

Dear Members & Friends of SACIV,

The San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) is part of a national network of organizations of which Global Ties US, based in Washington, DC, is the umbrella organization. Every year the Global Ties national meeting is held in DC to provide updates from the Department of State regarding the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) and to provide the opportunity for the attendees to interact with colleagues who represent the various US communities supporting and advocating for citizen diplomacy. At one of the sessions I attended, we looked at why is the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) a distinct and special program of the State Department, and why is it important for our communities.



Two key factors for IVLP's uniqueness were presented. First, there are a variety of countries involved and represented, and second, the visitors are influential and emerging leaders in their countries. When and where would you get to meet two women political leaders from Chad and Iraq, women entrepreneurs from Cuba, or trade policy related individuals from Indonesia? SACIV members can meet these distinguished visitors with home hospitality. My husband Stuart says it this way: "Home Hospitality is the opportunity to talk to people in the global community on a one-on-one basis, the opportunity to learn what the issues are in their home countries, and the opportunity to share the values of Americans and of our local community."

Although I've had the opportunity to travel to many places in the world, I would not likely be travelling to many of the countries represented by the visitors. What an honor to exchange and interact with these individuals. One of the outcomes of the session that I attended in Washington was to create SACIV's value proposition; that is, why does the work of SACIV matter. My conclusion was that "SACIV brings opportunities for international connections and engagement to our San Antonio citizens, at the business, professional, and personal level." I hope you align with this statement and with our international role in the San Antonio community. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Betsy I. Cameron
Chair, SACIV Board of Directors

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 23rd – 27th
***Integration & Advocacy for
Socially Vulnerable Populations***
Ukraine

June 1st – June 7th
Urban Management
Turkmenistan

June 11th – 17th
***Police Professionalization
Exchange Program III***
Mexico

June 11th – 17th
***Change Makers: Women in
Political & Social Sectors***
Ireland, Kenya, Libya,
Malaysia, Norway, Tunisia

June 14th – 20th
Advancing Minority Rights
Albania, Belgium, France,
Germany, Poland

July 25th – 29th
***WEAmericas Program
for Women Entrepreneurs***
Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico,
Panama, Venezuela



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you renewed your SACIV
membership?

If not, it's not too late!

Membership Levels

Student.....	\$15
Individual.....	\$30
Family.....	\$50
Sustaining.....	\$100
Corporate.....	\$500

Please send checks to:

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OR

Renew online at:

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Support a worthy cause...

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*We aim to build
international friendships,
to facilitate the exchange of ideas,
to foster cultural understanding,
and to promote San Antonio
as an international city.*

This year, SACIV has welcomed...



VISITORS
from
COUNTRIES

... to San Antonio!

Past 2017 Programs

January 24th – 28th

Law Enforcement: Community Policing

Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela

February 2nd – 7th

Benefits of Trade

Indonesia

February 8th – 14th

Education & Activism for Young Women

India, Nicaragua, Russia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda

February 14th – 18th

Internet Governance & Cyber Security

Thailand, China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia

February 19th – 21st

Women as Political Leaders

Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Chad, Morocco, Palestine

February 19th – 25th

Police Professionalization Exchange Program I

Mexico

March 11th – 15th

Strengthening Public Health Strategies to Address Emergent Viruses

Colombia

March 23rd – 29th

Women & Entrepreneurship

Argentina, Belarus, Chile, Czech Republic, Iraq, Israel, Japan

April 16th – 22nd

Police Professionalization Exchange Program II

Mexico

April 20th – 26th

Towards a More Safe & Secure World: International Crime Issues

Brazil, Estonia, Greece, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Nigeria, Palestine, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, United Arab Emirates

December Brings Women Leaders Promoting Peace & Security

This past December, eight women from South & Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, & Pakistan, visited San Antonio for a program on “Women Leaders: Promoting Peace & Security”. They covered themes such as state & local partnerships to combat trafficking, support for immigrants & victims of gender-based violence, and education for nonviolence. Specifically, they examined how local entities are addressing challenges related to immigration, trafficking, and gender-based violence, as well as services provided by nonprofit organizations to victims & vulnerable populations. The program also included a meeting on mediation programs that addressed

some of the alternative ways that local partners respond to conflict.

They began their program with a day free to explore San Antonio and an invitation to attend SACIV’s “Holiday Open House” at the home of Ralph & Diana Carroll-Wirth. As honored guests, they joined SACIV members and their friends & families as they ushered in the holiday season and helped welcome our visitors to San Antonio. They

had a chance to mingle with SACIV members and sample traditional American dishes. The event also provided an opportunity to thank our home hospitality hosts for their role in welcoming international visitors to San Antonio throughout the year. As home hospitality hosts, they opened their homes to strangers and took the time to ensure that the guests left as friends. They navigated the often confusing waters of cross-cultural communication in doing so, graciously welcomed SACIV visitors to our city. The generosity they showed greatly touched our visitors and will be a memory they will carry with them for a lifetime. In doing so, they all acted as citizen diplomats that are the backbone of SACIV. Honorees includ-

ed Kay Grosinske, Betty Berchermann, Arlis Olsen, Tamara Dennis, Irma Reyes, Sabina Chowdhury, Rita Heck, Betsy Cameron, Rita Burnside, Nancy Price, Mary Lou Wilson, Cindy Vondrak, Angelika Jansen, and Gloria Almaraz.

Their professional program began with a meeting with Ms. Marta Pelaez of Family Violence Prevention Services and a tour of the Battered Women’s Shelter, which highlighted the services they provide to survivors of domestic violence and sex crimes. They then toured the Bexar County Jail, where they met with staff to discuss the educational, treatment, and rehabilitative programs available to inmates. They completed their day with a home hospitality dinner with SACIV members.

The next day began with a roundtable discussion with members of the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT) where the group of professionals representing local NGOs and agencies that aim to detect & protect victims of human trafficking and raise awareness to prevent trafficking, discussed their collaborative efforts and shared training techniques with the visitors. The delegation then visited with clinical fellows of St. Mary’s University’s School of Law, where they learned about how their Center for Legal and Social Justice helps disadvantaged, underrepresented, and low income communities in Texas. They were particularly interested in their Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, which introduces students to the practice of law through the supervised representation of immigrants and refugees in proceedings before a variety of courts. They completed the day with a meeting with the co-founders of the peaceCENTER, who shared how their all-volunteer, interfaith organization works to nurture the ever-growing circles of peacemakers and resources in a unifying approach to end violence in the city, deal with the root causes of conflict, and act as an important community catalyst for peace in San Antonio.





Members' Corner

By JoAnn Andera
SACIV Board Member

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As Texans we strive to both understand our diversity and appreciate its potential. Diversity enriches the total cultural heritage and can strengthen and unify a people when common understanding and mutual respect replace ignorance and prejudice.

