

GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By engaging locals in citizen diplomacy, the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council is building connections and working against polarization here at home and around the world. Together in 2016 we welcomed 316 visitors and interpreters, our largest annual headcount ever, up from 253 visitors and interpreters in 2015. Through professional exchange, we are creating dialogue and strengthening mutual understanding, an important component of national security.

Our office provides opportunities for locals to explore global issues through youth leadership exchanges, school visits, and our International Speaker Series. We brainstorm ways to get people involved, and our members make these plans and dreams a reality by meeting groups in professional settings, attending networking coffees, providing homestays, and connecting visitors with the community at large. As for our those who participate in our Dinner with a Delegate program, they are the backbone of our hospitality efforts!

In the following pages, you will find statistics underscoring the successes of 2016. None would have been possible without the support of the community and the **overwhelming enthusiasm of our membership**.

Our work continues in 2017 as we strive to achieve a more prosperous and secure world. Thank you for joining the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council on this journey.



2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION

The Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council is a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose mission is to create and encourage collaboration between like-minded community stakeholders who value sharing the central Gulf Coast with the rest of the world by:

- Facilitating professional and personal interaction for international leaders during official visits to the central Gulf Coast
- Enhancing respect and communication through international exchanges and alliances
- Forging cultural, educational, and business relationships with the global community through citizen diplomacy
- Promoting greater understanding of global affairs in our community through a balance of public events, educational activities, and the IVLP
- Promoting the central Gulf Coast as an important center of commerce, culture, and tourism

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<i>Support and Revenue</i>	<i>FY 2016 (12 mos)</i>	<i>FY 2015 (9 mos)*</i>
Grants	\$ 93,940	\$ 72,606
Program Service Revenue	\$ 37,942	\$ 18,301
Membership Dues	\$ 11,110	\$ 6,055
Income from Interest	\$ 341	\$ 253
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 33,685	\$ 31,465
Events	\$ 2,803	\$ 811
All Other Contributions	<u>\$ 3,250</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 183,071	\$ 129,491
<i>Expenses</i>		
Program Services	\$ 146,496	\$ 107,134
Management & General	\$ 21,920	\$ 11,988
Fundraising	<u>\$ 11,389</u>	<u>\$ 3,943</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 179,805	\$ 123,065
<i>Liabilities & Assets</i>		
Cash & Savings	\$ 100,242	\$ 96,976
Other Assets	\$ 1,428	\$ 1,428
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & ASSETS	\$ 101,670	\$ 98,404

* In 2015 we shifted the beginning of our fiscal year to match that of the federal fiscal year.

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IMPACT

We are proud of the economic impact our program has, but what really excites us are the intangible impacts we are making. We like to think of our members as active citizen diplomacy gardeners who are busy planting seeds of mutual understanding here at home and around the world.

Thirty-five current and 314 former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government are International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumni, but alumni also include artists, teachers, doctors, attorneys, and law enforcement professionals. As you hear from those you have met, let us know what they are doing because we love hearing about their important work.

In 2016, we welcomed people from 89 different countries and introduced dozens of American interpreters and liaison officers to the Pensacola area. With the help of Board Member Julie Tippins Parker and two of our interns, we created a local guide for our visitors which focuses on area history, shopping, and dining.

We offered four opportunities for visitors to engage locals through our International Speaker Series. A member also gave a presentation on the work she did in 2015 while on a Department of State reverse professional exchange to Cambodia, and we partnered with the Women's Civic Forum to celebrate International Woman's Day.

To foster informed dialogue and to help prepare area youth for an increasingly interconnected world, we hired five university interns, sent international visitors into 32 area classrooms, and worked with dozens of local and international high school students through three different U.S. Department of State youth leadership exchanges.

June brought with it the first meeting of the Young Professionals of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council committee. Soon after its inaugural meeting, members began interacting with international visitors at mixers,





Bands on the Beach, and the occasional evening at Rosie O'Grady's Piano Bar.

We also partnered with ARC Gateway, Feeding the Gulf Coast, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manna Food Pantries, Ocean Hour, and Serving the Hungary at First United Methodist Church of Pensacola to coordinate 17 volunteer activities for visitors.

We offered 14 community coffees, 11 receptions and potlucks, and we assigned over 70 IVLP participants to members who welcomed them into their homes for meals. All 316 visitors and interpreters received honorary citizenship with the City of Pensacola.



We continued to look for outreach opportunities and were one of the sponsors of the University of West Florida (UWF) Inclusion Series. We facilitated 256 meetings between locals and international visitors. Board members and staff made 10 community presentations, one of our IVLP participants was featured on *Conversations with Jeff Weeks*, and our visitors began writing well-received opinion pieces for the *Pensacola News Journal*.



In April our program coordinator traveled to Mexico on a fully-funded exchange to attend a reunion of past Mexican exchange students. In the fall, our executive director trained staff from the citizen diplomacy councils of Albuquerque, San Antonio, and Kalamazoo in IVLP best practices.

