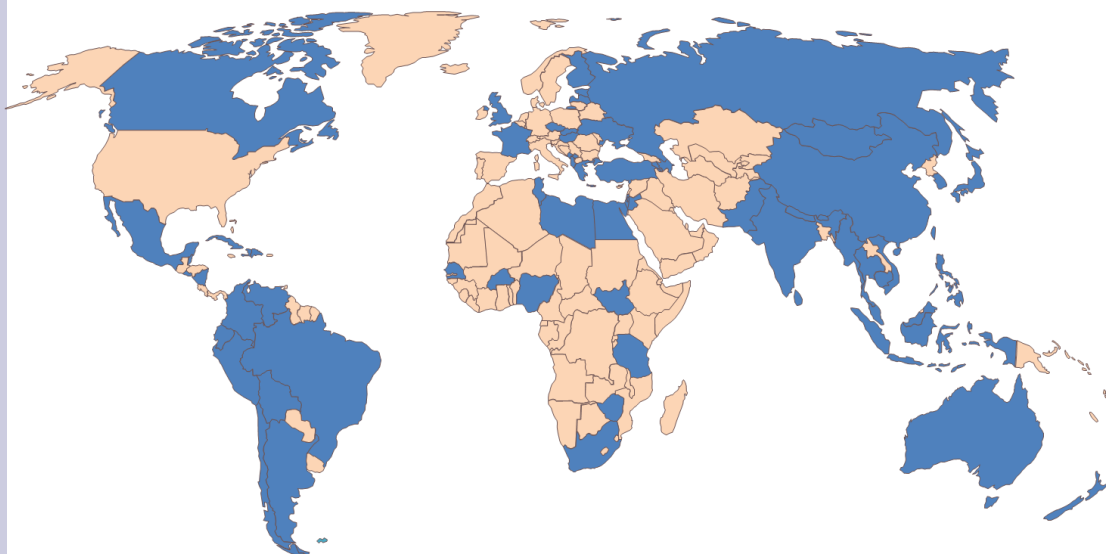




## Annual Report 2018



[www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org](http://www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org)

Journalism      Economic Development      Interfaith Diversity  
Rule of Law      Administration of Justice      Environment  
**Promoting Global Relationships**  
Women's Rights      US Society      Agriculture      Volunteerism  
NGO Management      Grassroots Democracy      Energy  
**"One Handshake at a Time"**  
Emergency Preparedness      Youth      Performing Arts  
Historic & Cultural Preservation      Democracy & Human Rights

# **GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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Partisanship and polarization have become part of our daily lexicon. No matter your news source, division and nationalism dominate the headlines. As mistrust and tensions between governments increase, cross-border communication and personal connections become even more essential, underscoring the important impact of international exchanges.

Our main scope of work, the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State, enjoys bipartisan support in U.S. Congress, and the members of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council fall on both sides of the political aisle. Members value the local and global impact of international exchange and are instrumental to the success of our mission.

We create collaboration by encouraging the sharing of ideas and business cards between opinion-makers and other professionals. We invite locals and visitors to join each other in volunteer activities, and we take our guests into schools for interactive sessions with students. We also create a platform for cultural exchange and hospitality through meals in members' homes and over coffee at community discussions.

Along with building bridges of understanding, in 2018 we focused on training. We partnered with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the U.S. Department of State to offer Mexican law enforcement officers training to combat gender-based violence. We also offered training to two U.S. Department of State youth groups and launched Youth Diplomats, a new leadership program for local teens.

The best way to get to know people and to understand "the why" behind "the what" is to sit and listen to each other. The Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council provides these opportunities, creating connections between northwest Florida and the world. Our members and visitors "discover the why" behind beliefs and policies and create connections in the process. These interactions contribute to our mutual prosperity and security by continuing the tradition of U.S. engagement with the world.

In 2018, we also celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I am grateful for the support and hospitality of our members and community. Without such a foundation, the impact we are making through exchanges and training programs would not occur. I look forward to what the next 10 years of engagement will bring, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I thank you for your role in citizen diplomacy.



# GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

## BY THE NUMBERS

29

Total Programs

69

Countries

represented in 2018 projects

230

Total Participants

6

Continents

represented in 2018 projects

387

Professionals

met locally with the visitors

230

Professional

Appointments

Since 2008, the Gulf Coast Citizen  
Diplomacy Council has worked with:

2,216

International Government Officials, Executives, and Other Emerging Leaders

Top 10 countries by number of participants in 2018:

1. Mexico
2. Pakistan
3. Brazil
4. Russia
5. Bolivia
6. Colombia
7. Armenia
8. Ukraine
9. Azerbaijan
10. France

All countries represented in 2018 projects are in blue on the front cover.

Top 3 program topics in 2018:



Governance and  
Transparency



Business and Trade



Education

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Jurkowich, Chair  
*Levin Renke Realty*

Randle Carpenter  
*Carpenters Law Offices*

E. Ben Posey  
*Wells Fargo*

Linda Wade, Secretary  
*Wade, Palmer, & Shoemaker*

Rebecca Ferguson  
*City of Pensacola*

Todd Thomson  
*Greater Pensacola Chamber*

Jeremy Ochoa, Treasurer  
*University of West Florida*

Allan Ford  
*Retired*

Julie Tippins Parker  
*Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival*

John Adams  
*Guardian Six*

Cookie Kichler  
*Retired*

# GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

## MEMBERSHIP

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The Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council relies on its 164 members for hospitality efforts and project facilitation. In 2018, in addition to attending community coffees, members hosted meals, attended two luncheons with IVLP participants, took visitors to worship, and invited them to their Thanksgiving meals. They volunteered alongside international visitors and opened their homes for homestays for two Open World delegations from Russia.

At our Mint Jubilee, we presented the Dr. Jack Kichler Hospitality Award to Teresa Preston. Teresa frequently invites international visitors to dinner in her home and she and husband Bill are wonderful hosts. In 2017, Teresa jumped into action to save all our Mint Jubilee decorations from the imminent destruction of an unexpected rain shower. Teresa is kind, caring, and a valuable contributor to hospitality in our region.

We also thank a special crew of member volunteers: Patricia McGraw, Susan Senkarik, Stephen Terry, and Julie Tippins Parker dedicated much time to facilitating projects, and Jeannine van Reeth volunteered in our office. We could not have done it without them!

## CONNECT. INFORM. ENGAGE.

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We have an active social media presence, and in 2019 we will work to make our outreach and visibility even stronger. We need your help and ask you to share your support of and activities with citizen diplomacy through your own social media presence.



1

Engage with our posts. Please share, like, and comment to help our Facebook algorithm.



2

Get creative & make personal posts. Start conversations and tag us. See below for our handles. If you use hashtags, we suggest #ChangeThroughExchange and #CitizenDiplomacy.



3

Make us a “see first” page on social media under settings and preferences.



4

Tell your social networks about us and help your friends become citizen diplomats. Our mission and programs are too important to keep to ourselves!

## Our Social Media



@PensacolaDiplomacy



@GCCDC\_Pensacola



@gulfcoastcitizendiplomacy



@gccdc



YOUTH DIPLOMATS

*Challenging students to think about a world  
MUCH BIGGER than their own*

20

**Students**  
in the first year

5

**Schools**  
represented in group

We held the inaugural meeting of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council Youth Diplomats in January with 13 Brazilian and 20 local teens participating in cross-cultural activities.



This is an experiential learning program equipping students with 21st century skills so they can become active global citizens. The group meets once a month to explore topics in global affairs and diplomacy. Students build leadership and communication skills in the process. They discover college and career options, network with global experts, and earn service hours while working with international visitors.

In June, three Youth Diplomats traveled to Washington, D.C., for a series of meetings at the U.S. Department of State and other offices focusing on foreign affairs.



Through this experience I have been able to meet new people, expand my knowledge of global citizenship, and learn how to make an impact not only in my city state and country but also in the world in which we live.

– Alex Smith, Youth Diplomat



# GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

## IMPACT

Did you know ten Nobel Laureates, over 500 former chiefs of state or heads of government, and thousands of non-profit and private sector leaders are International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumni? Citizen diplomats are busy planting seeds of mutual understanding here at home and around the world.