San Antonians are people of amazing diversity in culture and heritage, bound together by their shared experiences and a common stake in our city's future. And the Texas Folklife Festival has been the most successful vehicle of telling the story of our Texan diversity. It has served to create a better understanding of who we are as Texans and has promoted good will among our many communities who live in San Antonio and throughout our state. Since its inception, the home of the Texas Folklife Festival has been San Antonio.

People who are not from Texas often ask, "What makes Texas so great?" The Texan proudly responds, "It's the people, the food, the music, the cultural traditions and the rich spirit." And there's only one event that celebrates everything that makes the Lone Star State so unique — the Texas Folklife Festival.

The festival embodies the mission of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures: "We give voice to the experiences of people from across the globe who call Texas home, providing insight into our past, present, and future." When people of all communities come together to have fun, sharing their foods, music, dance and ceremonies, an environment is created and our visitors can't help but see the overall message of unity.

In 1972, a team of passionate Texans embarked on creating a festival that celebrated our treasured Texas traditions. Forty-six years later, we are gearing up once again to host the Texas Folklife Festival. One of my greatest joys in coordinating this annual three-day festival is knowing we are helping preserve skills and traditions that might otherwise be lost. We make it possible for many of our ethnic and cultural groups to continue their work year-round through the monies they derive at the festival. Some 75 percent of food and drink sales goes back into their communities to assist in perpetuating those traditions that built and continue to sustain Texas.

Unfortunately, many of the wonderful faces and talents we celebrated with in the early years are no longer with us. We have lost many of our most treasured crafters. Skilled artisans who kept alive the spirit and life ways of Texas have slowly passed away. I worry, as each year passes, that we not

only lose these incredible community leaders and artisans, but the traditions they embody. As the director, I have seen this firsthand.

Many of our earlier immigrant groups cannot continue their traditions as there is no one to take their place. One example of this lost heritage is our Czech community in San Antonio, which is no longer able to participate with a food and craft booth.

As Texans, we must preserve the traditions of the original people and early settlers that created our great history, while providing a platform to reach new generations of Texans.

More than 40 ethnic groups that participate in the Festival have the opportunity to share their culture and be part of a much larger community. The festival provides a setting for cultural expression and preservation of culture. As we continue to revitalize and reinvigorate the festival, we seek out new groups settling in and around the San Antonio area and provide them an opportunity to introduce and engage in their cultural traditions with their fellow Texans.

From the Belgian Farmers, the Greek community of St. Sophia, the Lebanese community of St. George, the Italians, the Filipinos, Poles, Alsatians, Mexicans, African American, Germans, Ukrainians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Scots, Brazilians, Chileans, Hawaiians, Native Americans, Irish, Indians, Peruvians, Puerto Ricans, Spaniards, Turks and Wends — what a wonderful rainbow of our city.

It has been and continues to be a privilege and an honor to have been given the opportunity to work with so many incredible people who honor their traditions and give so much to preserve our uniquely Texan cultural heritage.

I invite you to join us to share this experience June 9-11 at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures. For more information visit www.texasfolklifestival.org.



“Visitor Quotes”

Women Leaders: Promoting Peace & Security

“We were invited to two home hospitalities. At the first one, there were a lot of American families and we discussed different topics. The second home hospitality was magnificent!”

-Aizada Suinalieva (Kyrgyz Republic)

“I participated in home hospitality and enjoyed it. It helped me to better make real friendships and interact freely on issues of interest such as family, culture, politics, nature, etc.”

-Tara Devi Thapa (Nepal)

Education & Activism for Young Women

“Sincerely speaking, coming from a war torn messed up country with almost nothing, each appointment was interesting but put me in an overwhelming position that I need to do a lot to change. I learned a lot from the professional appointments and hence gained new ideas and knowledge. I have met new people whom I believe will become friends and have built my network, which I am sure will help me grow... I participated in home hospitality and love my host Nancy and her family. They were well prepared for us and welcomed us warmly. I felt at home. We didn't even want to leave because the conversations were so interesting!”

-Riya William Yayada (South Sudan)

“The appointments met my professional objectives as they opened up my thought process in a lot of new areas to partner and develop professional relationships in the future... I participated in home hospitality and was truly overwhelmed with the hospitality of Ms. Rita. We had lots of discussions on the media business and in particular, the American life in general...I had no ideas about San Antonio before, but I had a basic idea about Texas and it has quite lived up to it's name!”

-Ghazala Yasmin (India)

“San Antonio was more beautiful than I expected and the people are so warm hearted!”

-Varsenik Muradova (Russia)

“I learned a lot from all the appointments and as I am working as a women's activist in my country, it will be very useful in my profession... I enjoyed the home hospitality very much. My hosts, Ms. Rita & Mr. Thomas Heck, are very kind. We exchanged details about our family, work, and social activities. It was the best part of the program!”

-Fahmiya Mohmaed Sheriff (Sri Lanka)

“I participated in home hospitality and Ms. Nancy Price and her family were the most loving Americans I've ever met. I'll definitely keep in touch!”

-Donatha Gihana (Rwanda)

Law Enforcement: Community Policing

“The San Antonio Police Department finally cleared all doubts regarding the federal, county, & state police structures. The visit to the police substation was an enriching police and human experience. We have been the recipients of extreme kindness and hospitality by all police officers we encountered.”

-Alexandra Schjelderup (Panama)

Internet Governance & Cyber Security

“I had different ideas about San Antonio but days staying here helped me to explore it’s unique traditions and rich cultural heritage.”

-Mei GAO (China)

Women as Political Leaders

“Home hospitality was fantastic and interesting. The host family was very kind and nice.”

-Rania Kharbatli (Palestine)

“Home hospitality was great and the family was very nice. I had the chance to know more about how an American family lives.”

-Ghyslaine Derrous (Morocco)

“The appointments very much met my professional objectives as we met professional leaders and exchanged and discussed with them about their experience and our stories. It was a great professional exchange and intensive program with meetings reflecting my professional interest and duties... I participated in home hospitality with Ms. Gloria Almaraz and really enjoyed the night as we spent a wonderful and useful time, experienced hospitality, and exchanged knowledge... This program was a great opportunity to visit San Antonio. I loved the people we met and the visit was very enjoyable and productive. I wish to come back in the future as a tourist with my family.”

-Fousia Yousif Abdulla Aljeeb (Bahrain)

“I participated in and very much enjoyed home hospitality. I was invited by a very good and nice family and we exchanged information about our countries and ate a very nice dinner.”

-Bahar Mahmood Fatah (Iraq)

“I participated in home hospitality and enjoyed it a lot as it was just an amazing experience. I have really changed all my previous ideas about the American people, they are kind and friendly... Before, I imagined Texas as a desert where there is nothing interesting to see, but now I have changed my mind and it’s just a wonderful place with kind people.”

-Siham Guendouz (Algeria)

Police Professionalization Exchange Program

“All the visits had importance and were useful. They fulfilled their goals... I did not know much about San Antonio, but I believe that it is a very interesting city with much to offer to the world.”

