



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

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Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for our dedicated supporters, partners, and members who continue to drive the mission of the Council forward. The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering global education, civic engagement, and international dialogue that empowers our city and beyond.

This year has been one of remarkable growth and impact. Through our diverse programming, we have hosted thought-provoking discussions with global leaders, facilitated educational initiatives that inspire the next generation, and provided unique opportunities for Houstonians to engage with the world.

In the wake of evolving global challenges, the importance of understanding international affairs has never been more critical. The World Affairs Council has embraced this moment with resilience and innovation, offering insightful forums, diplomatic engagements, and cultural exchanges that have enriched our collective knowledge and broadened perspectives. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our members, donors, volunteers, and dedicated board. Your commitment allows us to remain a vital resource for international engagement in Houston, reinforcing our city's reputation as a global hub for diplomacy, business, and cultural exchange.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening our partnerships, and fostering meaningful connections that bridge communities. The future of global engagement begins here.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are shaping a more informed, connected, and globally engaged future.

With appreciation,



MARYANNE MALDONADO, CEO



# THE MISSION

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The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston is dedicated to promote greater understanding of the world, its people, politics, economies and cultures, and to enable the Greater Houston community to better understand its role and participate more effectively in a global world.

## PILLARS OF SERVICE

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### EDUCATION

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



### PROGRAMS

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



### TRAVEL

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

# EDUCATION

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The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston prepares future professionals for international careers by delivering high quality events, cultural experiences, global knowledge, and professional network opportunities.



# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

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## 2300+

Students Participants

## 550+

Model UN Program  
Participants

## 144

Academic WorldQuest  
Students

## 110+

Global Scholars  
Academy Registrations

## 89

Scouting Merit Badge  
Students





# STUDENT WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS

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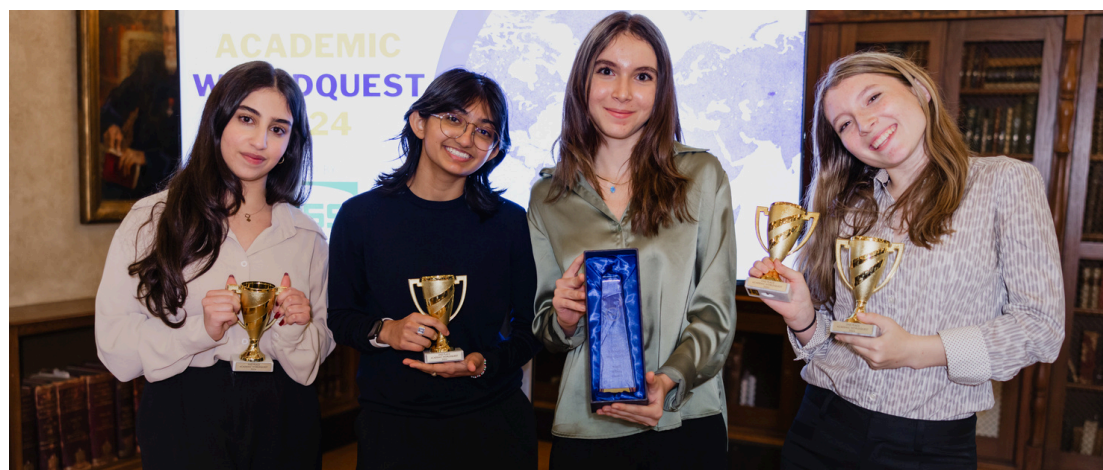
**Awty International School**  
**Aldine ISD**  
**Caney Creek High School**  
**Carnegie Vanguard**  
**Chavez High School**  
**Duchesne Academy**  
**Episcopal High School**  
**Energy Institute High School**  
**First Baptist Christian Academy**  
**Galena Park High School**  
**Harmony School of Advancement**  
**Houston Academy for International Studies**  
**Houston Christian High School**  
**ILTexas Aggieland High School**  
**ILTexas Katy Westpark High School**  
**ILTexas Windmill Lakes Orem High School**  
**Incarnate Word Academy**  
**Jack Yates High School**  
**Katy High School**  
**Kinder HSPVA**  
**Lutheran South Academy**  
**Memorial High School**  
**North Houston Early College High School**  
**Second Baptist High School**  
**Sharpstown International School**  
**St. John's School**  
**Strake Jesuit High School**  
**The Post Oak School**  
**The Village School**  
**Tomball Memorial High School**  
**Waller High School**



# 2024 ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST

## The Ultimate Global Affairs Competition

Academic WorldQuest is a fast-paced, team-based competition for high school students to test their knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history, and world cultures.



# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST 2024 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMPETITION



**1st Place**  
**Carnegie Vanguard**  
**High School**

After emerging victorious in Academic WorldQuest in Houston, the winning team traveled to Washington D.C. to compete against 91 other cities, earning an impressive **3rd place in the national competition.**





# GLOBAL SCHOLARS ACADEMY

## International enrichment program for High School students

A week long program designed to provide an exclusive and unique opportunity to learn about international affairs and prepare for an international future.

Throughout the week, students explore fascinating topics such as:

- International Relations, International Organizations, and the nature of the International order
- The tools of Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
- International Development and Trade
- The Global South and Colonial Legacies
- Sustainability and the Environment





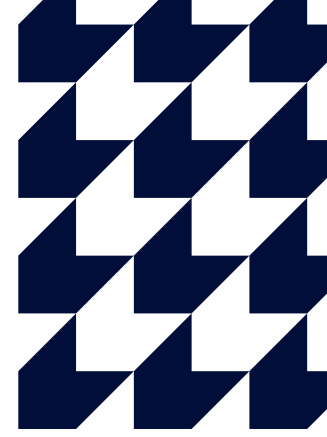
# MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston provided Merit Badge classes designed to improve civic engagement, arm Scouts with global awareness, and create well-rounded Eagle Scouts!



# YOUTH DIPLOMACY FORUM



Youth Diplomacy Forum is a transformative experience that features a unique opportunity for students and educators to engage with diplomats, subject experts, and industry leaders while participating in immersive activities to explore and engage deeply with key international issues.



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

The Council hosts world-renowned expert speakers, thought-leaders, and acclaimed authors for lectures, panel discussions, luncheons, film screenings and networking events.



**6200+**

Program Registrants

**1600+**

Memberships

**120+**

Programs & Events



# 2024 SPEAKERS

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## **Marie Arana**

Peruvian-American Author, Journalist and the inaugural Literary Director of the Library of Congress

## **Max Boot**

Historian, Biographer, Author, and Foreign-Policy Analyst

## **David Brooks**

Author, NYT's Columnist, Political and Cultural commentator

## **Christopher Combs**

Former Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's San Antonio Division

## **Ed Emmett**

Fmr. Harris County Judge

## **Malcolm Gladwell**

Journalist, Author and staff writer for The New Yorker

## **Morgan Luttrell**

Veteran and Representative of Texas' 8th Congressional District

## **Pearly Pandya**

Director, International Government Business, Axiom Space

## **Tobias Billström**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

## **Talmage Boston**

Attorney, Author, Presidential and Baseball Historian

## **Steve Coll**

Two-time Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

## **Admiral Phillip S. Davidson**

25th Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command

## **Richard Fontaine**

CEO of the Center for a New American Security

## **Kelly Graham**

BME Flight Controller at Johnson Space Center, KBR Inc

## **Lt. General H.R McMaster**

25th United States National Security Advisor

## **David Petraeus**

U.S. Army General and 4th Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

**Nancy Pelosi**

52nd Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

**Jenn Psaki**

34th White House Press Secretary

**Skand Ranjan Tayal**

Former Indian Ambassador to Uzbekistan and Republic of Korea

**Lt. General Sami Sadat**

Final commander of Afghan Special Operations

**David Satterfield**

Former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey & Jordan, Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs

**Ernest Scheyder**

Journalist, Author and Senior Correspondent for Reuters

**Jim Sciutto**

Chief National Security Correspondent for CNN

**Paul Starobin**

Nonresident Scholar in Global Diplomacy at the Baker Institute & Former U.S. Foreign

**John Sullivan**

19th U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, 10th U.S. Ambassador to Russia

**Yaroslav Trofimov**

Chief Foreign-Affairs Correspondent at The Wall Street Journal

**Chase Untermeyer**

Fmr. United States Ambassador to Qatar

**Diego Vicentini**

Venezuelan Award-winning Film Director

**Gretchen Watkins**

President of Shell Oil Company USA

**Grier Wilt**

CapCom and Spacewalk Flight Controller and Instructor, NASA

**Jerry Zimmerer, J.D., LL.M**

Justice of the Texas 14th Court of Appeals



# GLOBAL ENERGY SUMMIT

Where the world's leading minds converge to address the critical challenges and opportunities in today's energy landscape. **The Global Energy Summit** explores the complexities of the energy transition amidst global challenges, the urgency of establishing an equitable energy system, and the ever-evolving energy landscape.



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS & U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

# INSTITUTE

Established in 2021

The Institute is a professional development program tailored for individuals in international business, government, diplomacy, global risk analysis, and NGOs. Offering comprehensive insights, it navigates global affairs, geopolitics, and U.S. foreign policy through expert-led sessions and interactive discussions, fostering applicable knowledge across diverse fields.

# 60

Graduates in 2024

# 178

Total Graduates







# GLOBAL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Empowering the next generation of leaders, the Global Young Professionals (GYP) is dedicated to fostering a vibrant community of ambitious individuals passionate about global affairs, cultural exchange and meaningful connections.



# ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SYMPOSIUM



LEADERSHIP. EMPOWERMENT. ACHIEVEMENT. DIVERSITY

L.E.A.D. is a thoughtfully curated professional development afternoon featuring a **pinnacle lineup of presenters** offering impactful dialogue followed by a champagne reception in an atmosphere advantageous to **meaningful networking** and building long lasting relationships.

Uniting Women Locally and Globally  
to #LEADWithPurpose



# 2024 SPEAKERS



Safa Alcaisy  
SLB



Isoken Ehi Aderede  
DNV



Valérie Baraban  
Consul General  
France



Sandija Bayot  
WAC



Nadia Bollinger  
Amazon  
Web Services



Meg Booth  
Performing Arts  
Houston



Jennifer Carvajal  
Pepsi Co.



Martha Castex-Tatum  
Mayor Pro- Tem  
Houston



Cathy Easter  
Houston  
Methodist



Alexandra Franceschi  
Apache



Jessica Heckel  
UBS



Jasmine Kirchhoff  
Influencer



Sahar Mahmood  
Exxon Mobil



Maryanne  
Maldonado  
WAC



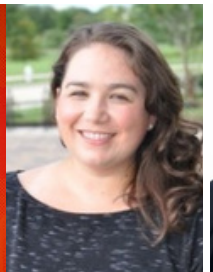
Maria Moncada  
Porsche



Judy Moses  
Chevron



Jessica O'Neill  
DASH



Megan Ortiz  
Axiom Space



Alina Parast  
Champion X



Kevin Pasha  
JP Morgan



Daron Peschel  
Federal Reserve  
Bank



Bobbi Petersen  
HESS



Liliana Rambo  
Houston Airports  
Systems



Nick Tran  
SLB







# JESSE H. JONES AWARDS LUNCHEON

A GLOBAL CONVERSATION WITH  
26th United States National Security Advisor  
Lt. General H.R. McMaster



## 2024 HONOREES

2024 International Citizen  
of the Year

*Mark Lashier*

Chairman and CEO of Phillips 66



Global Education and  
Institutional Leadership Award

*Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher*

Chancellor of Houston Community College



Global Philanthropy Award

*The Chao Family*



THE 2024  
GLOBAL LEADERS OF *Influence*

The Jones Awards Luncheon recognizes Global Leaders for their international impact, exceptional leadership, and outstanding contributions to Houston's international spirit.

