In our soundbite culture, it’s easy to pass over international developments without critical thought. For nearly 65 years, the International Relations Council has offered businesses, universities, community organizations, K-12 schools, and interested individuals in the Kansas City metro area the chance to carve out space and time to dive deep into what’s going on around the world and how it connects to our community here. We bring people together from a range of backgrounds and perspectives to encourage thoughtful engagement with the foreign affairs, global issues, and international relations of our time – all while fostering a welcoming community of individual and organizational members.

Over the last twelve months, with the help of so many volunteers and generous sponsors, we’ve enhanced our traditional lecture series and further diversified our programs, from the News & Views community discussion series and the second annual Great Decisions Forum to the Your Global Future college and career fair for high school students. In June 2019, we even had the privilege of hosting representatives from our national network, the World Affairs Councils of America, for the annual council leadership meeting. Along with programming, membership continues to grow, and our board and staff are working hard to provide even more ways to get involved and help grow a global perspective in Kansas City.

What’s your role in the IRC? As you review this midyear update, we invite you to consider how you’d like to engage and be in touch with the board or staff. Whether you have time, a special skill, or other resources to offer, we have a place for you. Thank you for your continued support and for your part in making this important work possible.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Bell
2019 IRC President
About The IRC

Who We Are
A Kansas City nonprofit organization and a member of the World Affairs Councils of America, the International Relations Council (IRC) works in partnership with businesses, universities, community organizations, and K-12 schools to bring a global perspective to our community. We bring world leaders and dignitaries to the metro region, host forums for high school students to interact with and learn from foreign policy experts, and create opportunities for area business leaders to strengthen relationships abroad. We believe that by promoting global awareness and understanding, we support and strengthen our community.

World Affairs Councils of America
The IRC is a member of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), a nonpartisan national network dedicated to engaging the public and leading global voices to better understand the world, America’s international role, and the policy choices that impact our daily lives and our future. WACA connects more than 90 member councils in 40 states.

2019 National Meeting in Kansas City
The IRC was honored to host WACA’s 2019 council leadership meeting in Kansas City from June 13-15. Executives and board members from 25 councils around the country joined IRC members and board members for a time of reflection, connection, and learning. The summit began with the second annual Great Decisions Forum at the National WWI Museum and Memorial, with panelists including Nazanin Ash, vice president of global policy and advocacy at the International Rescue Committee; Abdul Bakar, director of refugee resettlement for Della Lamb Community Services in Kansas City; and Dr. Matt Naylor, president and CEO of the WWI Museum. The next day, after being welcomed by Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Sly James and IRC board member Narbeli Galindo, participants heard from a range of experts and practitioners on topics related to council operations, before enjoying a special reception with guest speaker Uzra Zeya, president and CEO of the Alliance for Peacebuilding. Throughout their visit, participants enjoyed tours of the WWI Museum, the Truman Presidential Library, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. We offer our deep gratitude to the many sponsors, program partners, and volunteers who made this exciting event possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2018</td>
<td>Sarah Margon, Washington Director for Human Rights Watch</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>China Town Hall: Local panel on tariffs and trade with China</td>
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<td>October 2018</td>
<td>Your Global Future college and career fair for high school students</td>
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<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Global Honors Evening with Amb. Bill Burns, former Deputy Secretary of State</td>
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<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Working Across Countries and Cultures: What It Means for Entrepreneurs</td>
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<td>January 2019</td>
<td>IRC Book Club: <em>We Wanted Workers: Unraveling the Immigration Narrative</em></td>
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<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Megaregions and the Future of Mass Transportation</td>
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<td>February 2019</td>
<td>Closing the Global Gap: Canada</td>
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<td>February 2019</td>
<td>Berkley Lecture: National Security Challenges in the Next Decade</td>
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<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Brexit and the Future of Europe</td>
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<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Iran and the Larger Middle East with Ambassador Thomas Pickering</td>
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<td>April 2019</td>
<td>U.S.-Taiwan Relations as the Taiwan Relations Act Turns 40</td>
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<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Closing the Global Gap: India</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Hunger, History, and the Heartland: A Global Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>Great Decisions: Refugees and Global Migration</td>
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Global Honors Evening
For more than 30 years, the IRC has recognized individuals or organizations for a variety of contributions – to foreign policy and global affairs, to international commerce, or to the Kansas City community. In 2018, we celebrated the distinguished service of Ambassador Bill Burns, former U.S. deputy secretary of state and current president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The City of Kansas City, Missouri, was also acknowledged with the Award for Contributions to the Community.