-Xavier Caheri Ovando Carrillo (Mexico)

“I now have an excellent opinion of the city and was surprised by the cleanliness and impressed by the historical center, as well as the respect towards the police and the good performance of the police officers.”

-Rigoberto Correa Correa (Mexico)

Strengthening Public Health Strategies to Address Emergent Viruses

“I participated in home hospitality and have never had an opportunity like this and it was truly amazing. I was able to understand what life is like in this great country and I had a special time, I hope to invite my hosts to my home... Truthfully I did not know much about Texas and I liked what I saw, it is a beautiful and nice state... Thank you for your hospitality, it was a truly unique experience and I was impressed with everything in San Antonio and the involvement in the community.”

-Claudia Milena Cuellar Segura (Colombia)

“I participated in home hospitality and I was very happy and grateful for the invitation from Ms. Arlis Olson and her husband and they taught me much about the San Antonio culture... The only idea I had before about Texas was that it was hot, but the temperature was very agreeable and there were a lot of people enjoying the parks and special historic sites. I know have a great image of a beautiful place!”

-Catizza Elsy Montenegro Diaz (Colombia)

“Visitor Quotes”

...continued

Women & Entrepreneurship

“My home hospitality host Rita is a role model and it was an honor to meet her... My ideas about San Antonio and Texas changed significantly. San Antonio is completely different from all other cities in the US. It grows in breadth, not in height.”

-Aliaksandra Lamachenka (Belarus)

“The meetings successfully met my professional objectives. Some of them, which were not directly related to my professional goals, were still enriching and changed my attitude and motivation on certain issues. The people behind the organizations are incredible... Home hospitality was a very enriching experience. Those who received us were more than kind, they were dedicated and spent their time sharing experiences and recommendations with us. We enjoyed the experience a lot!”

-Ornela Paolo Priotti (Argentina)

Towards a More Safe & Secure World: International Crime Issues

“The appointments met my professional objectives because they enabled me to exchange ideas with my counterparts and also exposed me to international best practices.”

-Aderonke Babs Ogunmefun (Nigeria)

“The professional appointments provided a good overall insight, despite the fact that they were not much more than a snapshot of the bigger issues. Nevertheless, it was deemed a good starting point and I had good contacts which in the future may help in exchanging ideas and information... I did have any ideas about San Antonio or Texas before. It was a closed book for me which I have recently been able to start reading. I was expecting a more closed, intolerant, and stiff society. Now, I am more than happy to have learned that your people are warmer than your weather, friendly and open-minded.”

-Ali Murat Nas (Turkey)

“I did not have any ideas about Texas before my visit, but now I know Texas as a very hospitable state and San Antonio as a city I will greatly miss... Big thanks to the organizers for the warm welcoming and I hope to be back soon.”

-Leho Laur (Estonia)

“The appointments met my professional objectives and helped me in better understanding the US criminal justice system, law enforcement, and border control aspects, as well as meeting key contacts in my area of expertise... We did not participate in home hospitality but there was a Community Lunch which was great! It was an amazing opportunity to meet US citizens, learn about their lives, and discuss many topics.”

-Rodrigo Cardoso Magno (Brazil)

“The fiesta events were something I’ve never seen before and they were amazing! Now I can say that San Antonio is the place where I would love to visit if I come back to the US.”

-Fatime Fetai (Macedonia)

“I would like to thank you and congratulate you on the program in San Antonio. The meetings were successful, I really appreciated the mixture of meeting with government bodies and civil society organizations. The lunch with members of the community was spectacular, I have never had a chance like this before. The program during the weekend was like a dream. So thank you for everything. I will definitely bring San Antonio with me.”

-Georgia Diogo (Brazil)

SHOWCASING STRENGTHS THROUGH NETWORK DC

By Sarah Wood, Fall 2016 Communications Intern
Global Ties US

Network DC offers community-based members (CBMs) a unique opportunity to spend three days here in our nation's capital as they network with those heavily involved in the IVLP. This trip, organized by Global Ties U.S., allows participants to highlight their community and CBM resources and speak to their organization's capabilities to National Programming Agencies (NPAs) and U.S. Department of State partners, as well as gain firsthand experience into what an IVLP opening in DC entails. The design of Network DC includes an abundance of meetings for those participating to network with the people involved with the IVLP experience at the national level.

One of our September participants from the San Antonio Council for International Visitors, Cecilia Cross, affirmed this by saying, "A major benefit to Network DC was that it provided me with valuable insight into what a visitors experience is on an

IVLP program. The experience mirrored an IVLP project, from receiving a program book and shadowing a program opening on our first day, to busy days filled with professional appointments, to time to participate in cultural activities."

Although the experience is relatively short in length, Cross continued to say, "This is something which will positively impact my programming techniques. Now that I am back at my organization, experiencing Network DC will help me to program more effectively and efficiently because I understand the bigger picture of the International Visitor Leadership Program as whole and all the many components that go into its success."

The hopeful take-away through meetings

with the Global Ties U.S. national office, the U.S. Department of State, and the NPAs is that the CBM representatives have a clear and nuanced understanding of who they are interfacing with and vice-versa. Furthermore, through Network DC there is the hope that through meeting those dedicated to international exchange, a revitalized effort to grow programming efforts from all partners will emerge. Another September participant from Michigan State University, Xinyu Wu, said this about her experience, "Now that I am back at my

organization, experiencing Network DC will encourage me to plan ahead for more and better programming and establish a volunteer team to bring visitors closer to the local community."

This concept was also echoed by one of our November participants Sarah Ridley-Gal from World Affairs Council of Central Florida who said, "...my Network DC experience will help me to

write stronger proposals and develop more effective programs with partners."

However, the opportunity does not only serve to meet the interests of CBMs, but also helps us at the Global Ties U.S. Through meeting with various representatives we gain insight to who we are working with, why their organization is unique, and what we can do to better serve our members nationwide. During each presentation with CBMS, we are reminded of our network's hard work and dedication to citizen diplomacy and international exchange. It is our hope that through visits such as these our network can continue to expand, propelling our dedication to international exchange forward.



Thank you to our CORPORATE MEMBERS



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POLICE PROFESSIONALIZATION EXCHANGE PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN TEXAS

*By Kate Wheeler, Professional Exchanges Fellow
Global Ties US*

In support of the Mérida Initiative, Global Ties U.S. and community-based members GlobalAustin and the San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) welcomed 19 high-level Mexican police academy leaders for the first project in our new Police Professionalization Exchange Program (PPEP), funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

The Mérida Initiative is an unprecedented partnership between the United States and Mexico to fight organized crime and associated violence while furthering respect for human rights and the rule of law. Under the nearly ten-year old agreement, bilateral efforts expand assistance to state level law enforcement and justice sector personnel; support democratic institutions, especially police, justice systems, and civil society organizations; expand our border focus beyond interdiction of contraband to include facilitating legitimate trade and travel; and build stable communities able to withstand the pressures of crime and violence. Between Fiscal Years 2008 and 2016, Congress appropriated more than \$2.6 billion under the Mérida Initiative, and police capacity building courses for Mexican law enforcement including crime investigation, criminal intelligence, professionalization, tactics and firearms, forensics, strategic analysis, and specialized training for anti-corruption, anti-gang, anti-trafficking in persons, anti-money laundering, and anti-kidnapping units. PPEP participants took part in an intensive weeklong in-person training academy to boost their understanding of how newly-recruited police officers are prepared for duty.