Without our friends in the community, our work would not be possible. In 2018, we partnered with the Institute for Women in Politics of Northwest Florida to host a speaking engagement for an International Woman of Courage, collaborated with the Powerful Women of the Gulf Coast to offer a networking event and luncheon with IVLP participants, and offered two more visitor speaking engagements through our International Speaker Series. We were especially pleased that the 2018 International Artist of the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival first heard about the cherished community event from an Honorary Citizen of Pensacola, an IVLP alumna.

To foster informed dialogue and to prepare area youth for an increasingly interconnected world, we hired four university interns, sent international visitors into 13 area classrooms, and worked with dozens of local and international students through two U.S. Department of State youth exchanges. We also launched Youth Diplomats, a leadership program for local teens interested in foreign affairs.

Through Youth Diplomats, we introduced 20 local teens to the concept of citizen diplomacy and created panels, volunteer activities, and icebreakers so they could learn from the stellar professionals coming our way. Their final 2018 event was conversation over tea with journalists from Pakistan.

We offered 15 community coffees, four mixers, a summer party for Young Professionals, a potluck, and two additional receptions. We also celebrated our 10 year anniversary, hosted a book club evening, arranged for members to



Community Coffee with Journalists from Pakistan



Sharing Ideas through Discussions





Presentation of Honorary Citizenship

join visitors at Winterfest, and co-hosted a *Careers Representing America* networking event with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomat-in-Residence. Members welcomed 64 professionals into their homes for meals. We joined groups at Bands on the Beach and took them sailing. All visitors & interpreters received honorary citizenship with the City of Pensacola.



Volunteering at Serving the Hungry

In 2017, we established the Ashley Hardaway Theriot Study Abroad Scholarship, and in 2018 the University of West Florida (UWF) selected its first recipient. We also welcomed two UWF students to the office for job shadowing days.

We partnered with 4-H, Feeding the Gulf Coast, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manna Food Pantries, Ocean Hour, and Serving the Hungry at First United Methodist Church to coordinate 19 volunteer activities for visitors and four for the Youth Diplomats.



Environmental Site Visit

We continued to look for outreach opportunities. We spoke to six civic organizations, worked booths at two community events, and facilitated meetings between locals and visitors. *Conversations with Jeff Weeks* featured our visitors, and WUWF interviewed IVLP participants twice. Other media featured our work in 18 additional articles and pieces.

It was a busy year for citizen diplomacy in northwest Florida!

# GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

## CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

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### Ambassadors

John Adams	Rachel Lockwood	Lisa Noble	Julie Tippins Parker
Randle Carpenter	Julian MacQueen	Carol Patterson	John Toole
Allan Ford	Kim MacQueen	Tom Patterson	Ellen Vinson
William Holliday	Gary McGraw	Jim Roberts	Roger Vinson
Karen Jurkowich	Patricia McGraw	Pamela Schwartz	
Mike Jurkowich	Jena Melançon	Justine Simoni	
Cookie Kichler	Gregg Noble	Lanny Smith	

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### Ministers

Kent DeSantis	Kristen Loera	Bruce Partington	Kaberi Samanta
Leigh DeSantis	John McMahon	Mary Reeber	Bill Wade
Paula Drummond	Vanessa Mayes	Stephen Reyes	Linda Wade
Joe Hemmer	Jean Norman	John Salvaggio	
Tara Jones	Beth Partington	Patti Salvaggio	

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### Counselors

Gayle Baugh	Luke Hunt	Ric Nickelsen	Deborah Santavy
Michael DeNoia	Elizabeth King	James Reeves	Lusharon Wiley
Teresa Frank	Joe Lepo	Colleen Rogers	