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**NORY ANGEL**

American Leadership Forum



**MOHAMMAD ANWAR**

Softway and Culture+



**MARY BASS**

Spencer Stuart



**ALMA DEL TORO**

Blue Wave



**ALI DHANJI**

Raymond James



**DARCIE DURHAM**

HTX Labs



**ROLAND GARCIA**

Greenberg Traurig, LLP



**LILAC GUZMAN**

Gastech Engineering



**NICOLAS JIMENEZ**

Comcast



**JESSICA KIPP**

HP



**BONNA KOL**

Asia Society Texas



**PEGGY LIVANIOS**

U.S. Energy Stream



**AMANDA MARTIN-BROCK**

Aris Water Solutions



**ELIZABETH MCGEE**

Intel



**MARIA MONCADA  
ALAOUI**

Sonic Automotive



**RUSSELL RICHARD**

Center for Houston's Future



**JESS RICHARDS**

Transocean



**ANDRE'A STREETER**

Microsoft



**TYSON VOELKEL**

Texas A&M Foundation

# GLOBAL TRAVEL

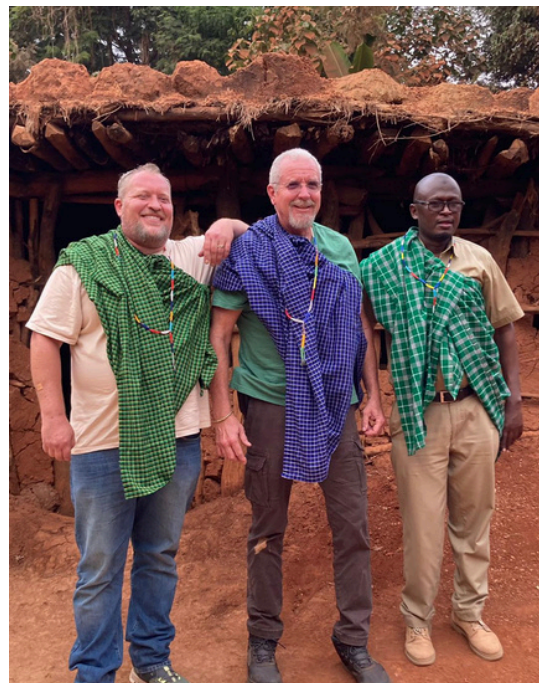
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Guided by the Council's mission and by engaging in people-to-people, in-country exchanges, Council travelers receive greater global understanding and create deep personal relationships around the world.

## 2024 DESTINATIONS

CUBA • EGYPT • NEPAL • BHUTAN • TANZANIA • AZERBAIJAN • GEORGIA • ARMENIA





# 2024 STAFF

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**Maryanne Maldonado**

Chief Executive Officer



**Sandija Bayot**

Chief Development Officer



**Jack Sim**

Chief Financial Officer



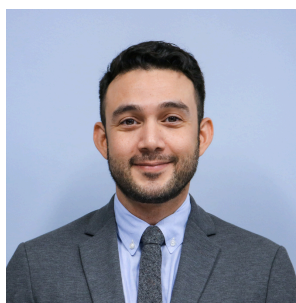
**Ronan O'Malley**

Chief Programs Officer



**Cheri Rocha**

Director of Operations



**Jahan Jafapour**

Director of Programs



**Sofia Sanchez**

Programs & Special Events  
Coordinator



**Eli Quezada**

Membership Coordinator



**Shane Brewer**

Senior Education  
Manager



**Ethan Eyre**

Education  
Manager



**Maria Guarache**

Marketing Manager



**Itziar Vazquez**

Senior Marketing  
Manager



**David Dennis**

Finance Manager



**Christopher Romero**

Finance Coordinator



**Christopher Ashby**

Ambassador in Residence

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### CHAIR

Antony Dsouza  
*DNV*

### PRESIDENT

Arthur Kaplun  
*EY LLP*

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kenneth Tubman  
*PPA Resources*