Participants met with local police officers, police academy trainers, and senior police leaders in both cities, engaging in both classroom and experiential learning. Annually over the next three years, the Network will welcome up to 200 in-person PPEP participants, as well as train another 500 online with U.S. experts. PPEP includes opportunities for Mexican law enforcement professionals

to receive training and professional development opportunities via online components, professional study tours in the U.S. and participation in a Mexican-

based training institute facilitated by U.S. law enforcement experts.

SACIV Executive Director Cecilia Cross said, "SACIV is thrilled to be working with Global Ties U.S. on this new and innovative program, which has allowed us to expand our portfolio and develop new partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. In a city with deep cultural and historic roots to Mexico, it was particularly meaningful to host our neighbors from across the border, especially as they examine topics of such importance to the security of the region."

The international professional exchange provided an important opportunity for capacity building and hands-on training. Personal and professional bonds were established which will lead to longer-term collaborations and partnerships on individual and institutional levels. "Collaboration through international professional exchange is crucial for continued training and development," explained Jason Terry, Associate Director of Exchanges and Professional Development at Global Ties U.S. "We are thrilled that the program is off to such an outstanding start, and look forward to welcoming and engaging with police officials over the next three years."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In February, SACIV welcomed nine law enforcement officers from across Mexico to San Antonio to take part in the pilot "Police Professionalization Exchange Program". The delegation spent a week familiarizing themselves with new training tactics at a local law enforcement training academy. Some highlights included responding to virtual threats in the life-size situation simulator and learning about teaching crowd control techniques to cadets. They also had the opportunity to participate in additional activities outside of the training academy such as police "ride-alongs", in which they observed and accompanied officers on duty as they patrolled the community and responded to calls. They even spent an evening enjoying one of San Antonio's quintessentially Texan experiences, The Rodeo.

The first phase of this ongoing partnership with Global Ties US was a resounding success not only for the international visitors and partner agencies, but also for the community members and local police officers that were able to interact with their Mexican counterparts and explore a variety of relevant topical issues related to policing in both Mexico and the US. The visitors were grateful for the opportunity to take part in the program and visit San Antonio for the first time. They returned home excited to implement the useful and practical applications they learned throughout the week.



Women Entrepreneurs Welcomed to San Antonio

By Cassandra Salsi, SACIV Spring Intern

In March, a group of visitors from Argentina, Belarus, Chile, Czech Republic, Iraq, Israel, and Japan came to San Antonio and made visits to organizations where they focused on the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting and empowering the development of women-owned business; exploring the social, economic, and political factors behind the development of private enterprise in the U.S.; and to discuss the societal barriers facing entrepreneurs, especially women and other disadvantaged groups.

Visitors met with leadership, faculty, and students from Business Careers High School, a public “magnet” high school that offers special classes on business etiquette, finance, entrepreneurial skills, and technology to help prepare students for careers in business. Visitors were also able to explore the unique special educational programs designed to inspire future business leaders. A chance to speak with students and faculty provided an opportunity

to discuss participant experiences and to learn about the best practices of successful business leaders.

VentureLab, whose campus, after-school programs, and mentorship use the teaching power of entrepreneurship to introduce, inspire, and encourage young people to enter and be successful in technical, creative, and scientific fields met with visitors and provided them with a chance to tour the facility and participate in a practical business exercise. Venture Lab’s staff shared their passion for encouraging and empowering young women in technical and entrepreneurial fields and created an open and engaging environment for visitors to discuss their own backgrounds and experiences.

Visitors also toured Geekdom, a collaborative working space where entrepreneurs, technology experts, developers, and makers work together to design innovative technology start-ups. They met with Geekdom representatives to learn about their role in attracting & growing entrepreneurial & tech talent to San Antonio. They also discussed accelerator programs and shared their own experience in the field as well as asked questions about developing similar programs at home. Visitors then toured the facility and learned about the new start-up companies and programs that are housed there, including 3-Day Startup, Geekbus, the Geekdom Fund, SA New Tech, and Open Cloud Technologies.

The visitors also had the chance to participate in a roundtable discussion session where they met representatives from several San Antonio women’s business organizations including, the Free Trade Alliance San Antonio, the San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce, and San Antonio’s Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Representatives provided an overview of their work and participated in a practical discussion on the

challenges and opportunities facing women in business and entrepreneurship, particularly those faced by minority and underserved women. Visitors also broke out into groups and were provided an opportunity to experience a more personal-



ize mentorship discussion which allowed for them to exchange ideas, experiences, brainstorm solutions, and to network.

At Stepping Stoned Pediatric Clinic, a rehabilitation facility for children with speech and learning disabilities and feeding challenges, the clinic’s founder and di-

rector, Ms. Yadira Medina-Torres, met with visitors and exposed them to yet another way in which a woman has been successful in creating an organization using entrepreneurial skills and support services. She shared her personal experience and motivations behind creating the clinic. She also shared the challenges and successes she encountered on her endeavor to create the clinic, the ways in which local entrepreneurial support mechanisms helped her achieve her goals, and shared her advice on ways to develop and sustain a successful business.

Visitors met with representatives from Haven for Hope where they learned about the comprehensive ser-



vice and care provided to people in Bexar County experiencing homelessness. They also learned about Haven for Hope’s extensive partnerships with governmental, non-profit and faith-based agencies which help make everything possible. Visitors toured campus and learned about the multitude of services and programs offered. They also participated in a learning session where they focused on financial sustainability and independence of those who come through Haven for Hope, including education, job training, employment readiness & identification, and financial management & budgeting skills. Visitors also participated in a community service project where they sorted and packed hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness at Haven for Hope and throughout the city.

Representatives from Mission Road Ministries, a faith-based non-profit organization that provides services to adults and children with intellectual and other disabilities to help them reach independence and community inclusion, met with visitors and provided lunch. Visitors learned about the Unicorn Center, which helps people with intellectual development disabilities develop job and life skills and find employment opportunities. Visitors toured the facility, met with clients, and saw workshop and learning environments. Visitors also had an opportunity to see products being produced and learned about the many different ways Unicorn Center provides services to its clients.