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### Attachés

Fran Ammon	Jeanie Dumestre	Diane Mack	Kim Ray	Gerry Yandle
Reed Ammon	Laura Ericson	Philomena Madden	Randy Ray	Leslie Yandle
Alex Andrade	Rebecca Ferguson	Carol Malt	Kathie Richardson	Basil Yelverton
Lori Bane	Holly Foss	Beverly Mayo	Carmen Rizzo	Elizabeth Yelverton
Brian Barlow	Chloe Fulton	David Mayo	Dick Rizzo	Peter Young
Dolly Berthelot	Bobbi Godwin	Jennifer McCarthy	JoAnn Roberts	
John Biery	Michael Godwin	Astrida Miller	Kenneth Roberts	<b>Young</b>
Shari Biery	Mary Gutierrez	Marny Needle	Faye Robinson	<b>Professionals</b>
Sue Brye	Richard Hough	Don Needle	Robert Robinson	
Michael Byram	Hilda Jones	Bob Newell	Ellen Roston	Rebekah Bydlak
Susan Byram	Kasey Jones	Lisa Newell	Marcia Schuffman	Matthew Chavers
Lynn Cacace	Ray Jones	Theresa Northern	Larry Schuffman	Samantha Costas
Rich Cacace	John Kane	Carol Osborn	Kerry Anne Schultz	C.J. Dancy
David Chavez	Ruth Kane	Richard Osborn	Susan Senkarik	Joseph Fulton
Maria Chavez	Stephanie Karous	Diane Peterson	Kermit Simons	Mambwe Mutanuka
David Clarke	Dennis Kohli	E. Ben Posey	Marty Stanovich	Jeremy Ochoa
Jennifer Clarke	Rita Kohli	Magali Posey	Deven Thead	Chuntell Patterson
Julie Connerley	David Kreuser	Jerry Pratt	Robert Thead	Erik Petersen
Jim Crowe	Laurie Kreuser	Megan Pratt	Linda Thompson	Justin Ritchie
Terry Crowe	John Landry	Teresa Preston	Todd Thomson	Mollie Taylor
Janet DeLorge	Debbie Layton	William Preston	Jeannine van Reeth	Evelyn VanDerbeck
Nergis Demirbilek	Mike Layton	Don Radomski	Trudy Walden	Luke VanFleteren
Christy Draper	Ann Livingston	Linda Radomski	Susan Woolf	



## OUR WORK

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We create and encourage collaboration by facilitating professional and personal interaction for international leaders during official visits to the Gulf Coast by enhancing respect and communication through international exchanges, by promoting greater understanding of global affairs, and by promoting the region as an important center of commerce, culture, and tourism.

Visitors to northwest Florida explore their fields of interests through meetings with our extensive network of citizen diplomats who are leading voices in the area's public, private, and nonprofit sectors. These fields of interest reflect U.S. foreign policy objectives and help promote peace and security around the world.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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<i>Support and Revenue</i>	<i>FY 2018</i>	<i>FY 2017</i>
Grants	\$ 112,577	\$ 110,924
Program Service Revenue	\$ 1,427	\$ 37,486
Membership Dues	\$ 12,915	\$ 10,971
Income from Interest	\$ 291	\$ 133
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 50,275	\$ 29,502
Events	\$ 1,952	\$ 2,949
All Other Contributions	<u>\$ 36,844</u>	<u>\$ 35,797</u>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 216,281</b>	<b>\$ 227,762</b>
<i>Expenses</i>		
Program Services	\$ 189,759	\$ 174,131
Management & General	\$ 17,891	\$ 23,147
Fundraising	<u>\$ 7,939</u>	<u>\$ 9,074</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 215,589</b>	<b>\$ 206,352</b>
<i>Liabilities &amp; Assets</i>		
Cash & Savings	\$ 122,344	\$ 121,652
Other Assets	\$ 1,428	\$ 1,428
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 123,772</b>	<b>\$ 123,080</b>

# GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

## CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

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### Homestay Hosts

Lori Bane  
Leigh and Kent DeSantis  
Laura Ericson and Stephanie Karous  
Susan and Robert Hagan  
Wendy and Chris McCullar  
Beverly and David Mayo

Lisa and Bob Newell  
Magali and E. Ben Posey  
Nell and Jim Potter  
Megan and Jerry Pratt  
Teresa and Bill Preston  
JoAnn and Ken Roberts  
Faye and Robert Robinson

Linda Thompson  
Jeannine van Reeth  
Larisa Reyes and Tim Chandler  
Enid and Sam Wilson  
Leslie and Gerry Yandle  
Liz and Basil Yelverton