Berkley Lecture
Founded in 1996 and named after our founder, Eliot Berkley, this annual program brings an expert in foreign policy and global affairs to the Kansas City area to provide a platform for engaging community members in understanding critical global issues. Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, a career diplomat now affiliated with Harvard University’s Belfer Center, offered insights into national security challenges in the next decade.

WorldQuest
More than 200 business professionals, academic faculty, students, and community members come together each year for this IRC member favorite – an evening of food, drink, and global trivia with friendly competition and great prizes. Congratulations to the 2019 winners – Gertrude Ederle, Travelers’ Century Club, and William Jewell College!
Academic WorldQuest

Each year since 2006, the IRC has offered high school students the chance to showcase their knowledge of world affairs, geography, history, and world events. The winning team receives an expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national tournament. Congratulations to this year’s firstplace team from Shawnee Mission East High School!

Your Global Future

New in 2018, this unique college and career fair brought together more than 50 international businesses, organizations, and colleges and universities to show 500 area high school students just how global their future can be. We are looking forward to the 2019 event in late October.

Berkley Award

For his superior academic interest and competence in international affairs, John Lubianetsky of the Barstow School was honored with this year’s award named in memory of our founder and longtime executive director, Eliot S. Berkley.
IRC Lecture Series – We bring together dignitaries, foreign policy experts, and regional leaders to discuss, debate, and engage the local community in issues of international scope and local relevance; often free for students.

Great Decisions – Discussion groups meet around the metro area for conversations on critical international topics.

Global Honors Evening – For more than 30 years, the IRC has recognized individuals or organizations for a variety of contributions – to foreign policy and global affairs, to international commerce, or to the Kansas City community.

WorldQuest – We host a global trivia night for 200+ business professionals, academic faculty, students, and community members.

Berkley Lecture – Founded in 1996, this lecture brings an expert in foreign policy and global affairs to the Kansas City area to provide a platform for engaging community members in understanding critical global issues.

Global Experience Series – Participants of all ages, interests, and backgrounds explore how international Kansas City is while answering two key questions: What’s your global story? Do you get the chance to share it?

News & Views – We host community conversations on the latest international news in a respectful, informal setting.

IRC Speakers Bureau – International subject matter experts are available to speak free of charge at community events, K-12 schools, and universities.
Ways to Get Involved

Sign up for the IRC newsletter – Our weekly newsletter presents updates on IRC programs as well as a calendar of internationally themed community events and volunteer opportunities with other organizations.

Attend a program – From lectures and panel presentations to discussion groups and casual meals, our programs welcome a wide range of participants and cover foreign affairs, global issues, international relations, and how they connect to our community. We enjoy bringing global affairs experts to the area and tapping into the remarkable global expertise right here in Kansas City.

Become an IRC Member – Memberships support the work of the IRC and offer a variety of ways to contribute as an individual, family, business, organization or university.

Offer to host an event at your organization or workplace – We do our best to move IRC programs around the Kansas City metro area to make them as geographically accessible as possible. If your business or organization would be interested in hosting an IRC event, please contact Matthew.

IRC Resources

Weekly Newsletter & Community Calendar – Each week the IRC publishes a newsletter with information about our events as well as other international events, organizations, and opportunities in the Kansas City area.

Kansas City International Directory – Kansas City is home to countless organizations with a global focus or international operations, including the IRC, and we love how connecting organizations can result in valuable ideas and impact no organization would be able to produce alone. To help connect international organizations in the area, the IRC is proud to offer this growing directory.

Global Education Resources – The IRC is pleased to offer global education resources as a collection of free webpages, videos, PDFs, games, and lesson plans covering a variety of international topics for the use of teachers and students.
The IRC, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, relies on the generosity of members and friends who sustain our efforts to foster a global perspective in the Kansas City community. We gratefully recognize the following individuals whose contributions to the IRC in the twelve months preceding June 1, 2019, have totaled at least $150. Thank you for your help in making this important work possible!

