



A sign welcoming the
2008 Japan to U.S.
delegation to Versailles,
Indiana.

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Letter from CEO Linda Rotunno

The 2008 ACYPL program year is well underway with American delegations departing and international delegations arriving in D.C. almost every other week. One of the many challenges and opportunities of our programs is to work with nascent democracies and countries that have recently returned to democratic principles. With this in mind, we have developed a new partnership with Indonesia and on May 31 we will welcome a group of seven young leaders from all over the island nation. We have also developed a new partnership with Thailand, and seven American political leaders will travel to Bangkok and Chiang Mai in mid-June. The remainder of the summer, fall and winter will be extremely busy as we welcome delegations from around the world to explore and examine this year's historic presidential campaign and election.

In addition to programs, the 2008 ACYPL Congressional Honors Gala is just a month away and we are busy raising the nearly \$1 million needed to support our annual programs. It should be a great evening as we honor California Congressman and ACYPL alumnus **Ed Royce** (Federal Republic of Germany '84) for his outstanding support and efforts on our behalf. We have also invited Senator **Barack Obama** of Illinois to be honored for his work to inspire young people to believe they can and should make a difference, for registering millions of new voters, and for promoting public diplomacy efforts globally, and we are confident that he will join us at the Gala. In addition, we will honor the important contributions of Rock the Vote for its efforts in mobilizing young people to create positive social and political changes in their lives and communities. Most importantly, we want to recognize and thank the entire ACYPL family for all that you do to make our programs possible, and I hope you will join us for this very special evening.

Thank you for your continued friendship and involvement.

Regards,
Linda

2008 Exchange Update...

In early 2008, ACYPL welcomed our first-ever Afghan delegation. The seven young leaders who participated in a 12-day exchange program are on the front lines of reforming Afghan government and civil society. They include members of provincial councils, National Assembly staff members and international relief and development experts.

The delegates participated in an open discussion on U.S. - Afghan relations with **Dr. Larry Korb**, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, and a number of American ACYPL alumni. They visited the presidential campaign headquarters of Republican U.S. Senator **John McCain** of Arizona and Democratic U.S. Senator **Barack Obama** of Illinois. In addition, they met with **Anita McBride** (Future of Europe Conference '91), Chief of Staff to First Lady **Laura Bush**; Arizona Governor **Janet Napolitano**; Illinois Governor **Rod Blagojevich**, several members of the U.S. Congress and the Arizona and Illinois legislatures; representatives from the major political parties and senior officials in both states. They were hosted by Arizona State Representative **Jennifer J. Burns** (South Africa '06) and Illinois State Representative **Ken Dunkin** (South Africa '04).



Members of the 2008 Afghanistan to the U.S. delegation on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

We also welcomed a delegation from Romania that visited D.C. and was hosted in Minnesota by Deputy Minnesota Education Commissioner **Chas Anderson** (Romania and Hungary '07) and in Tennessee by **Stephanie J. Shackelford** (Romania and Hungary '05). In addition, a group of young leaders from Australia visited D.C., and were hosted by ACYPL Trustee **Chris Rivers** (Indonesia and Malaysia '04) in Virginia and by El Pomar Foundation in Colorado.

Our first 2008 outbound delegation recently returned from Turkey where they met with prominent Turkish government officials as well as a wide range of civic, industry and political party leaders. The seven member delegation's activities were planned in coordination with our Turkish counterpart, the Ari Movement, an Istanbul-based grassroots think tank dedicated to reforming Turkey's political system.

Many thanks to all of our state hosts and counterparts for their good work and dedication in maintaining our high level of exchanges.

In the coming months, we will welcome to the United States young leaders from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brazil, South Korea, India and Pakistan, Hungary, Egypt, Jordan, China, Argentina and Uruguay as well as a special multinational Election Studies delegation. American leaders will travel to Russia, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Thailand, Nicaragua and El Salvador, South Africa, Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Venezuela, Northern Ireland and China. ***Stay tuned for more details!***

Save the Date...



Please mark your calendar for the 2008 ACYPL Congressional Honors Gala, which will be held on Thursday, June 19 at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. beginning at 6pm.

This year we will honor California Congressman **Ed Royce** (Federal Republic of Germany '84) and Senator **Barack Obama** (invited). We will also celebrate the outstanding work of Rock the Vote. We hope you will join ACYPL Trustees and alumni, Congressional leaders, members of the Diplomatic corps, ACYPL corporate and foundation

supporters, and State Department representatives for this very special evening.