### Dinner with a Delegate Hosts

Terry and Jim Crowe  
Leigh and Kent DeSantis  
Chloe and Joseph Fulton  
Paula Drummond and Joe Hemmer  
Kasey Jones and Thomas Brown  
Tara Jones  
Karen and Mike Jurkowich  
Debbie and Mike Layton

J. McCarthy and Philip Roosen  
Beverly and David Mayo  
Jeremy Ochoa  
Magali and E. Ben Posey  
Megan and Jerry Pratt  
Teresa and Bill Preston  
Larisa Reyes and Tim Chandler  
Maju and Michael Ritz

Faye and Robert Robinson  
Linda Thompson  
Julie Tippins Parker  
John Toole  
Linda Wade  
Liz and Basil Yelverton

### Coffee & Citizen Exchange Hosts

John Adams  
Leigh and Kent DeSantis

Jena Melançon  
Jeannine van Reeth

Michael and Maju Ritz



*Jóvenes en Acción* Students with Host Mom

# LOCAL IMPACT

## GULF COAST CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

### ESCAMBIA & SANTA ROSA COUNTIES, FLORIDA

Economic Impact Calendar Year 2018

<p><b><u>U.S. Department of State &amp; U.S. Library of Congress Lodging Funding</u></b>          The Citizen Diplomacy Council hosted <b>303</b> visitors &amp; interpreters in 2018 who stayed in local hotels a total of 1,223 nights.</p>	<p><b>\$141,036</b></p>
<p><b><u>U.S. Department of State Transportation Funding</u></b>          Funds were provided for local transportation of delegates in tour buses. <i>This figure does not include their flights into Pensacola International Airport nor does it include the occasional rental car transactions handled directly by the interpreters.</i></p>	<p><b>\$62,107</b></p>
<p><b><u>U.S. Department of State Per Diem &amp; Visitors' Personal Expenditures</u></b>          Each adult professional &amp; interpreter received a per diem of \$60 a day to use for taxis and food. In addition, delegates spent a considerable amount of time in their off-hours shopping. (\$60 a day x 1,223 days in town = \$73,380 + unknown shopping expenditures)</p>	<p><b>\$73,380</b></p>
<p><b><u>U.S. Department of State &amp; U.S. Library of Congress Grants</u></b>          The council received four grants from the U.S. Department of State, one grant from the U.S. Library of Congress, and one grant from Global Ties U.S. for its citizen diplomacy work.</p>	<p><b>\$111,110</b></p>
<p><b><u>U.S. Department of State &amp; U.S. Library of Congress Cultural Funding</u></b>          Additional funds were provided for cultural activities, meetings, leadership training, and honorariums.</p>	<p><b>\$17,993</b></p>
<p><b><u>Corporate, Individual, and Special Fundraising Contributions</u></b>          Financial and in-kind contributions from corporations and individuals provided support in the form of monetary contributions and in-kind donations.</p>	<p><b>\$52,057</b></p>
<p><b><u>Volunteer Support</u></b>          An estimated 1,458 hours of volunteer time were donated by community volunteers. In addition, approximately 325 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 <b>\$42,863</b>. The Independent Sector calculates the average value of each hour of volunteer time in Florida, based on 2017 figures provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at \$24.04; Please note that 2017 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><b>\$42,863</b></p>
<p><b>Economic Impact in Escambia &amp; Santa Rosa Counties</b></p>	<p><b>\$500,546</b></p>



# Our Corporate Members

## Ambassador Circle Supporters

Dreamcatcher Shuttle

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front

U.S. Department of State

## Corporate Sponsors

Clark Partington Attorneys at Law

Levin Rinke Realty

## Corporate Supporters

Carmen's Lunch Bar

City of Pensacola

Finding Peace Counseling Services

Guardian Six

Gulf Breeze Sailing

McMahon & Hadder

Mode Mind Body

Dr. Kaberi Samanta

Seville Quarter

SpringHill Suites

The Fish House

Visit Pensacola

Vivid Bridge Studios

Wells Fargo

Wade, Palmer & Shoemaker, P.A.



Connect with us online.  
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