Global Group of Young Women Explore Education & Activism

By Cassandra Salsi, SACIV Spring Intern

In February, a group of visitors from Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe came to San Antonio to participate in a program entitled, "Education & Activism for Young Women". As part of the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the delegation focused topics including women's political & civic participation at the local level, classroom & campus-based efforts targeting girls and young women, promoting women's economic & entrepreneurial success, and volunteer activities.

Visitors met with City Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran whose experience as a lifelong resident of San Antonio and her family's extensive history here and in South Texas, reaching back over 200 years, gave her the ability to provide insight into the history, demographics, and current concerns facing the city today.

The visitors discussed how to overcome adversity and challenges in their professions and Councilwoman Viagran emphasized the importance of keeping an open mind and listening to everyone because, "you'll never know when you'll find common ground to help the community." She mentioned the type of joy she experiences when she is helping her community, something that resonated with the visitors who are all focused on giving back to their communities as well.

Additionally, visitors had an opportunity to meet with Incarnate Word High School and explore their approach in developing leadership and capacities of its students through service learning requirements. Visitors toured campus and had the opportunity for a question and answer session with students and faculty.

A meeting with Trinity University's Women & Gender Studies Program gave the visitors an opportunity to engage in a discussion about the cultural construction of gender and sexuality. They discussed Trinity's many classes which focus on gender and sexuality in the context of race and class, global & domestic politics, with religion, and critical models and goals for women's studies at the university level. It was a great opportunity to exchange perspectives about the status of women in the U.S. and in each visitor's home country.

Visitors met with the Bexar County Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (SMWBE). This visit provided insight women's entrepreneurship in the U.S. and Texas and what types of challenges they face.

The visit also provided information into the range of services and support specifically for women-owned enterprise.

Along with women's entrepreneurship, the visitors explored economic development and education. A meeting with Women's Global Connection demonstrated the importance of promoting the learning and leadership capacity of women locally and globally. Visitors discussed the organization's Women's Economic Development and Girls Education Programs in the United States, Latin America, and Africa.

Visitors then met with La Fuerza Unida, where they learned about the organization's mission to empower women workers and their families to achieve social, economic, and environmental justice through education, organizing, and advocacy.

Haven for Hope provided visitors the opportunity to learn about how the organization uses a comprehensive approach to provide services and care to those experiencing homelessness. Staff also discussed some of the common factors many homeless people face, such as experiencing trauma and how Haven for Hope addresses these problems. Not only did staff provide visitors with an overview of services and a campus tour, but they also arranged a volunteer project and the visitors packed over 200 hygiene kits for those in need.



Winter & Spring Program ► HIGHLIGHTS ►

In **January**, six visitors from **BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COSTA RICA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY**, and **VENEZUELA** visited San Antonio for a program on **“Law Enforcement: Community Policing”**. The program focused on examining the *collaboration of law enforcement & the community* and *citizen education of law enforcement activities* through meetings with:

- **San Antonio Police Department (SAPD)**, where they learned about *community participation programs*
- SAPD’s **San Antonio Fear Free Environment(SAFFE)**, where they learned about *community cooperation to resolve crimes*
- SAPD’s **Volunteers in Policing (VIP)**, where they learned about *citizen volunteer activities to support police department efforts*
- SAPD’s **Police Explorers**, where they learned about *educating youth about law enforcement*
- SAPD’s **Citizen Police Academy**, where they learned about *citizen participation in public safety*
- **Terrell Hills Police Department**, where they learned about *local neighborhood police departments and neighborhood watch groups*



Visitors also had the opportunity to shadow SAPD officers on patrol during “ride-alongs”, participate in a volunteer project at Catholic Charities’ Guadalupe Community Center, and explore downtown San Antonio & the Riverwalk.

In **February**, four visitors from **INDONESIA** visited San Antonio for a program on **“Benefits of Trade”**. Their program examined *US-Mexico trade relations, NAFTA/CAFTA & the creation of a regional trade agreement, the effects of NAFTA/CAFTA on agriculture & the rural economy, and the role of the private sector in trade promotion & policy advocacy* through meetings with:

- **Port San Antonio**
- **Free Trade Alliance San Antonio**
- **North American Development Bank (NADBank)**
- **HEB**
- **San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**
- **J. Canavati & Co. LLC**

Visitors also had the opportunity to have dinner with our members during “home hospitality” and visit the Institute of Texan Cultures’ Asian Festival.



In **March**, five visitors from **COLOMBIA** visited San Antonio for a program on **“Strengthening Public Health Strategies to Address Emergent Viruses”**. They examine *best practices in hospital administration, developing clinical & residency programs, and access to medical education & reproductive health* through meetings with:

- **UTHSCSA’s Research to Advance Community Health Center (ReACH)**
- **UTHSCSA’s Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR)**
- **Greater San Antonio Healthcare Foundation**
- **Trinity University’s Department of Health Care Administration**
- **Healthy Futures of Texas**
- **University Health System**
- **The Children’s Shelter**

Visitors also enjoyed dinner with our members during “home hospitality” and had a chance to explore the San Antonio Missions, downtown, and take a guided boat ride on the Riverwalk.

#GlobalSecurity: Delegation Explores International Crime Issues as Part of the “Towards a More Safe & Secure World” Initiative

In April, a delegation of visitors comprised in equal parts of representatives from law enforcement, legal & judicial, and border security sectors, visited San Antonio with the objective of learning about the legal system and international security issues from their counterparts and relevant organizations in our city. They hailed from sixteen different countries, including Brazil, Estonia, Greece, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Nigeria, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

The group consisted of a larger delegation, hosted by the US Department of State, including more than 100 law enforcement, security, judicial, and NGO officials from 62 countries participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program’s third annual “Towards a More Safe & Secure World” initiative, designed to promote global security cooperation. The three-week long program opened in Washington, DC with a day-long plenary session exploring mutual threats to international peace and security, including terrorism, border threats, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, cyber security, and trafficking in persons. Senior US government officials addressed a broad audience of influential international law enforcement, security partitions, and policy experts on US priorities in combating transnational crime & terrorism and closer international cooperation on key security issues.

Following the program in Washington, DC, the security law and law enforcement experts fanned out across the United States to twenty small and mid-sized cities, including San Antonio, for programming with federal, regional, and local law enforcement officers and public officials. Discussions provided an understanding of public safety and security concerns at the local and regional levels & security challenges & cooperation among law enforcement entities.

In San Antonio, the delegation examined specific issues related to crime and security as San Antonio’s location near the US border with



Mexico makes it a germane location to consider efforts to combat human trafficking and support for victims. Additionally, as San Antonio has emerged as a national leader in cyber security, visitors learned about cybercrime issues and approaches. The group had an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the legal system and international security issues, including academic perspectives on criminal justice & security concerns and civil rights considerations in security policy.

Dr. Megan Augustyn of the University of Texas at San Antonio’s College of Public Policy provided an opening informational session to visitors, allowing them insight into the US criminal justice system and how various actors work together. Visitors had the chance to learn more about and discuss areas such as policing, corrections, courts, immigration law, forensic science, drug control policy, and victim services.

