

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION

IIE/West Coast

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

Join us in welcoming the world to the Bay Area

This month is IIE WCC membership drive month. Become a member of IIE WCC or renew your commitment - perhaps at a higher level of generosity. With your gift you provide **critical support for our work in international education and citizen diplomacy.**

Do the Presidential elections matter? Of course they do. But the new administration voted into office in November, however well-intentioned, will not immediately if ever erase some of the existing distrust of the United States. **This is because governments cannot do what ordinary citizens can do, they cannot do what you can do: build understanding and trust one hand shake at a time.**

There is a very real, ongoing and urgent need for all of us to assume more personal responsibility for our nation. Our national security depends ever increasingly on our ability to be a respected and welcomed member of the world community.

The International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), one of the programs managed by **Institute of International Education (IIE WCC)**, allows citizens to do just that - to participate in the public discourse and positively impact perceptions of the U.S. around the world. Annually we welcome close to 1000 international current or emerging leaders from around the world to the Bay Area. They come from all walks of life - from government, business, arts, journalism, medicine and education. The IIE WCC staff and volunteers organize meetings with peers in their field and, most importantly, gives them the opportunity to visit ordinary American families who generously open their homes.

Surveys have consistently shown that U.S. Ambassadors rate the IVLP as the most effective public diplomacy tool at their disposal for influencing overseas opinion about the United States. Seeing the United States firsthand and interacting directly with Americans in their offices, businesses, schools and homes repeatedly turns critics and skeptics into informed observers and friends.

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IIE West Coast Center invites our fellow citizens to join us in welcoming the world to the Bay Area and to help make friends for America. Now.

IVLP delegation from cities Batumi, Tbilisi and Signaghi in Georgia with Rich Weideman representing the Alcatraz Island National Park Service



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU - THANK YOU!

In October 2005, **IIE West Coast Center (IIE WCC)** was asked by the U.S. Department of State to administer the **International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)**, which had been previously managed by the International Diplomacy Council (IDC). The cost of managing the program is partially provided by a grant from the **Department of State (47%)**. **The balance of funding must come from our generous Bay Area supporters like you.** **Bill and Phyllis Draper** helped us with a substantial initial gift to assure the success of the transition.

The **IVLP** currently has three tireless **staff members** working on the program - **Katka Letzing, Kari Anderson and Liana Small** and many dedicated volunteers. We would like to share with you some statistics to give you an idea of the impressive achievements of this small staff and our volunteers.

In the past fiscal year alone we have:

- Crafted programs for **almost 1,000 international emerging leaders** visiting the **Bay Area**, making **IIE WCC** number one **among 91 IVLP offices around the U.S.**
- Organized visits to **Bay Area public schools for numerous visitors. More than 500 high school students** have had the opportunity to interact with emerging international leaders from more than 140 countries.
- **Arranged home hospitality visits with more than 100 Bay Area families** who opened their homes and hosted foreign visitors, forming friendships across the globe.

Get to know some of our volunteers:

Jean Dahlstrom Marcucci: Jean is a retired lawyer with silver hair and a lovely smile. She started working at IIE WCC in September 2007 after returning from a stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya. You can find Jean at our office three days a week because "I love the interaction with younger people and I am given real responsibilities even as a volunteer, which is unusual in a non-profit."

Josh Capodarco: Josh is in his 20s and has just arrived at IIE WCC. He is a student at the University of Minnesota who plans to double-major in English and French. Josh spent the last seven months in Senegal teaching English. He learned about IIE through his university and seized the opportunity to gain some work experience in a non-profit because he is looking to eventually work in the field of international education.

Suzan Helvaci Sarikut: Suzan is from Turkey and was born in Bulgaria. She is a cheerful young woman in her mid-20s whose advisor at Golden Gate University suggested that she check out internship possibilities at IIE. Suzan has a keen interest in international affairs and enjoys working with a multi-cultural staff. She has been with IIE WCC for three months and is enjoying the experience.

Karen Nossiter: Karen is a vibrant, energetic woman in her mid-50s who has always had a passion for "the world." She came to IIE in January 2007 after retiring as a corporate legal assistant. Karen, who found IIE by surfing the web, declares that her time at IIE "has been fantastic for me." She keeps in touch with former volunteers and has met many of the international visitors for whom she is preparing programs. She says proudly, "I am on Facebook because of the young volunteers I met at IIE."

Other IVLP Current Volunteers:

Elaine Douglas Cahn, Jesse Spector, Madeline Weeks, Cendahl Cornellio-Alter, Marilyn Whitcher, Christine Cordaro, Fang Gu, Ina Seok, Marcela Ardema, Akofa Tsiagbe, Hinda Al-Fayez and Tracy Wilson.

Membership Application

Become or renew member on online! [Click here](#) for the membership application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Taylor Snyder** at tsnyder@iie.org or 415-362-6520 ext. 200.

IVLP Volunteers and Staff with Brad Minnick, Director of the Office of International Visitors, Department of State



Join Our List

Send email to:
iiesfmembership@iie.org

IIE West Coast Regional Board Meeting with Brad Minnick, Director of the Office of International Visitors, Department of State and Sherry Mueller, President of NCIV

