



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
HARRISBURG

ANNUAL REPORT

20

23

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Thanks to Our Sponsors & Supporters



Dr. Joyce M. Davis
President/CEO
World Affairs Council of
Harrisburg

2023 Was One Great Year!

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg sends sincere thanks to the many corporations, foundations, colleges and universities, and non-profits that partnered with us in 2023 to serve our community in Pennsylvania's capital region. Our event sponsors, EITC donors and grantors have ensured our organization sponsors high-quality forums, conferences and events that have included the series on The Mental Health Crisis, the State of Black Health, Great Decisions discussions as well as Travel Live shows streamed live to our social media pages.

We especially thank our Ambassador-level members for providing a foundation for our work, and the thousands of people who attended our events in person or watched them on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Our council has become one of the key organizations in our region convening our diverse community to learn and debate local, national and world issues. We have sponsored Hot Topic discussions on the most important topics of our day, including the war in Gaza, unrest in Sudan and the state of women's rights in Iran. We also have explored issues close to home with forums on social justice, policing and health disparities that impact the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Most of all, we take pride in our work to nurture the next general of local, national and world leaders. Our youth programs include a summer internship program that attracted 20 high school and college students for an eight-week program that culminated with the International Young Leaders Conference and Career Fair. This year, the summer interns insisted on remaining a part of our council and formed the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg Youth Council. They are dedicated to continuing to learn about the world and their place in it.

Finally, we are grateful to the PA Council on the Humanities for investing in our work through a two-year grant that will allow us to continue our great work connecting our communities in our region through dialogue, the arts and better understanding of diverse peoples, cultures, languages, and lands.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this year!

Joyce M. Davis

President & CEO

ABOUT

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg

We are a non-partisan, non-political 501(c)3 member organization part of the World Affairs Councils of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Dedicated to promoting awareness and engagement of local, national and international affairs, the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg facilitates international travel and provides opportunities for young people to learn about the world in the classroom, at our events, and through scholarships that allow them to visit countries around the globe. We are nurturing the next generation of world leaders!

CONNECTING CENTRAL PA TO THE WORLD!

World Affairs Council of Harrisburg promotes and facilitates international travel and provides opportunities for young people to learn about the world in their classrooms, through our programs and events, and through scholarships that enable them to visit countries around the globe.

We are supported by national and local organizations and businesses that understand the importance of connecting our region to the world, and that realize the benefits of opening young minds to different cultures and traditions.

We also are supported by residents of Central Pennsylvania who are eager to expand their own horizons and accept their responsibilities as citizens of their local communities and of the world.



WHO WE ARE



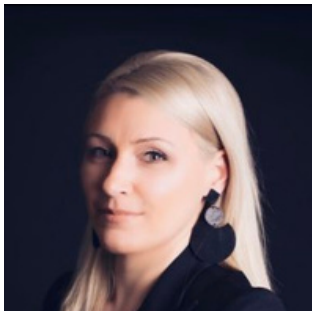
Dr. Joyce M. Davis
President & CEO



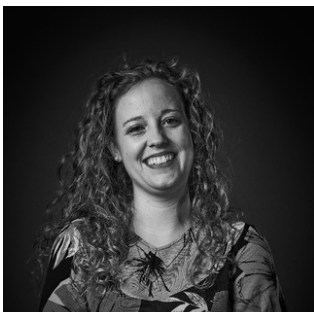
Dr. Mehdi Noorbaksh
Vice President



Lindsay Bowman
Secretary



Eliz Nestorov
Treasurer



Michelle Angert
Director of Programs



Dena Jangdhari
Development Director



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Professor, Lebanon Valley College

Kalpana Doppalapudi
Founder, PowerWomen, Inc.

Dr. Oralia Garcia Dominic
Behavioral Scientist, Cancer Researcher

Rev. Nathaniel Gadsden
UPMC Chaplain

Pat Gadsden
President, Life Esteem, Inc.

Pastor Russell Goodman
New Branches Ministries

Guerline L. Laurore
Attorney

Link Martin
Temple University Harrisburg

Uday Shrikantia
International Business & Marketing Consultant

Jesse Waters
Bowers Writers House, Elizabethtown College

Dr. Kay White
Director, Governor's Schools (Retired)

Dr. Renu Joshi
Joshi Foundation

Hagir Elsheikh
HSE Staffing Agency & Tomorrow's Smile inc.