### TREASURER

Paula Ann Miller  
*P.A. Miller Consulting, Inc*

### SECRETARY

Elizabeth Matthews  
*Bristow Group Inc.*

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Saba Abashawl

*Houston Airports*

David Adams

*Halliburton*

Mark Anderson

*Board Member*

Mamadou Beye

*Chevron*

Anne Boss

*Boss Group*

Vivek Chidambaram

*Accenture*

Alan Crain

*Board Member*

Heather Cykoski

*Board Member*

Suzan Deison

*Greater Houston*

*Women's Chamber of  
Commerce*

Phil DeLozier

*Board Member*

Diane Gendel

*Board Member*

Zachary Hodges

*Houston Community  
College*

J.J. Hollie

*Avion Wealth*

Lynn Hughes

*U.S. District Court Judge*

Agustin Izquierdo

*LyondelBasell*

Christine LaFollette

*Board Member*

Laura Logan

*ExxonMobil*

Beth Madison

*Madison Benefits*

Sid McClendon

*Board Member*

David Michels

*Kinder Morgan, Inc*

Jeff Miers

*Amazon Web Services*

Bruce Miller

*SLB*

Pat Moran

*Moran Exploration*

Sallie Morian

*Board Member*

Maureen

O'Driscoll-Levy

*Board Member*

Kevin O'Gorman

*Norton Rose Fulbright US  
LLP*

Bret Oliver

*PwC*

Susan Osterberg

*UH Downtown*

Chukwuemeka

Oyolu

*LyondelBasell*

Kevin Pasha

*J.P. Morgan*

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*Federal Reserve Bank*

T.J. Raguso

*Amegy Bank*

Ken Rice

*Loomis US*

Brad Ringleb

*KPMG US*

Eddie Robinson

*Prairie View A&M*

*University*

Martha Rocks

*Martha Turner Sotheby's  
International Realty*

Eric Schmauch

*United Airlines*

Andrew Slentz

*Hess Corporation*

Jennifer M. Smith

*JMS Arbitration*

Peggy Smith

*Baylor College of  
Medicine*

Soma

Somasundaram

*ChampionX*

Nick Tran

*Invictus Ventures Group*

Jesse Tutor

*Board Member*

Rupesh Vadapalli

*Deloitte*

Jose Valera

*Mayer Brown*

Michaela van

Schalkwyk

*Phillips 66*

Stuart Vogt

*Transocean*

# 2024 COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERS

accenture

Akin

aws

AmegyBank  
of Texas

aramco

ASIA  
SOCIETY  
TEXAS

THE ASTROS  
FOUNDATION



Blue Wave  
Supplier Development Program



CHAMPIONX



COMCAST

Consular Corps  
of Houston

Deloitte



DRESS FOR  
SUCCESS  
HOUSTON



ExxonMobil



Fred and Mabel R. Parks  
Foundation



GARDENIA  
FOUNDATION

GasTech  
Engineering LLC

GT GreenbergTraurig

HALLIBURTON



HOUSTON  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

HCC  
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



HOUSTON  
Methodist  
LEADING MEDICINE



Hyla  
Houston Young  
Lawyers Association

JONES  
DAY

J.P.Morgan

KPMG

LUMMUS  
TECHNOLOGY

LYB LyondellBasell

McKinsey  
& Company

MORAN EXPLORATION, L.P.

NORTON ROSE  
FULBRIGHT



PORSCHE  
Porsche River Oaks

pwc

RSM

Schneider  
Electric

SH Sam Houston  
State University



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

The James C. and  
Teresa K. Day  
Foundation

TING TSUNG AND WEI FONG  
CHAO FOUNDATION

Transocean



UNA\*USA  
Houston Chapter

WESTLAKE  
FOUNDATION

GREATER  
HOUSTON  
WOMEN'S  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE WOODLANDS AREA  
CHAMBER  
of COMMERCE

WOM  
WORLDWIDE OILFIELD MACHINE



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

*Global Perspectives, Local Conversations*

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(713) 522-7811

[wachouston.org](http://wachouston.org)