The Bexar County Jail provided visitors with a tour of its facility and hosted a meeting to discuss American detention facility operations and approaches to incarceration, with an emphasis on educational, treatment, and rehabilitative programs available to inmates both during and following incarceration. Visitors also shared their own experiences in these areas and brainstormed ways to improve operations at home or to implement new ideas.

While focusing on international crime, St. Mary’s School of Law Center for Terrorism Law provided visitors with insight into the study of legal issues associated with both antiterrorism and counterterrorism through meeting with faculty and students. During this meeting, visitors focused on cyberspace and information assurance technologies. As the Center is a fully operational legal research center dedicated to the study of legal issues associated with such crimes, visitors learned how the Center places emphasis on professional exchanges, written materials, and extensive information resources regarding terrorism, students and experts examine current and potential legal issues related to terrorism and the balance between global security and civil justice.

Human trafficking, a major element of international crime, was

also on the agenda as a topic of importance. Visitors met with the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking, which is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary coalition dedicated to eliminating human trafficking from the region and comprised of federal, state, city, and county agencies and non-governmental agencies working on awareness, outreach, and victim services. The discussed the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking’s work toward prosecuting offenders, preventing future exploitation, and serving current victims. Coalition members discussed human trafficking issues in San Antonio and welcomed visitors to participate in a round-table discussion on the topic. Coalition members and visitors shared ideas and experiences on preventing human trafficking and learned how various stakeholders work cooperatively and the ways that their roles intersect.



Additionally, U.S. Homeland Security hosted a meeting with representatives from the San Antonio Field Office of Investigations, Homeland Security Investigations (HIS), and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Representatives discussed ground operations in investigating cross-border criminal activities including terrorism, money laundering, smuggling, human trafficking, financial fraud, and immigration fraud, specifically along the South Texas Border.

As San Antonio is recognized by the National Security Agency as one of the nation’s leading cities for cybersecurity activity, a meeting with the Cyber Innovation Technology & Research Consortium revealed how they have cultivated public-private partnerships which supplies an experienced cyber technology workforce to the region. Representatives from member organizations discussed trends in cybersecurity, the role of academia and the private sector in supporting cybersecurity, and opportunities in cyber technology. One member institution included the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Institute for Cyber Security (ICS), who shared its mission of pursuing world-leading research with real-world impact, including development of commercial technologies and services. Representatives revealed how their researchers at ICS bring exceptional expertise in cyber security models, architectures, protocols and technologies. Visitors also learned about world-class laboratories at ICS used for basic and applied research.

The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (SACC), CyberSecurity Industry Council is a driving force behind cyber security in the city and is composed of private sector, public sector, federal government, academic and entrepreneurial members working in, and dedicated to, growing San Antonio’s cyber security industry. As such, visitors were interested in learning more on how the council provides the strategic direction and guidance for the program’s initiatives. They also focused on how they are an industry-driven program that will accelerate the growth and national reputation of San Antonio’s cyber security sector by fostering a collaborative environment for innovation, job-producing investments, and public-private partnerships. This meeting opened the door for visitors to discuss partnerships, trends, and research topics on cybersecurity.



Visitors arrived just in time to attend the opening ceremonies of Fiesta, and witness this unique tradition and join in the celebration. Throughout their stay, they attended other Fiesta events, such as NIOSA and the Charreada, and enjoyed taking part in the festivities. Visitors were also invited to a community lunch at Los Barrios Mexican Restaurant where they had an opportunity to mingle with SACIV members and other members of the community for a meet-and-greet giving them the opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue while sharing a meal.

Delegation Examines Women as Political Leaders

By Cassandra Salsi, SACIV Spring Intern

In March, a delegation of visitors from Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Morocco, Iraq, and the Palestinian Territories were welcomed in San Antonio for a program examining women's leadership in community-based organizations & as elected officials, leadership in diverse communities, women & law enforcement, and empowering women & girls in under-resourced communities.

They met with staff and volunteers from the Martinez Street Women's Center, which strives for



empowerment, equity, and justice for women & girls through services, service learning, leadership development, academic excellence, and community building. Staff members dis-

cussed initiatives, such as the Girl Zone Program, which provides free afterschool sessions and summer camps that enhance academic potential, nurture high self-esteem, and support the healthy development of girls. The visitors also participated in a roundtable discussion on issued affecting local women and girls and how MSWC plans to approach these issues and empower women & girls while strengthening communities.

The University of the Incarnate Word's International Affairs Department hosted the visitors for a meet-and-greet luncheon. Visitors had the opportunity to meet with faculty and staff from the Ettling Center for Civic Leadership, International Student & Scholar Services, and the Department of Government & International Affairs.

Visitors met with Former Sherriff Susan Pamerleau, who served as Bexar County's chief law enforcement officer from 2012-2016 and was the first woman elected to the post. They learned about how Sherriff Pamerleau

began her 32-year career in the United States Air Force when less than one-percent of the Armed Forces

were women, and rose to the rank of Major General and how during her Air Force career, she served in the Pentagon developing plans, programs, and budget requirements for personnel programs, and base realignment and closure actions. She discussed how as part of the international Military Staff for NATO in Brussels, Belgium, she advised the NATO Military Committee and the North Atlantic Council on topics regarding strategic and force planning, nuclear policy, and arms control and disarmament and her time as Senior Vice President at USAA, a Fortune 150 company. Sherriff Pamerleau shared her story as a woman in historically "male" fields such as the military and law enforcement. She also discussed issues including public safety, mental health, and domestic violence, which she is passionate about.



Many of the visitors also shared these passions and had similar experiences to discuss which created a productive and open dialogue. Visitors also enjoyed an opportunity to meet with members of Bexar County Republican Women, the first Women's Republican Club in Texas and the third oldest Women's Republican Club in the United States, which encourages informed and active participation in government via voter education and advocacy. Representatives will highlight their various activities, events, and special project, as well as discuss how they work to promote an informed public



through political activity and to increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.



Asian Delegation Explores Internet Governance & Cyber Security

By Cassandra Salsi, SACIV Spring Intern

In February, a group of visitors from Asia including, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, came to San Antonio to learn more about cyber security and internet governance. Some of the objectives set forth by the State Department for Visitors to focus on were to: examine U.S foreign policy objectives regarding internet freedom; evaluate efforts to counter cybercrime; improve cyber security; explore government and private sector responsibilities in ensuring a secure, reliable internet; and examine human rights in the context of internet freedom. The visitors had extensive backgrounds in the public and private sectors in areas such as, international law, academia, international affairs, Information Technology, business, and policy making.

Visitors met with representatives from UTSA's Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), which conducts basic and applied research in partnership with academia, government, and industry sectors. Visitors learned about CIAS' mission, to deliver quality research, training, competition, and exercise programs to advance community and organizational cyber security capabilities and collaboration. They also had a chance to learn about the role CIAS plays as a university research institution within San Antonio's "Cyber Innovation Technology and Research Consortium," which links social institutions to the industry and cultivates public-private partnership which in turn supply a knowledgeable cyber technology workforce to San Antonio.