Dr. William Harner
Former acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Education
Former Superintendent Cumberland Valley & Quakertown Schools

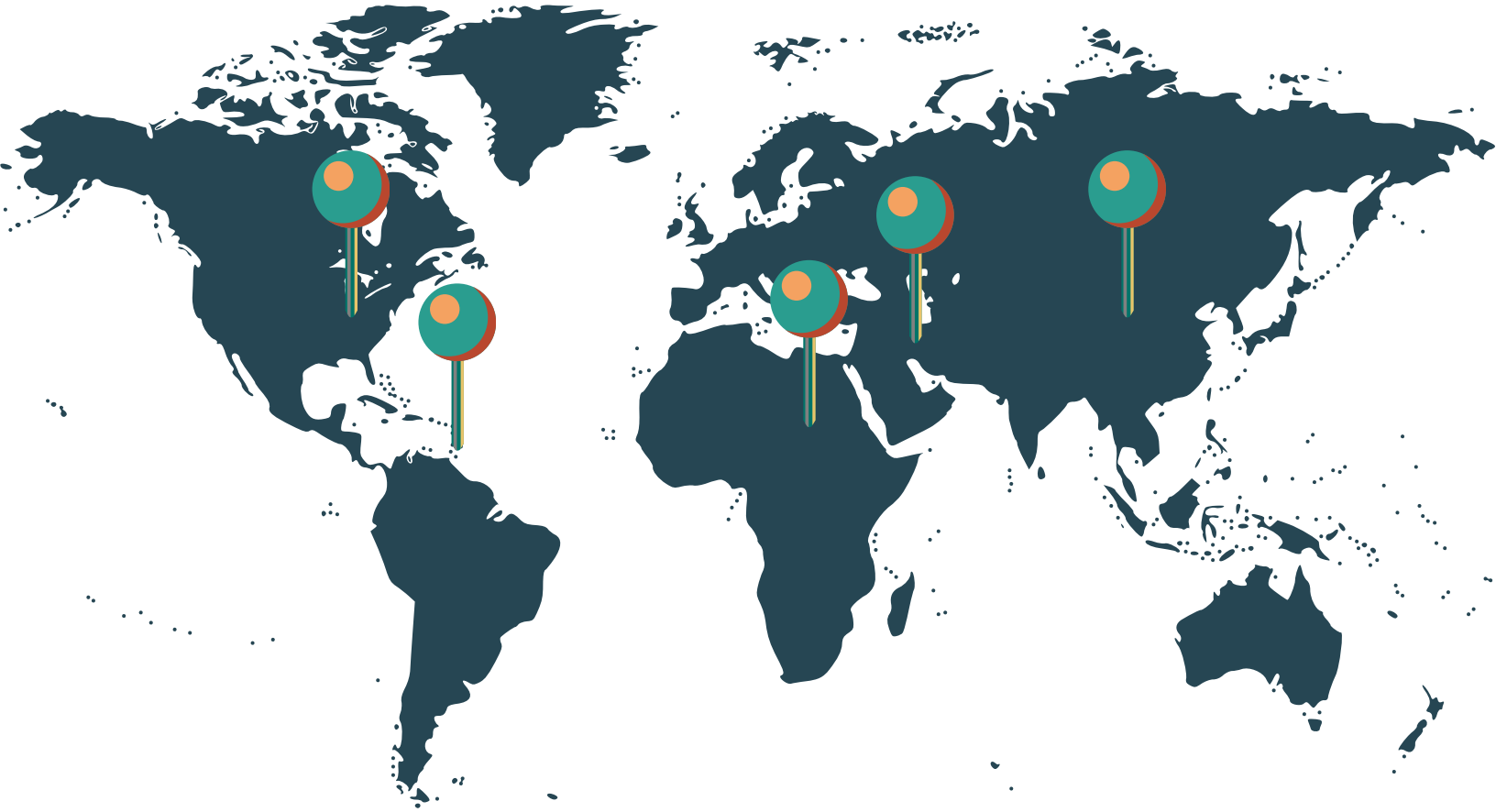
Board Members Emeriti:

Dr. Gaylen Bradley
Retired, Hershey Medical School

Harry Witte
Attorney (Ret.)

Global Reach

Throughout 2023 we held **25** events, covering **7** countries, and reaching **over 8,800** people around the world.



Central PA: Our State of Mental Health series covered several topics around the challenges of mental health.



Aruba: In our Travel Live! webinar series we traveled to the island of Aruba.



Sudan: Andrew Lentz of the State Department explained the situation in Sudan.



The Middle East: We partnered with the Alaska World Affairs Council to discuss the unfolding events in Israel & Palestine.



China: Jerad Harper PhD led our Great Decisions Lecture series on China/US relations.

