



Dr. Liane Hentschke
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

On August 20, we had the privilege of hosting an important presentation on China by Dr. Dexter Roberts, moderated by Jeremy Goldkorn. In September, we will feature two timely programs: Robin Quinville on Europe and Brian Katulis on the Middle East. Please stay connected through our website, social media channels, and special announcements for details on these and future events.

We also hosted an outstanding webinar entitled “The Power of the Olympic Brand and the Geopolitics of Global Sport”, featuring Mr. Terrence Burns, Chairman and Owner of T. Burns Sports Group, LLC, in conversation with Karl Dean, TNWAC Chairman and former Mayor of Nashville. Looking ahead, on September 19, Karl Dean will interview Lori Becker, President and Publisher of the Nashville Business Journal, in another edition of our Global Nashville webinar series.

This month, our guest columnist is Matthew Hughes, President and CEO of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) is the national organization representing 90 councils across the United States. TNWAC is proud to be part of this network, with our Chairman, Karl Dean, serving on WACA’s Board of Directors.

At TNWAC, we remain committed to bringing high-level speakers to illuminate global developments, whether in conflict zones, areas of fragile peace, or regions of shifting geopolitical influence. These conversations are vital, as global issues directly shape American business, politics, and the daily lives of our citizens. Hearing from experts enables us to look beyond the headlines and deepen our understanding of the forces shaping the world today.

Explore International Careers

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST

Play a pivotal role in shaping national development strategies by providing high-quality economic analysis and policy advice. As a Development Economist, you'll help integrate the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals into national systems, advise on macroeconomic trends, and collaborate with government counterparts and international agencies.

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

As a UN Resident Coordinator, you serve as the highest-ranking UN representative in a country, responsible for leading and coordinating the work of all UN agencies, funds, and programs operating on the ground. This role ensures that the UN speaks and acts with one voice, aligning its diverse activities with the host nation's priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jennifer Gheorghe



Jennifer is a senior at Florida State University pursuing a dual degree in International Affairs and Psychology.

Growing up just outside Nashville with Romanian immigrant parents, she developed a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and a passion for global understanding. Inspired by her background, Jennifer aspires to a career in international diplomacy where she can foster peaceful cross-cultural collaboration.

We're thrilled to have her talents and passion supporting TNWAC's mission to connect Tennesseans to the world!

Did You Know?

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) works in approximately **170 countries and territories**, actively supporting efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and advance sustainable development worldwide.

Sponsor Highlight



ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN®

We extend our sincere thanks to AllianceBernstein for its generous sponsorship and steadfast support. Their commitment to education and global understanding strengthens our mission to connect Tennesseans with the world. Through your partnership, we are empowering students, fostering informed dialogue, and preparing future leaders to thrive in a complex global landscape.

Thank you for your support!

Guest Columnist



The views and opinions expressed in our guest column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tennessee World Affairs Council.

In a time when the world feels increasingly complex, global engagement matters. At the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), our mission is clear: to support, strengthen, and represent the remarkable local Councils that deepen the global perspective of communities across the country. One of those you know so well – the Tennessee World Affairs Council, which for nearly 20 years has delivered global awareness programs and resources to communities and especially schools in the Volunteer State.

From Alaska to Miami, Hawaii to Maine, and so many places in between, 90 World Affairs Councils form a nonpartisan, grassroots network dedicated to educating Americans on the critical global issues shaping our future. Whether convening public forums, supporting student programs like Academic WorldQuest, hosting international visitors, or fostering dialogue across generations and political divides, Councils are at the frontlines of global engagement.

At the national level, our work is centered on amplifying these efforts. We serve as a convener, resource hub, and strategic partner providing funding support, sharing best practices, and representing our network in national and international forums. Our programs span national convenings, national delegations to countries in focus, national conversations on critical international topics, roundtable discussions, and capacity-building initiatives for Council staff and volunteers, and exploration and engagement opportunities for high school and university students – all meant to elevate the work of Councils and ensure their continued impact.

We're also proud to serve as a bridge between local and global, connecting our members with world-class speakers, foreign policy leaders, and decision-makers at the highest levels of government, business, and civil society. This convening power comes to life most powerfully each fall during our flagship event, the WACA National Conference.