It was an eventful and good year for citizen diplomacy in northwest Florida!

LOCAL IMPACT

GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

ESCAMBIA & SANTA ROSA COUNTIES, FLORIDA

Economic Impact 2016

<p><u>U.S. Department of State & U.S. Library of Congress Lodging Funding</u> The Citizen Diplomacy Council hosted 316 visitors & interpreters in 2016. Two hundred and seventy of them stayed in hotels a total of 1,066 nights. (\$137,011 in hotel rooms plus \$5,529 in taxes)</p>	<p>\$142,540</p>
<p><u>U.S. Department of State Transportation Funding</u> Funds were provided for local transportation of delegates in tour buses. <i>This figure does not include their flights into Pensacola Regional Airport nor does it include the occasional rental car transactions handled directly by the interpreters.</i></p>	<p>\$44,119</p>
<p><u>U.S. Department of State Per Diem & Visitors' Personal Expenditures</u> Each adult professional & interpreter received a per diem of \$59 a day to use for taxis and food. In addition, delegates spent a considerable amount of time in their off-hours shopping. (\$59 a day x 1,066 days in town = \$62,894 + unknown shopping expenditures)</p>	<p>\$62,894</p>
<p><u>U.S. Department of State & U.S. Library of Congress Grants</u> The council received five grants from the U.S. Department of State and two grants from the U.S. Library of Congress for its citizen diplomacy work.</p>	<p>\$92,245</p>
<p><u>U.S. Department of State & U.S. Library of Congress Cultural Funding</u> Additional funds were provided for cultural activities, meetings, leadership training, and honorariums.</p>	<p>\$18,758</p>
<p><u>Corporate, Individual, and Special Fundraising Contributions</u> Financial and in-kind contributions from corporations and individuals provided support in the form of monetary contributions and in-kind donations.</p>	<p>\$62,862</p>
<p><u>Volunteer Support</u> An estimated 752 hours of volunteer time were donated by community volunteers. In addition, approximately 310 hours of volunteer time were donated in the two counties by the international guests themselves through presentations to classrooms, environmental volunteer projects, assistance at an area soup kitchen, and work in an area food bank. The total value of all volunteer hours is estimated at \$23,449. The Independent Sector calculates the average value of each hour of volunteer time in Florida, based on 2014 figures provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at \$22.08; Please note that 2014 is the latest year for which state-by-state numbers are available as there is a lag of almost one year in the federal government's release of state-level data.</p>	<p>\$23,449</p>
<p>Economic Impact in Escambia & Santa Rosa Counties</p>	<p>\$446,867</p>

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2016 SAMPLE VISITOR & INTERPRETER FEEDBACK

Dinner with Sandra and Rob was the most memorable thing for me. This adorable family made me feel [like] a member of their family. They'll stay in my heart.

- IVLP participant from Mauritania (January 2016)

[What was most memorable was] the kindness of the people.

- IVLP participant from Hungary (January 2016)

The Florida Sunshine law is an example to follow by all countries that want to practice transparency. I will try to practice it in my profession.

- IVLP participant from Tunisia (February 2016)

The community coffee discussion was a great opportunity to discuss with American citizens different subjects including social life.

- IVLP participant from Madagascar (March 2016)

The international visitors liked very much that professional items were mixed with cultural and experiential visits, such as the Flight Academy and the MESS Hall. They say this was the best city of their program! ...and I agree!! Kudos!

- IVLP Arabic interpreter (April 2016)

MEMBERSHIP

The Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council relies on its members for hospitality efforts and project facilitation. In 2016, in addition to attending community coffees, members hosted dinners and brunches, attended our International Speaker Series, were invited to volunteer alongside visitors, and took groups for shoreline walks and boating adventures.

Of our 159 members, 121 held paid memberships. The balance were honorary memberships given in appreciation for hosting visitors for eight days or more in their homes.

At our May 2016 Mint Jubilee, we introduced something new, the Dr. Jack Kichler Hospitality Award. Our first recipient, member Jeannine Van Reeth, answered every homestay request we made the previous year. Through various U.S. Department of State programs, she hosted the mentor with the Brazilian Youth Ambassadors for 12 days, two Pakistani ladies for a month, two Mexican students for 12 days, and a delegate with the U.S. Congressional Open World program for eight days. The award could not have gone to a more involved member.

We would also like to thank a special crew of member volunteers. Throughout the year, member Patricia McGraw wrote thank you notes for all visitors' appointments and hospitality hosts while volunteers Gary McGraw, Kim Rivera, and Susan Senkarik facilitated many of the projects sent our way. We could not have done it without them!

Our Sponsors

Carmen's Lunch Bar

City of Pensacola

Dreamcatcher Shuttle

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

Five Points Consulting

Four Seasons Market & Eatery

Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front

McMahon & Hadder

Premier Island Management Group

Seville Quarter

The Fish House

U.S. Department of State

University of West Florida, International Affairs

Visit Pensacola

Wade, Palmer & Shoemaker, P.A.



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