

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.



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

PLATINUM SPONSORS

accenture



aramco



McKinsey
& Company

SILVER SPONSORS

Deloitte

HALLIBURTON

JONES
DAY

P. J. MORAN
FOUNDATION

Transocean



BRONZE SPONSORS

CALLON
PETROLEUM

CHAMPIONX



DX
SERVICE

ENERGY WORKFORCE
& TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

EY
Building a better
working world

HOUSTON
AIRPORTS

Infosys
Navigate your next

KENNETH TUBMAN

KPMG

LONE STAR
COLLEGE

MARVIN MCMURREY
& MARTHA ROCKS



NABORS

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

NOIA
America's Offshore Energy Industry

RICE

RSM

SID MCCLENDON



Weatherford

WOM
WORLDWIDE OILFIELD MACHINE

STUDENT TABLE SPONSORS

CHUKWUEMEKA
A. OYOLU

Houston Public Media
A SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
PBS npr

MADISON CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION INC.

STEPHANIE
TSURU

LYNN
HUGHES

MEDIA PARTNER

HOUSTON
BUSINESS JOURNAL

VIP RECEPTION SPONSOR

aramco



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.



2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Mark Anderson
RSM US Consulting

PRESIDENT

Vivek Chidambaram
Accenture

VICE PRESIDENT

Diane Gendel
Community Volunteer

TREASURER

Chukwuemeka Oyolu
LyondellBasell

SECRETARY

Jennifer Smith
JMS Arbitration

Saba Abashawl

Anne Boss

John Brantley

Vivek Chidambaram

Rachel Clingman

Galen Cobb

Alan Crain

Suzan Deison

Phil DeLozier

Antony D'Souza

Michol Ecklund

John England

Seth Fisher

Lyle Ganske

Charles Gengler

Sean Gorman

Michaela Greenan

Zachary Hodges

Lynn Hughes

Cyndi Hunter

David Jones

Arthur Kaplun

Stephen Kramer

Christine LaFollette

Beth Madison

Will Marsh

Elizabeth Matthews

Sid McClendon

David Michels

Paula Ann Miller

Pat Moran

Sallie Morian

Frank Mount

Maureen O'Driscoll-Levy

Kevin O'Gorman

Susan Osterberg

Kevin Pasha

Daron Peschel

Ben Proler

Revati Puranik

T.J. Raguso

Ender Reed

Brad Ringleb

Eddie Robinson

Martha Rocks

Leslie Shockley Beyer

Soma Somasundaram

Nick Tran

Stephanie Tsuru

Ken Tubman

Jesse Tutor

Jose Valera

Dr. Robert Wilkins

Dr. Kelly Zuniga

2021-2022 STAFF



Maryanne Maldonado
Chief Executive Officer



Sandija Bayot
Chief Development Officer



Jack Sim
Chief Financial Officer



Cheri Rocha
Administrative Services Manager



Ronan O'Malley
Director of Programs



Shane Brewer
Education Coordinator



Marco Bracamontes
Marketing &
Communications Manager



Jahan Jafapour
Global Young
Professionals Manager



Maureen Bracho
Travel & Membership
Coordinator



Ray Cunningham
Executive in Residence



Christopher Ashby
Ambassador in Residence

World Affairs Council of Greater Houston

2500 East T.C. Jester

Suite 350

Houston, Texas 77008

(713) 522-7811

wachouston.org



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

2021-2022 STAFF



Maryanne Maldonado
Chief Executive Officer



Sandija Bayot
Chief Development Officer



Jack Sim
Chief Financial Officer



Cheri Rocha
Administrative Services Manager



Ronan O'Malley
Director of Programs



Shane Brewer
Education Coordinator



Marco Bracamontes
Marketing &
Communications Manager



Jahan Jafapour
Global Young
Professionals Manager



Maureen Bracho
Travel & Membership
Coordinator



Itziar Vazquez
Marketing Coordinator



Ray Cunningham
Executive in Residence



Christopher Ashby
Ambassador in Residence