

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



DR. JOYCE DAVIS

President & CEO

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg thanks the many people, artists, government officials, colleges, corporations and faith groups that partnered with us in 2024 to promote dialogue and global understanding among the people of Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the support of organizations such as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Temple University, Central Penn College, Elizabethtown College, Highmark, Pennian Bank, as well as the Wingspan program of PA Humanities and the Stabler Foundation, our organization has inspired thoughtful conversations around some of the most provocative topics of our day – all in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. But what is most important, we have invested in the next generation of world leaders through our youth programs that help high school and college students gain a deeper understanding of the world around them – as well as their own back yards.

We have directly touched the lives of hundreds of youth in our region through our summer internship program that engages them in the humanities to develop a sense of purpose and connection of human history as a way to shape a better future. Next year, we celebrate our 15th year as part of the World Affairs Councils of America network. The best is yet to come. Why don't you join us in connecting Pennsylvania's capital region to the world!



ABOUT WACH

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting global education and cultural exchange in our region. As an affiliate of the World Affairs Councils of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C., we leverage a national network of like-minded organizations to enhance our impact. Our mission is to engage residents in our region with global issues, fostering a more informed and interconnected world. Through programs and events, we provide opportunities for associates to interact with influential international writers, intellectuals, diplomats, and political leaders. We also prioritize nurturing the next generation of global citizens, equipping youth with the tools and knowledge needed to become leaders in our increasingly interconnected world.



Our events provide access to some of the best local and international scholars and experts.



Through our several youth initiatives, young people have a variety of ways to get involved.



Whether you want to travel the world or visit places right from your sofa, we have programs for everyone.



Meet OUR TEAM



Dr. Joyce Davis
President/CEO



Dr. Medhi Noorbaksh
Vice President



Lindsay Bowman
Secretary



Eliz Nestorov
Treasurer



Mary Gabriele
Programs Manager



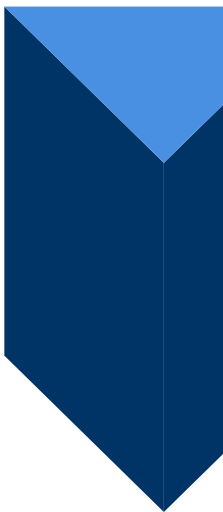
Dr. Oralía Dominic
Public Health Ambassador



Samuel Pimental
Youth Council Leader



Cole Goodman
Community Outreach
Ambassador



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPMC Chaplain

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Dr. Kathleen White
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Holly Leggett
President and CEO, Team PA Foundation

GLOBAL REACH

Throughout 2024 we held 20 events, reaching over 14,000 people around the world.



Central PA: Our IWD Forum & Fashion Show highlighted women's health issues & immigrant communities in Central PA.



Czechia: For our Travel Live! webinar series we covered the beautiful city of Prague.



The Middle East: Brian Katulis from the Middle East Institute led our discussion of Mid East Realignment.



China: Dr. Sanjay Paul led our Great Decisions Lecture on US/China Trade Rivalry.



Indonesia: Dr. Amy Freeman helped us understand the strategic importance of Indonesia.

2024 CALENDAR

January

MLK Poetry & Storytelling Competition & Festival

February

Mideast Realignment - Great Decisions
The State of Black Health
NATO's Future - Great Decisions

March

Science Across Borders - Great Decisions
The State of Women's Health: Global Perspectives
US/China Trade Rivalry - Great Decisions
Climate Technology & Competition - Great Decisions
International Women's Day Forum & Fashion Show
Understanding Indonesia - Great Decisions

April

Academic WorldQuest
Ambassador Polt spoke at
Millersville University
Pandemic Preparedness - Great Decisions

May

Torch of Global
Enlightenment Awards

June

Summer Internship &
Enrichment Program

July

Summer Internship &
Enrichment Program

August

International Young Leaders Conference

September

International Peace Symposium

October

Mental Health Equity in PA

November

WACA National Conference
Interfaith Prayers for Peaceful Election

December

Human Rights Day Film Festival
2024 Holiday Gala

SUMMER INTERNSHIP



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



Our internship program seamlessly integrates virtual meetings with in-person excursions, offering students a diverse array of opportunities. This initiative featured a lineup of speakers, including local political analysts, university professors, and journalists, exposing students to a wide range of topics spanning local and global issues.

Among the many hands-on experiences available, students were tasked with planning and hosting the annual International Young Leaders Conference. This year, they centered the conference around the theme "Can the World be Saved? Perspectives from the Next Generation," which took place at Central Penn College.

In collaboration with PennLive, we provided students with a platform to publish op-eds or letters to the editor. Their articles were subsequently compiled into an online journal, thereby extending their insightful perspectives to a broader audience.

THE STATE OF HEALTH

As a part of our Public Health Initiative, WACH continued to hold several forums covering the state of different aspects of health.

Black Health

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.

Women's Health - Internationally

Our panel of healthcare professionals discussed the different issues women are facing around the world.

Women's Health - Locally

On International Women's Day we held a panel discussion on local women's health barriers.

Mental Health Equity

This forum focused on the disparities within our community when it comes to seeking mental health treatment including young people post-pandemic.



THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

The
Nativity School
of Harrisburg

The Global Scholars program at The Nativity School continues to thrive, with students participating in discussions led by subject matter experts. Weekly sessions at the school, along with Pastor Russell Goodman's effective chaplaincy program, enrich the educational experience. Monthly gatherings that involve students, teachers, staff, and the community include special events, prayer sessions, and tailored counseling services provided by the chaplains.

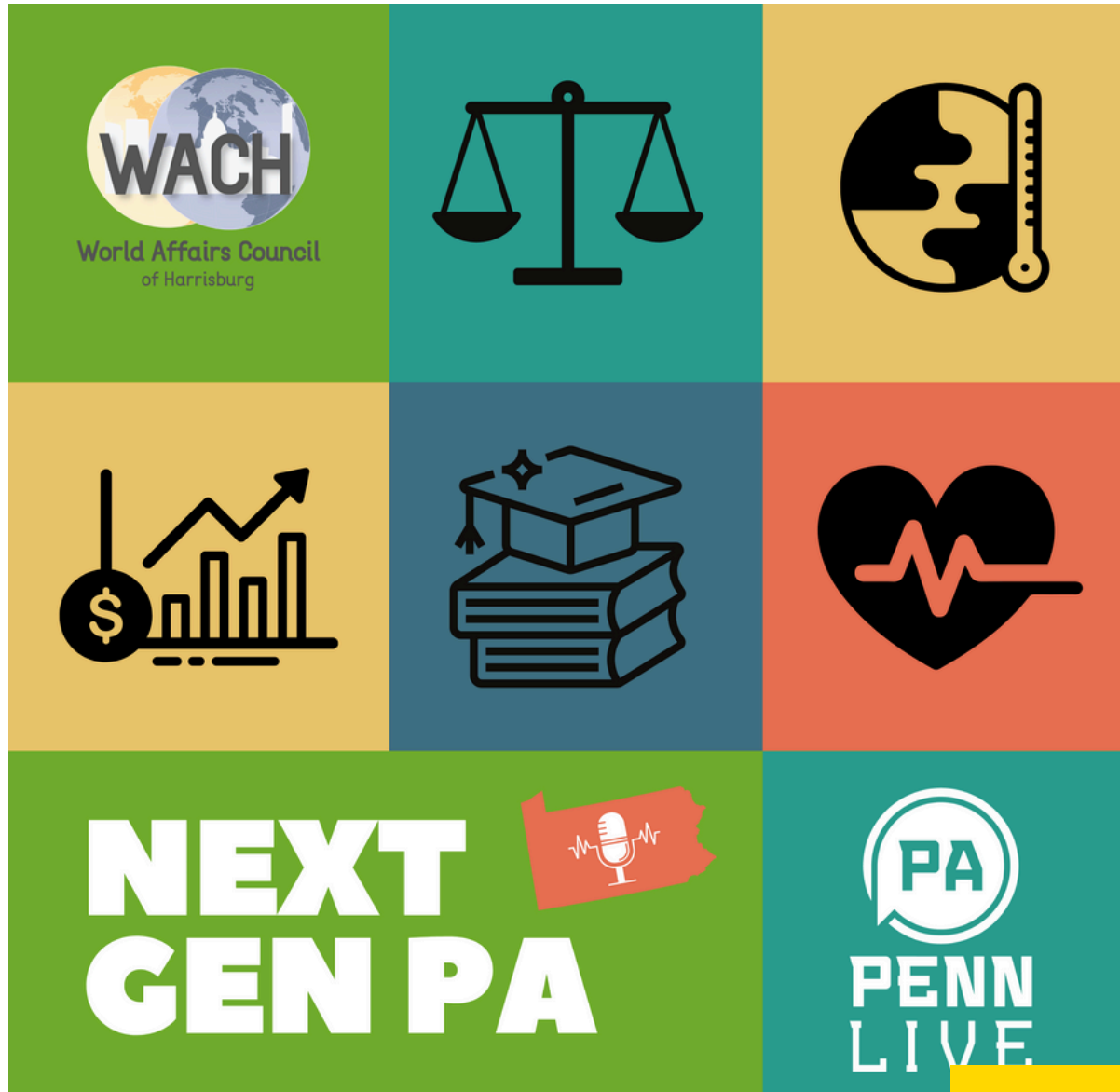


JOHN HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

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.



YOUTH COUNCIL



OUR NEW PODCAST - NEXT GEN PA

Many of our interns wanted to stay connected and engaged with us after finishing their summer internship. So, we revitalized our old Youth Council. Now, the students have a built in network of likeminded young people who meet and discuss global affairs. They also wanted to voice their opinions publicly about issues and started a podcast, Next Gen PA.

**LISTEN
ON**



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.

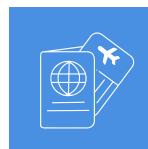
Your membership in the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg (WACH) is an investment in:



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:



**SPRING
POINT
PARTNERS**

Sustaining Organizations

- Central Penn College
- Temple University Harrisburg
- Pennian Bank
- The Stabler Foundation

Supporting Organizations

- PennLive Patriot News
- Harrisburg Academy
- Harrisburg University
- Highmark Blue Shield
- The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
- Elizabethtown College

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

Contact

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Council of Harrisburg

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