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

January

MLK Poetry & Storytelling Competition & Festival

February

China and the U.S. – Great Decisions
Climate Migration – Great Decisions
The State of Black Health
War Crimes – Great Decisions

March

Energy Geopolitics – Great Decisions
2023 International Women’s Conference & Fashion Show
Global Famine – Great Decisions
Politics in Latin America – Great Decisions
Economic Warfare – Great Decisions

April

Academic WorldQuest
Iran at A Crossroads – Great Decisions

May

Torch of Global Enlightenment Awards

June

The State of Mental Health: Race, Culture & Identity
Travel Live! Aruba

July

Summer Internship & Enrichment Program
The State of Mental Health: The Elderly

August

International Young Leaders Conference: The Value of A Life

September

International Peace Symposium

October

Peace & Justice in PA Forum
The State of Mental Health: The Military
War in the Middle East: What’s Next for the World

November

WACA National Conference
Praying for Peace Webinar
Hot Topics Spotlight: The War in Sudan

December

Holiday Forum & Champagne Brunch w/ the Civic Club of Harrisburg

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

15 College and high school students participated in Our 8-week program from June-August

Our internship program blends virtual meetings with in-person trips that offer students a diverse range of opportunities. With a lineup of speakers that included local political analysts, university professors, and journalists, students were exposed to a wide variety of topics from the local to the global level.

One of the many hands-on experiences the students had during the internship was planning and hosting the annual International Young Leaders Conference. They chose to focus this year's conference on the theme "The Value of A Life" and held it at Harrisburg University.

We partnered with PennLive to provide students with a platform to publish an op-ed or letter to the editor. Their articles were also compiled in an online journal, providing a broader audience with access to their insightful perspectives.



Interns visiting the Capitol

Interns at City Hall

THE STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH

As a part of our Public Health Initiative, WACH started a State of Mental Health series focused on different aspects of mental health within our region.

Race, Culture & Identity

This forum examined some of the issues at play for Black and Brown communities as they struggle with the mental health crisis gripping our entire nation.

Youth

Post-pandemic the youth of our region, and around the world, have been especially struggling with mental health.

The Elderly

This forum shed light on the unique challenges faced by senior citizens, such as loneliness and dementia.

The Military

This forum focused members of our military and their families face regarding mental health. Several service vendors attended to give information about their services to those in attendance.



THE NATIVITY SCHOOL



The Nativity School's Global Scholars program continues to thrive, with students actively participating in discussions led by subject matter specialists. Weekly sessions at the school, along with a professionally conducted chaplaincy program led by Pastor Russell Goodman, contribute to a comprehensive educational experience. Monthly sessions, open to students, teachers, faculty, and the community, encompass special events, prayer, and individual counseling services provided by the chaplains.



JOHN HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

WACH proudly sponsors the John Harris High School soccer team, a partnership that has significantly transformed the team's performance. Formerly facing a challenging record, the team has achieved winning seasons and playoff appearances since our sponsorship. As part of our commitment to community outreach, one of our dedicated members serves as an assistant coach for the team, providing valuable guidance and support. This collaboration underscores WACH's commitment to making a positive impact on the success and well-being of our local youth community.



INTERESTED IN JOINING WACH?



World Affairs Council
of Harrisburg

Invest in Global Education and Cultural Exchange

Join our vibrant community of individuals passionate about international affairs and help us build a more informed and interconnected world.

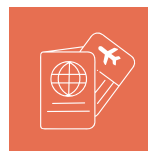
Your membership in the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg (WACH) is an investment in:




Engaging Discussions: Deepen your understanding of global issues through our Great Decisions series featuring distinguished speakers, and access to exclusive member-only events.



Global Education: Support our efforts to educate youth and adults about international affairs through our Student Programs, International Young Leaders Conference, and Academic WorldQuest Competition.



International Travel: Experience diverse cultures firsthand and broaden your perspective with our Council-sponsored trips offered at discounted rates for members.

[Click to Learn More](#) 



Opportunities for Corporate Sponsorship and Involvement

Partner with the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg (WACH) and nurture the next generation of global leaders. Your support empowers high school and college students. Enjoy EITC tax benefits and invest in a brighter future. Donate or learn more today!

Our Education Programs

**Academic
WorldQuest**

**Summer
Internship
Program**

**Year Round
Youth Council**

**Internaitonal
Poetry &
Storytelling
Festival**

**Global Scholars
Program**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work we do at the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg would not be possible without the continued support of these wonderful partners:

Sustaining Organizations

- Temple University Harrisburg
- Harrisburg University
- The Fredricksen Library
- The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
- Elizabethtown College

Supporting Organizations

- PennLive Patriot News
- Harrisburg Academy
- UPMC Pinnacle
- Highmark
- Capital Blue

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to connect Harrisburg to the World!

CONTACT

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