ThreatGuard, Inc., a company which provides security management solutions to financial, healthcare, and government institutions through value added resellers and system integrators, also took time to meet with our visitors. Visitors learned about the company's leadership, consisting of former military officers and successful entrepreneurs with expertise in information security, communications, and intelligence. They also discussed the role of San Antonio's thriving cyber security sector and how they provide security management solutions. Visitor's had an opportunity

to ask questions and to discuss how they approach cyber security at home.

Visitors also met with St. Mary's University School of Law's Center for Terrorism Law. The center is a fully operational legal research center dedicated to the study of legal issues surrounding both

antiterrorism and counterterrorism. They were able to learn about and discuss St. Mary's work and research in these areas. They placed an emphasis on cyberspace and information assurance technologies and discussed their role as part of San Antonio's "Cyber Innovation Technology and Research Consortium."

Another member of San Antonio's "Cyber Innovation Technology and Research Consortium," Texas A&M University-San Antonio (TAMUSA) took the time to meet with our visitors and discuss key issues related to internet governance and cyber security. Visitors learned about TAMUSA's Center for Information Technology & Cyber Security (CITCS). They also examined how CITCS prepares students to enter the cyber security and information technology workforce, which includes developing a middle-school-to-university cyber student pipeline, increase campus & community cyber awareness, and promotion of faculty and student research in the fields of IT and cyber security.



Interpreter Evaluation on “American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation” Program for Kazakhstan in May 2016 Report Prepared By Mr. Dimitry Zolotov

Perpetual Changes

According to the visitors, the recent economic downturn in Kazakhstan triggered by crumbling oil prices tests both the country's economic model and its commitment to building a civic society. In the environment of decreased governmental involvement in social projects and shrinking funding, NGOs have to rely on ingenuity and non-traditional approaches in order to continue serving their missions. Such things as coalition building, grant financing, fundraising, and use of volunteers are becoming increasingly important as alternatives to the government-funded model of operation. While these mechanisms do exist in Kazakhstan, the degree of their maturity is often questionable, lack of consistent experience being the major challenge.

Given the background, the project was valuable both in timing and substance. It introduced the visitors to American experience of youth engagement in civic society and shed the light on all issues described in the previous paragraph – and then some. The wide range of topics addressed during three weeks was one of the project's major strengths and accounted for the fact that the program was useful to all three visitors – despite the diversity of their professional interests. Consistency was another major asset of the project – most topics were addressed both conceptually and practically, this reinforcement being crucial for getting the points across and making lasting impressions. The project offered a lot of opportunities for comparison between the two systems – be it in education or fundraising; on the other hand, the visitors got exposed to unique American experiences (e.g., Girls Scouts) which broadened their cultural and professional horizons.

The practical implications of the project are three-fold. First of all, among many working mechanisms of civil engagement the visitors got to see, many are simple enough to be replicated in Kazakhstan. Secondly, the visitors established a lot of useful contacts with their American counterparts – some of them may lead to cooperation in the future (e.g., Reno's Big Brothers Big Sisters or Vermont Youth Conservation Corps), while others can be used as useful resources (e.g., The Foundation Center in DC). Finally, the project gave the visitors a chance to establish good working relationships among themselves, which will be helpful in their future work in Kazakhstan.

The biggest misconception the visitors had about the U.S. had to do with the role of the government in business. By way of extrapolating their country's economic model, they had thought the U.S. government had a stake in all major companies – at least in oil business. They were surprised to learn that there were no state enterprises of any sort – nor, in fact, any form of government ownership of or participation in private companies.

Cultural diversity was yet another valuable asset of the project. The visited cities and states were all very different, local specifics contributing pieces to the jig-saw puzzle of the Americana. The visitors had a chance to climb the hills of Lake Tahoe, to swim in the Gulf of Mexico, explore big cities, and appreciate the calm of small New England towns. The human aspect invariably made the difference – the visitors commented on the friendliness of Americans, their hospitality and willingness to share information.

City-By-City Evaluation: San Antonio, TX

Hi-paced and highly productive, San Antonio leg of the project became the best of four. All professional appointments were relevant to the visitors' interests, while the full weekend offered the visitors a lot of cultural opportunities – none were missed! More specifically:

MOVE San Antonio (Mr. Drew Galloway, Executive Director): The meeting focused on importance of participation of young Americans in politics. The key words of the discussion were “responsibility” and “community activism”. Use of technology and new media in recent election cycles were addressed (e-voting, Face-

book, Twitter, etc.). Mr. Galloway described his NGO's efforts in civic engagement and provided a lot of useful, eye-opening statistics. The appointment gave the visitors a chance to compare the political activity of population in the U.S. and Kazakhstan.

International School of Americas (ISA) (Ms. Honor Moorman, English and Social Studies Dean): Engaging and highly informative, the appointment became the highlight of San Antonio program. The visitors interacted with several classes of students who shared their experience of multicultural and community-oriented learning. Specific project were discussed, such as the annual Model UN conference, ISA travel program, and the Social Justice project. The visitors also attended a Digital Interactive Media class and observed the students' Make a Difference presentations. The visitors commented on the outspokenness and independence of the students, as well as the level of their community engagement. By unanimous opinion, the ISA became the best school appointment of the whole project.

Claude and Zernon Black Development Leadership Foundation (Mr. Taj Matthews, Executive Director): The appointment was beneficial both professionally and culturally. The personal story of Mr. Matthews was a great example of how one man's vision can transform lives around. The Foundation grew out of his involvement with troubled kids and grew into a full-fledged social services network running an array of programs that focus on a diverse range of issues specific to the community: from at-risk teens education and mentorship to computer and technology training and senior citizen services. Mr. Matthews shared with the visitors real stories (both, of success and failure) and won their hearts with his passionate attitude towards his work. The visitors were interested in replicating some of the programs in Kazakhstan and made an offer of partnership – the parties exchanged the contact information with the intent of follow-up.

Knox Early Childhood Center (Ms. Mikel Brightman, Administrator, Head Start Division, Department of Human Resources of the city of San Antonio): The appointment was memorable and informative. The visitors learned about the Head Start San Antonio program, had a tour of the Center and participated in a discussion on early childhood education. The visit gave them a chance to compare the American system of pre-K education with that of Kazakhstan.

Café College (Ms. Rebeca Gonzalez, Program Manager, San Antonio Educational Partnership): A resource hub for San Antonians of any age wishing to pursue higher education, Café College sees its mission in creating a more educated work-force and increasing the city's “brainpower”. The appointment was useful on several levels. First, it demonstrated the local government's solid, well-thought-of policy of socio-economic development. Secondly, it introduced to the visitors simple, practical mechanisms of increasing college enrollment and spreading the awareness of higher education's importance in today's knowledge-based economy. Finally, the visitors learned a lot about the student financial aid system in the U.S.

