed globally.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Student World Affairs Councils (SWACs) focuses on preparing future professionals for international careers by prioritizing interactive cultural experiences, global knowledge, professional networking opportunities and academic excellence.

Key events included: Cross-Cultural Collaborations, the Sustainable Solutions Summit, the SWAC Insider Series, and Academic WorldQuest.

In 2021, the Education Department expanded its programming to online events, webinars, and summits. These online programs brought in students, teachers, and families who benefitted from global education from the comfort of their home.



SWAC HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTERS

Angleton Christian School
Awty International School
Academy of Choice
Bellaire High School
Caney Creek High School
Clements High School
Cey Home School Group
Cristo Rey Jesuit College Prep
Duchesne Academy
Elsik Ninth Grade Center
Episcopal High School
East Early College High School
Farrell Academy
First Baptist Christian Academy
Glenda Dawson High School
Houston Bay Area Homeschools
Houston Academy for Int. Studies
International Leadership of Texas
Jack Yates High School
Jane Long Academy
Katy High School
Kingwood High School
Lutheran South Academy
Memorial High School
MacArthur High School
Northside High School

Memorial High School
MacArthur High School
Northside High School
North Houston Early College HS
PAIR Houston
Post Oak School
Ridge Point High School
Seven Lakes High School
Sharpstown International School
Silsbee High School
Stephen F. Austin High School
Stratford High School
St. Pius X High School
Strake Jesuit College Preparatory
Victory Early College High School
Windmill Lakes Orem High School
Waller High School
Woodlands High School
Waltrip High School
Wheatley High School
William B. Travis High School
Woodlands College Park High School
Young Women's College Preparatory

EDUCATORS

The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston's Educational programming extends not only to middle school, high school, and college students but also to **Teachers and Education Administrators**. Through the Council's professional development workshops, educators fulfill continuing education requirements approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Our workshops, webinars, and global summits allow educators to connect with Houston's diverse Education community and exchange best classroom practices. Educator workshops feature experts and authorities in politics, history, culture, and economics, and also provide resources and lesson plans for immediate use.



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