

U.S. CENTER FOR  
CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



## Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy: Join the Campaign!

### A letter to the President of the United States

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your historic ascendance to the Presidency of the United States. Throughout your campaign, you stated that, if elected, a major goal for your administration would be "restoring respect for our country throughout the world." We heartily applaud and embrace your persuasive vision. Consistently, you have inspired Americans across the country to say, "Yes we can." Now we are asking, "How can we help?"

Americans of all ages and backgrounds are ready to work with you to bring about the changes you so eloquently put forth. The non-partisan U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy, based in Des Moines, Iowa, has compiled the opinions and expertise of many national experts and organizations with long histories in international affairs and multicultural relationship building. [Click here to continue reading the Letter to the President...](#)

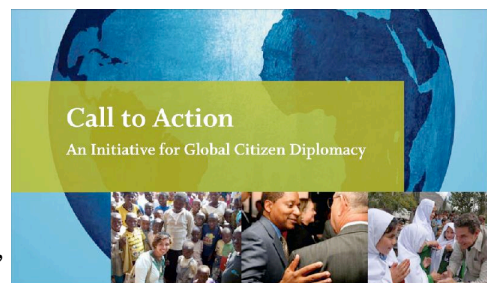
### National Campaign Update

A full house of over 170 people attended the National Launch of the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy held on February 5, 2009 at the National Press Club in Washington DC. At the event, the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and a national coalition released a ["Call to Action"](#) and the Letter to President Barack Obama asking for his endorsement of and involvement in a campaign to mobilize and engage more Americans in building strong person-to-person relationships with citizens from other countries.

**The [Letter to the President](#) is now online and available for signatures and in just over two weeks **598** people signed on in support of the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy!**

### Join the Effort!

Continue to help us pass the word about this important initiative by forwarding



information and requesting signatures from your networks, friends and colleagues.

If you have not already signed, please take a few minutes today to [read the Call to Action](#), and [add your signature to the letter to the president!](#)

Learn more about the [Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy](#) on our Web site.



### Event Photos Posted

Photos from the National Launch event in Washington, DC have now been posted to our Web site, [click here to view](#).

Pictured above from left to right: Chairman of the Board Dr. David Roe announces the Call to Action; Lt. Governor of Wisconsin Barbara Lawton, a guest speaker at the event, with Ann Schodde; Center Board of Directors member Randa Fahmy Hudome speaks to the press.

### News & Perspectives

#### "Advocates say Citizen Diplomacy can Improve International Relations"

[Click here](#) to read or listen to the report and interview from WAMU 88.5, the leading public radio station for NPR news and information in the greater Washington D.C. area.

#### Talk @ 12, 02.06.09 from Iowa Public Radio

[Listen to a follow up interview with Ann Schodde.](#)

#### "USCCD: Obama Administrations Should Support Citizen Diplomacy Overseas"

Read an entry about the Initiative on the [Common Ground news blog](#). The blog is an initiative of Search for Common Ground, an international non-governmental organization (NGO), headquartered in Washington and Brussels, whose mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial confrontation towards cooperative solutions.

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News Alert

[The Christian Science Monitor: Public diplomacy begins with you](#)

[NAFSA: Simon Study Abroad Bill Introduced](#)

[DSM Register: Revive Art of Citizen Diplomacy](#)

[The Christian Science Monitor: Adoptive parents visit Guatemala to give back](#)

[USA TODAY: 'Three Cups of Tea' author finds new mountains to climb.](#)

[CBS News: Creating Schools, And Bridges, To Children](#)

[The Wall Street Journal: Military](#)

Ann Schodde, President and CEO of the U.S. Center, and Chuck Montgomery, Executive Committee member, had the opportunity to join a delegation of advisors from the [World Affairs Councils of America](#) on a trip to Baghdad in January.

["Iraq's Future: Visit finds progress, lingering fragility"](#)

Read their op-ed from the Des Moines Register outlining insights from the experience on our news page.



Ann and Chuck, Baghdad

## Travelers as Citizen Diplomats



The awareness of the role of international travelers as citizen diplomats is growing as access to travel abroad increases. Whether traveling for business or pleasure, Americans have the opportunity to make a positive impact and connection each time they interact with other people and cultures along their journeys.

**Well-known travel guide Rick Steves was the recipient of the NCIV 2009 Citizen Diplomat Award** at the [National Council for International Visitors \(NCIV\)](#) National Meeting held in Washington, DC, February 11-14. Read Rick's follow up blog entry, ["A DC Massing of Citizen Diplomats."](#)

### "Travelers as Diplomats?"

After attending the National Launch of the [Initiative for](#)

[Finds an Unlikely Adviser in School-Building Humanitarian](#)

[Outside Online: The Peacemaker](#)

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Bill Gates to Obama: Now is the Time to Increase Development Assistance](#)

[Global Citizen Diplomacy](#), world traveler Audrey Scott wrote an article for her Web site, [Uncornered Market](#), exploring the value of international travelers engaged in citizen diplomacy.

Scott writes, "... Perhaps the interconnectedness of today's international travelers can help close the gap between formal programs and the hearts and minds of ordinary people." [Read the full article here.](#)

## Spotlight on Organizations: TN2020



At a time when the relationship between publics in the U.S. and Europe is frayed, young influencers harness the potential to improve communication across the Atlantic, and collaborate more closely on global issues that affect us all. This is the premise from which the British Council, the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities, launched the Transatlantic Network 2020 (TN2020) programme in 2008.

TN2020 was established as a networking programme to bring together a diverse group of young (25-35 yrs.) emerging leaders from business, arts, civil society, media, science and politics - in particular, those from under-represented and immigrant communities. These young people from Europe and North America are working to revitalise links and build new connections for the future. The programme provides opportunities for exploration, personal growth and ultimately, action on issues TN2020 members care about. [Click here to find out more about TN2020.](#)

### Quick Links

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[Share Your Story!](#)

[Citizen Diplomacy In the News](#)

## ePals Contest Opportunities Expand Kids' Vision of the World

In addition to connecting classrooms around the world electronically, the ePals organization provides fun and challenge through regular contests



for K-12 kids.



**The ePals Geography Central Project has announced the National Geographic Bee**

**Contest.** Participants can take the GeoBee Daily Challenge, meet and get advice from Former Bee Champions, quiz themselves, and pose their own Geostumpers. [Click here to test your knowledge!](#)

**Students Speak! "Dear President Obama..."**

View and rate the best Presidential Minute video entries where kids around the world expressed their priorities for the new president. [Click here to view the top videos.](#)

**Watch the next newsletter for K-12 global education news and updates from the U.S. Center!**

**Board Member Honored:  
Swati Dandekar selected Person of the Year  
by Asian Week**

U.S. Center Board member Swati Dandekar, the first person of Indian origin to win a seat in the Iowa House, was selected as the Asian American Person of the Year by *Asian Week*.

*"With these and other candidates to choose from, it was hard to decide who should be the APA Person of the Year in 2008. When looking at the future of Asian Pacific America, however, and thinking about the community's growth out of the comfort of urban enclaves and into suburban and even rural America, the answer became clear: Swati Dandekar."* - Quoted from AsianWeek.



Congratulations (now) Senator Dandekar!

Click [here](#) for the entire article.

<http://www.uscenterforcitizen diplomacy.org>

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