### Emissary
($1,000+)

- Anonymous
- Jeffrey Bell
- Bert Berkley
- E. Andrew Berkley
- Dunn Family Foundation
- William G. Eckhardt
- Janet Kannard
- Bill & Lyn Lakin
- Nancy Messer
- Holly Nielsen
- Lawrence Rouse
- Paul Savastano
- Cyprienne Simchowitz & Jerry White
- Sosland Foundation
- Joy Stevenson
- Karenbeth Zacharias

### Benefactor
($500 to $999)

- Mithra Amaran
- Janet Baird
- Kirk Doan
- Bill & Irma Lou Hirsch
- Bill Kort
- Benny Lee
- Stanley S. & Ardyce H. Pearson
- Gino Serra
- Stephen Steigman

### Statesman
($300 to $499)

- Bill & Maureen Berkley
- Sally Firestone
- Moulton & Jean Green
- Michael Hernandez
- Gregory & Susanne Hoffmann
- Christine Hughes
- Kevin Pistilli
- Chris Steineger & Shari Wilson
- Cathy Tisdale
- Susan Vogel
- Mike & Maggie Wood

### Patron
($150 to $299)

- Anonymous
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- Raj & Shelley Bhattacharya
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- Jennifer Day
- Don Dickey
- Jane Chandler Holt
- Amb. Allan Katz
- Ross & Elizabeth Lillard
- Shelly Ma
- Tina MahatFulvi
- Kelli Meilink
- Joe & Judy Moody
- Dr. Gary Morsch
- Barbara Nelson
- Carrie Sherer
- Cynthia Siebert
- Leo Sweeney
- Jane VanSant
- Heinz Wehner
- Paul Weida
- Michael Wizniak
- Larry Yates
We are grateful, too, for the support of these area organizations who contribute to the development of a global perspective in Kansas City. To learn more about individual or organizational membership with the International Relations Council, please visit us at www.irckc.org, or write to Executive Director Matthew Hughes at mhughes@irckc.org.

Nonprofit Partners

Center for Civilians in Conflict  
Children’s Mercy  
City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Economic Development Corporation of KC  
Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation  
Ethnic Enrichment Commission of KC  
Glory House Services  
Greater KC People to People  
International Association of Assessing Officers  
Kansas City Creates  
KC for Refugees  
K-State Military Affairs Innovation Center  
National Association of Asian American Professionals – KC  
Owen/Cox Dance Group  
Russian Heritage Society  
Russian House of KC  
The Simulations Center  
Thai Cultural Center of Greater KC  
Truman Medical Centers  
YMCA of Greater KC

Business Partners

Bio-Microbics  
Black & Veatch  
Burns & McDonnell  
Commerce Bank  
Husch Blackwell  
Miller & Company, P.C.  
RSM US LLP  
Stinson LLP  
Tension Corporation

University Partners

Avila University  
Johnson County Community College  
University of Kansas  
KU Medical Center  
Missouri Southern State University  
Missouri Western State University  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Park University  
University of Central Missouri  
University of Missouri – Columbia  
University of Missouri – KC  
University of St. Mary  
Washburn University  
William Jewell College
Financial Statements

2018 Support & Revenue

- Contributions: 7.3%
- Grants: 10.6%
- Endowments: 17.4%
- Membership: 28%
- Programs: 36.5%
- Other: 0.2%
- Contributions: 7.3%

2018 Expenses

- Community & School Programs: 59.1%
- General Operating & Administration: 31.2%
- Community Engagement: 7.9%
- Staff Development: 1.8%
2019 Board of Directors

Board Officers
President – Jeffrey Bell, Polsinelli
Vice President – Holly Nielsen, Baring Vostok Capital Partners
Secretary – Carrie Sherer, Black & Veatch
Treasurer – Nancy Messer, National Association of Insurance Commissioners – Chair, Finance Committee

Board Members
Andrea Allison-Putman – YMCA of Greater Kansas City
Kimberly Connelly – University of Kansas Medical Center – Chair, Program Committee
Chelan David – Youth Volunteer Corps
Kirk H. Doan – Stinson LLP
Anne Erickson – JLL, Office Broker
Narbeli Galindo – Economic Development Corporation of KCMO
Merleen Leonce – KCMO Health Department
Daniel R. Mahanty – Center for Civilians in Conflict
Dr. Mike Makara – University of Central Missouri – Chair, Education Committee
Aaron Mann – Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Kelli Meilink – Husch Blackwell – Chair, Membership Development Committee
Bob Rebori – Bio-Microbics – 2016 Past President
Lawrence Rouse – Red Bear Investors
Gino Serra – Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Cyprienne Simchowitz – Honorary Consul of the French Republic
Stephen Steigman – KCUR 89.3 Kansas City Public Media
Samantha Vidal – Burns & McDonnell
Dr. Sidne Ward – University of Missouri–Kansas City
Mike Wood – Retired from UMKC
Dr. Brian Wright – Johnson County Community College
Dr. Karenbeth Zacharias – University of St. Mary