Venture Lab (Mr. Nick Honegger, Education Guru): An excellent example of an extracurricular program, this non-profit teaches San Antonio high school students entrepreneurial thinking, ingenuity, and hands-on creativity. This is achieved through experiential learning, business classes, brainstorm sessions, practical field trips and camps. The visitors appreciated the Lab's novel approach as well as Mr. Honegger's commitment to non-profit work (formerly a successful entrepreneur, he decided to devote himself fully to raising a new generation of independent thinkers and innovators). Several success stories that he shared with the visitors, impressed them a lot. Parenthetically, it was also a good example of partnership between the city's school district and an NGO.

**Interpreter Evaluation on
“Free Trade Agreement Implementation”
Program for South Korea in August & September 2016
Report Prepared By Mr. Hee Seok Chae**

The visitors had an enlightening time while they had the home hospitality dinner in San Antonio. The two hosts of home hospitality dinners were very kind to the visitors with not only good meals and interactive amicable conversations but also sharing their hobbies with the visitors. One of the visitors, Mr. Kwanwoo Kim, said that he had insights and inspiration about his life from Mr. Luis Olson at the Olson's by observing Mr. Olson play with his small-sized airplanes. Ms. Betty Berchermann, the other host, invited again Ms. Ann Green and the visitors, Ms. Yoon and Mr. Lee, whom she had hosted on Saturday, on Monday, the Labor Day, to one of her friend's house and showed the visitors her friend's house and porcelain art studio.

The visitors liked the meeting at AMS Specialty Crops Inspection Division the most among the meetings in San Antonio, as they had another chance to see the documents of the crops inspected.

They received introductions to organizations in which they had meetings, including the US Commercial Service, City of San Antonio's Economic Development Department, Port San Antonio, and San Antonio Produce Market. The visitors learned about major industries in San Antonio, Free Trade Zone, and San Antonio's advantaged location related to the NAFTA.

Mr. Fernando Narvaez of the San Antonio Wholesale Produce Market (SAWPM) introduced SAWPM and the company's warehouse development projects in Mexico and Texas to the visitors. He showed the visitors a video which presented the development of the Warehouse Kingdom in McAllen, Texas in 2009, and said that SAWPM is a product of a business model replicating other similar projects which the company did in the past including the McAllen project. The visitors had an opportunity to briefly tour a storage space. A question, which one of the visitors raised, was regarding if there had been any case that Mr. Narvaez saw fruits imported which did not have any labeling on each fruit imported and stored in the storage space.

Mr. Juan Antonio Flores, Executive Vice President of Port San Antonio, and Mr. German Rico, Vice President of Business Development of the East Kelly Railport of Port San Antonio, gave introduction to Port San Antonio, Free Trade Zone, government and corporate customers, its facilities and properties, and renovation and redevelopment of the properties in the Zone. The visitors were interested in duty free treatment of products and parts imported into the Zone. The interlocutors kindly explained when the duties are exempted and when they are levied by citing examples. The visitors had a tour of the Free Trade Zone and had a presentation by Mr. David Berrocal Diaz-Faes, Assistant Vice President for Corporate Business Development of OpTech Operational Technologies. They had a chance to see the storage facility where a lot of goods and raw materials were stored and received a brief introduction made by Mr. Steve Krueger, Director of Fulfillment and Facilities Management of OpTech Operational Technologies.

At the U.S. Export Assistant Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce in San Antonio, the visitors were advised on what the U.S. Commercial Service does for local companies in San Antonio, what kind of support, training, seminars, webinars are provided to U.S. small businesses, exporters, and corporations. Ms. Yoon said that she was pleased to have the meeting with Mr. Daniel G. Rodriguez, who advised in detail what the Commercial Service did about FTAs including the U.S. – Korea FTA for U.S. companies for benefiting from FTAs. Other questions the visitors raised are as follows: Have there been any promotional educational events in which the U.S. – Korea FTA was promoted to the U.S. companies since ratification of the agreement? There is a center counseling on the KORUS FTA in Korea, is there a similar center in the U.S., which counsels on the agreement? Does the U.S.D.A. Commercial Service cooperate with the U.S. CBP? Are there specialists and experts on the

FTAs including the KORUS FTA? Mr. Rodriguez kindly responded to their questions in detail, and the visitors were satisfied with the answers that they had at the meeting.

The visitors had an opportunity to participate in a resource management project in which they moved boxes of food products, put food products on the shelves, and made bags of food items to be distributed to the poor and needy. The visitors worked hard and energetically and did very well.

At the City of San Antonio's Economic Development Department, Ms. Skadi Tirpak introduced San Antonio as a city with a strategy for the future as part of a global city initiative and the city's core industries such as aerospace, cyber security and technology, new energy, and advanced manufacturing. She also explained to the visitors existing traditional industries in San Antonio, foreign companies which made direct investment in San Antonio, and briefly explained companies like Toyota, H.E.B., Frost Bank, Free Trade Council, and International Free Trade Foundation. She also advised on a Korean company named Mission Solar, a photovoltaic company, which participates in renewable energy consortium. Ms. Ketly F. Hinojos, Economic Development Coordinator in the International and Economic Development, explained about Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and their benefits to both U.S. companies and foreign companies.

Mr. Dwain Parris and Mr. Frank R. Segarra, of the Specialty Crops Inspection Division of Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, introduced to the visitors their grading work with both imported products and domestic products. They showed canned products sampled to be inspected for grading, and explained documents, labels and processes of inspection and grading. In addition, they said that Commodity Support Service Division (CSSD) scientific laboratories in North Carolina could confirm country of origin through DNA analysis. The visitors liked the meeting.

Mr. Jorge Canavati, President of J. Canavati & Co. introduced Free Trade Zones in Mexico and Korean companies' activities there, including KIA Motor Company. The visitors discussed the certificate of origin of the NAFTA. Mr. Lee asked Mr. Canavati about export routes of Mexican pork from Mexico to Korea. Mr. Canavati showed the importance of relationships between and among the U.S., Mexico, and Korea with NAFTA, the U.S. – Korea FTA, and TPP.

The visitors had extensive cultural experiences by visiting and touring various places including the Alamos, the Tower of Americas, the River Walk, Market Square, the San Fernando Cathedral, a historical district Gruene, and San Marcos. In addition, they enjoyed watching a film titled "the Saga" at the Cathedral, and 4D movies including the Skies of Texas at the Tower of Americas in San Antonio.

“WORLD VIEW”

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San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) was founded in 1989 as a non-profit, volunteer-based organization aimed at encouraging understanding and friendship between the community and visitors from abroad. SACIV provides information, hospitality, and assistance in making business and professional contacts for these visitors. SACIV is a member of Global Ties US in Washington, DC. This publication is funded by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961.

San Antonio Council for International Visitors

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