

U.S. CENTER FOR  
CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



## Petition Watch

**Nearly 1,000 people have signed the letter calling on President Obama to support a national Global Citizen Diplomacy Initiative. Join the call.**

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### Using Citizen Diplomacy to Strengthen U.S. World Standing

The Lt. Governor's Association, led by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton of Wisconsin (pictured), passed a resolution on March 13, 2009 urging President Barack Obama and members of the United States Congress to play a proactive role in developing a holistic approach to public diplomacy and integrating the contributions of citizen diplomacy by:



1. Identifying the needs of both military and non-military stakeholders to determine together how best to play to the strengths of each.
2. Strategically engaging publics in every state as well as globally, not limited to specific geographic regions, religions or ethnic groups.

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[Citizen Diplomacy In the News](#)

### Call to Action

An Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy



**Video clips of each of the distinguished panel of guest speakers from the National Launch of the [Initiative for](#)**

## News Alert

[The Christian Science Monitor: Lessons from Schools Abroad](#)

[Gallup: Poll finds links between home internet access and U.S disapproval](#)

[Feingold, Coleman reintroduce program to help Americans volunteer internationally](#)

[Passport Day in the USA](#)

[Des Moines Register: Iowan in China](#)

[Global Citizen Diplomacy](#) have been posted to the **U.S. Center Web site!**

[Click here](#) to watch and listen to their comments.

### **Petition Watch!**

Signatures on the [Letter to President Obama](#) in support of the Initiative are approaching **1,000!** If you haven't already, [sign the letter](#) today and pass the word to your friends and colleagues!

### **Thank you NCIV**

A special thank you to the [National Council for International Visitors](#) for their collective support of the Initiative. To date, over 100 individuals from the NCIV organization have signed the letter! If you are an organization conducting citizen diplomacy programs --- pass the word to your networks giving them the opportunity sign in support of increased citizen diplomacy efforts. We hope to be recognizing YOU in an upcoming issue!

## Volunteer Service under the Obama Administration

In addition to the financial support designated for expanded national service included the recent stimulus package, legislation is underway to help ensure that Americans of all ages and backgrounds have greater opportunities to serve their country.

On March 18, 2009, the **G.I.V.E. Act** passed the House with a vote of 321-105.

On March 26, 2009, the **Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act** passed the Senate with a vote of 79-19.

The Conference Committee met on March 30 to debate slight differences in the combined version of the bill. For the latest updates, [click here](#).

...  
**The Global Service Fellowship Act**, reintroduced by Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and George Voinovich (R-OH) was referred to Committee where it awaits debate. The intention of the act is to strengthen America's public diplomacy efforts by reducing the financial barriers to international volunteerism. To track the bill [click here](#).

...  
Read comments by David Caprara, a nonresident fellow of global economy and development with the Brookings Institution, about the future of international volunteering and service under the Obama administration:  
[Brookings Institution Q&A](#)

## Global Education Institute Launches Pilot Program

## Why do students need a global perspective?

**"One sun, one earth, one atmosphere, one economy, one species, one race, and all threats, that is what all human beings share." -Ted Townsend**



The Iowa Task Force on Global Education met for the first time on March 2nd, 2009 to begin to identify the essential global literacy concepts and skills for Iowa K-12 students. These will become a voluntary component of the Iowa Core Curriculum's 21st Century Skills identified for all Iowa students.

U.S. Center Board member Mr. Townsend challenged the Task Force with his words, "Set your sights, standards, and expectations high. Without a 21st century full view of life, Iowans cannot possibly compete and survive. It's that simple, that critical and that urgent."

Harriet Mayor Fulbright of the J. William & Harriet Fulbright Center in Washington, D. C. (pictured) and Dr. Judy Jeffrey, Director of the Iowa Department of Education, also addressed the group.

The U.S. Center acknowledges the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Program and the Principal Financial Group Foundation, Inc. for their generous support of the Iowa Global Education Initiative.

To learn more about the Initiative, [visit our website](#).

### Spotlight on Organizations: People to People International

Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, People to People International (PTPI) provides international programs and travel opportunities designed to increase cross-cultural understanding and promote friendships across the globe.



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

People to People Ambassador Programs specifically offer students, educators, professionals and parents the chance to travel abroad to experience different cultures firsthand, or connect with other students without ever leaving the classroom.

[Visit the PTPI website](#) to learn more.

[Click here](#) to link directly to the People to People Ambassador Programs site.

## Facebook: Join the Group!

The U.S. Center Facebook page has recently been updated!

**If you are a Facebook user be sure to log in, search for and join the group "U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy" as a way to connect with other citizen diplomats around the world.**

If you aren't already there - sign up, it is free and anyone can join. [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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You may also connect with Center staff and a growing global community of people interested in cross cultural exchange on the following international social networking sites:

[Exchanges Connect](#)

[Study Abroad Alumni International](#)

See you there!

## Board and Advisory Updates

The U.S. Center is proud to announce and welcome the following new members to our Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Click on the links below to read more about these exemplary diplomats on our website.

### [Board of Directors](#)

#### **Doug Wilson**

President, The Leaders Project



### [Advisory Council](#)

#### **The Honorable Lloyd Axworthy**

President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg  
Canada

#### **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann**

President, American Academy of Diplomacy

#### **Ambassador Uri Savir**

President, Peres Center for Peace, Tel Aviv, Israel

## Save the Date

### 50th Anniversary of Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Garst farm

Join the events being planned to celebrate the example of U.S. farmer Roswell Garst and the powerful impact of one citizen diplomat on world leadership.



**August 27-29, 2009**  
**Des Moines and Coon Rapids, IA**

[Read more](#) about the historical visit, a planned documentary and recent editorials posted on our Web site.

[View the schedule of events](#) for the celebration.

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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