

U.S. CENTER FOR
CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



Petition Watch

[We have set a goal of 2,000 signatures by June 1 to the letter calling on President Obama to support a national Global Citizen Diplomacy Initiative! Join the call.](#)

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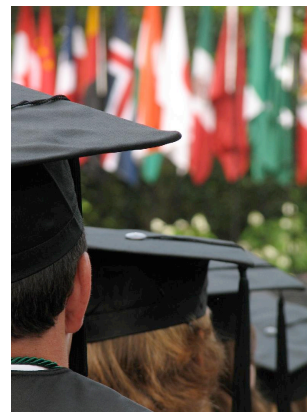
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Timely Topic: Options for Grads

"I am going to China for a couple of different reasons - I want to experience another culture and I am not sure what kind of job I could get here right now if I were to stay," said Minneapolis native Andre Cretella.

From the halls of Ivy League universities to the classrooms of U.S. community colleges, Cretella's story is becoming a more common one. Graduates dealing with the hard realization that in the midst of the worst economic slowdown in decades, their diploma does not guarantee them a job in their field (or perhaps *any* field for that matter), are forced to reevaluate their short and long-term plans. Consequently, international jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities are receiving more consideration from American college graduates.

...[Read the full article](#) and find links to hundreds of opportunities for graduates on our Timely Topics Web page!



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[Citizen Diplomacy In the News](#)

100 Days of Diplomacy?

In President Obama's inauguration speech, he told the world he would place new emphasis on diplomacy, stating that the U.S. would forge relationships based on "mutual interest and mutual respect." He made a



News Alert

[USA Today: Civic generation rolls up sleeves](#)

[AP: Obama signs service bill, says volunteers needed](#)

[CNN : More older Americans sign on to volunteer abroad](#)

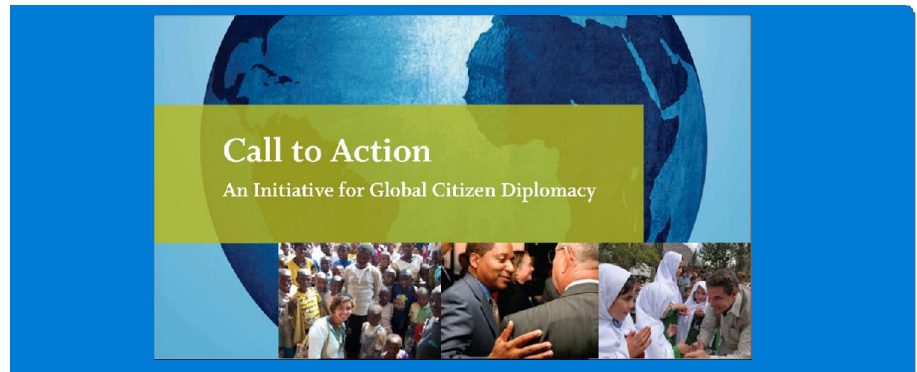
[Send thousand more tea drinkers to "AfPak"?](#)

[Peace Corps returns to Rwanda after 30 years](#)

promise to developing nations to work for their interests and prosperity by helping their farms flourish, feeding the hungry and educating the youth. He went on to reach out to leaders of countries the U.S. has had strained relationships saying, "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

With an economic crisis at the forefront of a long list of presidential priorities, what has the new President and Administration been able to accomplish in the way of diplomacy goals in the first 100 days of office?

Read more and find related news links on our new Web page ["First 100 Days: A Citizen Diplomacy Overview."](#)



The U.S. Center has formed a leadership group that continues to meet regularly in Washington, DC to advance the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy. An important part of this effort is the signature drive in support of the Letter to the President. The group is also working on plans for a National Summit on Citizen Diplomacy tentatively to be held in spring of 2010 in Washington, DC. Thank you to our leadership group participants!

Working toward 2,000! In preparation to meet with the new administration, we have set a goal of 2,000 signatures on the [Letter to President Obama](#) in support of the Initiative by June 1.

THE POWER OF ONE. If each person who receives this email asks just one more person to sign the letter, we will exceed this month's signature goal by 500%! Use your power- [sign the letter today](#) and ask one more exemplary or aspiring citizen diplomat to sign on in support of this important initiative.

Shout out to Alaska and Hawaii We currently have signatures from 48 continental U.S. states and almost 40 other countries. Do you know a citizen diplomat in Alaska or Hawaii? Forward this newsletter and ask them to [sign on!](#)

Schools Lend Support From the halls of Harvard University to elementary schools in Arizona, to-date supporters from nearly 50 education institutions have signed the Letter to the

President. [Add your voice!](#)

To find out more about the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy, [visit our Web site.](#)

Connect with Foreign Service Officers

Retired FSO promotes citizen diplomacy

The United States relies on diplomats to negotiate everything from human rights treaties to trade agreements. Despite two centuries of citizen involvement as Foreign Service Officers, many Americans don't understand what diplomats do or how they live and work abroad.



Stephan Helgesen feels privileged to have been one of those officers for 20 years. His new website: www.citizendiplomats.com encourages others to share their experiences in the Diplomatic Corps in an effort to provide a educational forum for our U.S. diplomats and help connect retired with aspiring diplomats.

If you are a former FSO who would like to share your story and knowledge, or a student interested in a Foreign Service mentor - connect with others via Stephan's site.

Social Networking: Join the Group!



You'll find the U.S. Center "Facebooking", Twittering with fellow "tweeples", and further making great connections with citizen diplomats in the following online forums:

Facebook

[Vist our Facebook Page](#)

Sign up, log in, search for and join the group "U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy."

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/CitizenDiplomat>

[Subscribe to our RSS feed to get the latest in Citizen Diplomacy News](#)

Exchanges Connect

Study Abroad Alumni International

See you there!

Spotlight on Organizations: PAX

Thank you PAX!

A special thank you this month goes out to the [PAX, Program of Academic Exchange](#) organization who has contributed 45 signatures to-date on the Letter to the President!

PAX is a non-profit organization that provides both inbound and outbound homestay/hosting to international high school students and study abroad for American high school students in France, Germany, Spain, and Australia.



The domestic hosting opportunities available through PAX demonstrate the fact that aspiring citizen diplomats do not necessarily need to travel the world to have a positive impact on America's image abroad. [Home hosting an international student](#) is a wonderful way to get the whole family involved in citizen diplomacy right in your own back yard. Watch for host stories and expanded opportunities for home hosting in our May newsletter!

Board and Advisory Updates

The U.S. Center is pleased to welcome new [Advisory Council](#) member Cynthia P. Schneider, Ph.D. Cynthia is currently the Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution.



[Advisory Council](#) member David Hamod was recently honored with an "Outstanding Honors Alumni" Award from the University of Iowa.

Vice Chair of the [Board of Directors](#), Ambassador Mark Johnson will lead a tour to Iraq through the [Montana World Affairs Council](#) in the fall. The trip has already been sold out. To find out more about study tour trips available through WACA, please [visit the national Web site](#).

[Board](#) member Amb. Charles Manatt was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of Grinnell College.

This is a monthly publication of U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. For further information about this newsletter please visit our website at <http://www.uscenterforcitizendiplomacy.org>

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