This year's conference, taking place November 19–21 in Washington, DC, ties in the theme "The World, On Balance" as a reflection of the recalibration we're witnessing on the global stage. This year's agenda explores the concept of balance through diverse sessions covering the evolving world order, the realignment of U.S. foreign assistance, the changing dynamics of the Middle East, global trade and tariffs, and often-overlooked regions and relationships vital to our collective future. Participants will also benefit from offsite briefings at leading think tanks, networking opportunities, and a special reception hosted at an Embassy, all designed to foster new insights and meaningful connections.

We warmly welcome interest from Council members, supporters, and partners to join us in Washington this fall. Together, we can ensure that international affairs remain not just the concern of policymakers in D.C. or New York, but a shared civic responsibility – one rooted in the belief that knowledge is power, and dialogue is the foundation of peace.

We look forward to seeing you in DC and deeply appreciate your thoughtful engagement with the Tennessee World Affairs Council, a shining star in our national constellation.

Matthew Hughes

President & CEO, *World Affairs Councils of America*



Board Member Highlight: **Bill Diebenow**

TNWAC is proud to spotlight **Bill Diebenow**, a valued member of our Board of Directors whose unique career bridges global travel and real estate. With a background in international education and East Asian Studies, his passion for cross-cultural exchange has taken him to over 100 countries. As the visionary behind the World Leaders Symposium, he created unforgettable, educational journeys featuring iconic figures like Madeleine Albright, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Condoleezza Rice.

Today, Bill continues to serve his community as a trusted real estate advisor with Compass RE, while contributing his global insight and commitment to international understanding through his role at TNWAC.

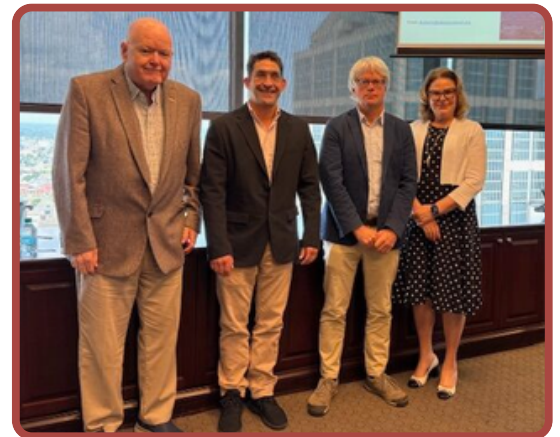
AUGUST RECAP

Distinguished Speaker Series

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Wednesday, August 20, for our Distinguished Speaker Series Luncheon at Holland & Knight.

We were pleased to host Dexter Roberts, *Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council*, who shared insights on China's economy and soft-power strategies.

The conversation shed light on how evolving dynamics are shaping the global balance of power.



Last Month, We Welcomed:



5 NEW MEMBERS



6 NEW DONORS



TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Sep 11 - Sep 20



CAPITALS OF SPAIN: MADRID & BARCELONA

Sep 16 - Sep 25

REGISTER NOW >

Support TNWAC

As a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, our mission is to **promote international awareness, understanding**, and connections to enhance the region's global stature and to prepare Tennesseans to thrive in our increasingly complex and interconnected world.

1

Bring a friend to one of our events and encourage them to join us as a member!

2

Introduce our team to an **expert in your network** to join us as a speaker in 2025!

3

Encourage **businesses you love to join TNWAC** as a corporate member or sponsor!



SEP 18

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Trump 2.0: US Policy Shifts Amid a Changing Middle East Landscape

Brian Katulis (*Senior Fellow of US Foreign Policy, The Middle East Institute*)



OCT 02

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Frontlines of Trade: Why Global Supply Chains Are America's National Interest

Mike Honious (*President and CEO, GEODIS*)



OCT 15

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Global Country Music Scene in 2025

Sarah Trahern (*Chief Executive Officer, The Country Music Association - CMA*)



NOV 6

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Leading Through Partnership: Tennessee's Strategy for Global Investment

Stuart McWhorter (*Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development*)

TNWAC 2025 Programming Goals

