

News Release

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San Diego Citizen Diplomacy Council Brings Nearly 150 Foreign Dignitaries to San Diego in September-October

Visits Bring Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars to Local Economy

Under the auspices of the federal government, the nonprofit Citizen Diplomacy Council of San Diego (CDCSD) is bringing nearly 150 foreign dignitaries from more than 30 countries to San Diego over the next six weeks. The itineraries, which will include professional, social, educational and cultural exchanges, will last from a few days to as long as three weeks. These CDCSD projects represent an infusion of hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local economy.

Ten visitors from Russia, who are here for three weeks to study “Corruption Awareness, Prevention & Prosecution,” will meet with representatives of more than 50 local institutions and agencies during their stay.

A group of five journalists and media executives from Moldova, here under a Library of Congress “Open World” project, will study “The Media’s Role in Informing the Public” during an intensive one-week visit that will include meetings with numerous local media outlets. While most delegations stay in hotels, these groups will be staying in local homes. Possible home hosts are urged to contact the Citizen Diplomacy Council for full details.

Other multi-regional groups will be here to study preparation for public pandemics, combating international crime, civic activism, administration of justice, and women’s medicine.

“Our visitors are primarily high-ranking foreign officials, educators, scientists and journalists who have been selected for their leadership potential by U.S. Embassy officials around the world,” says Cath DeStefano, executive director of the Mission Valley-based membership organization. “The U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is considered to be one of the most effective diplomatic tools we have to educate foreign leaders about our country and our character as a people.”

“These visits also give local citizens the ability to casually meet and start friendships with people all over the world,” adds Barbara Metz, president of the board of directors. “Members have opportunities to interact with the visitors in numerous ways, including receptions, home hospitality, giving tours, or even hosting visitors in their homes. Through CDCSD I have life-long friendships with people from all over the world. My email address book is a veritable United Nations.”

The Citizen Diplomacy Council of San Diego is one of 91 affiliated councils located throughout the country. Membership is open to anyone who wants to support and participate in international understanding and cooperation, constructive economic connections and peaceful interaction. For information, visit cdcsd.org or call (619) 291-8105.