For information about purchasing tickets or sponsoring the event, please contact ACYPL Development Manager **Libby Rosenbaum** at rosenbaum@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x16.

Insider Briefings...

On March 26, ACYPL alumni and corporate supporters gathered at the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. for *Road to the White House: What's Going on at the Polls?*, an Insider Briefing led by Dr. **Scott Keeter**, the Center's director of survey research. In his remarks and in response to questions from participants, Dr. Keeter offered insight into U.S. public opinion on a number of prominent political and social issues, and its likely impact upon the 2008 presidential race.

These exclusive forums are designed to provide ACYPL Charter and Alumni Council members, as well as corporate sponsors, with insight and information about political developments in the United States and around the world.

The next Insider Briefing will take place on the morning of June 19 in conjunction with our Annual Congressional Honors Gala. If you are not yet a Charter or Alumni Council member, and you are interested in attending, please contact ACYPL Development Manager **Libby Rosenbaum** at rosenbaum@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x16.

Click here to nominate now!

Share the Experience: Nominate Other Young Leaders...

ACYPL Alumni are our best source for identifying promising, young American political leaders for future ACYPL delegations. If you are an alumnus, please share your experience with political colleagues and friends by nominating them to participate in an ACYPL's international exchange program.

We seek diverse individuals from across the political spectrum. Nominees must be between the ages of 25 and 40 at the time of travel, be directly involved in government or politics and possess the potential to assume a national leadership role in politics or government. Typical nominees include exceptional state legislators, mayors, members of city and county councils, political party and policy leaders and other political activists with an interest in gaining international experience.

For more information, or to obtain a nomination form, please [click here](#) or contact ACYPL Director of Outreach **Haleema Molberg** (Israel and the Palestinian Territories '05) at hmolberg@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x20.

Host Global Leaders of Tomorrow in Your State...

Another great way for alumni to stay engaged with ACYPL is to serve as a delegation host in your city or state. Each year ACYPL welcomes over one hundred rising international political leaders to Washington, DC and to cities and states across the country - a feat that would be impossible without the outstanding efforts and support of our vast network of committed alumni.

State Hosts arrange delegation meetings; secure donated or reduced rate hotel rooms and ground transportation; secure hosted meals; seek corporate and individual contributions; and join the delegation at meetings and events throughout their stay.

In return, each state host has the opportunity to strengthen his/her connection to ACYPL and to the international exchange experience, as well as establish friendships with up-and-coming global leaders and help them to better understand the U.S. political system. State hosts also get to play a major role in fostering international awareness, dialogue and mutual understanding in their communities.

If you are interested in hosting a future ACYPL delegation in your community, please contact ACYPL Director of Outreach **Haleema Molberg** (Israel and the Palestinian Territories '05) at hmolberg@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x20.

Alumni Happenings...

Congratulations to... **Dan Benson** (Taiwan '04) and **Andy McKenzie** (Australia '98) on their respective elections as Freeholder in Mercer County, NJ and Mayor of Wheeling, West Virginia... *And best of luck to...* the following ACYPL alumni running for the U.S. Congress: **Donald Betts, Jr.** (Australia '03) in KS-4; **Leslie L. Byrne** (Hungary '87) in VA-11; **Mike Coffman** (South Africa '93), **Steve Ward** (Vietnam '98) and **Ted Harvey** (Vietnam '03) in CO-6; **Greg Davis** (Tanzania '04) in MS-1; **Brett Guthrie** (Brazil '99) in KY-2; **Melissa Hart** (Hungary & Bulgaria '95) in PA-4; **Michael Jackson** (Taiwan '02) in LA-6; **Lynn Jenkins** (Vietnam '01) in KS-2; **Frank Kratochvil, Jr.** (Taiwan '98) in MD-1; **Jay Love** (China '07) in AL-2; and **Gary Peters** (Saudi Arabia & Jordan '95) in MI-9... *and to...* **Kate Brown** (Australia '96) in her race for Oregon Secretary of State... **Jeff Harris** (China '03) in his bid for Missouri Attorney General... **Barry Wong** (China '02) in his bid for the Arizona Corporation Commission... **Henry Perea** (Jordan and Egypt '05) in his mayoral race in Fresno, California... **Tanya Cook** (Argentina & Uruguay '05) and **Eric Griego** (Romania and Hungary '05) in their state senate bids in Nebraska and New Mexico... **Tishaura O. Jones** (Israel and Palestinian Territories '05) and **Bryan Pedersen** (India '05) in their state house races in Missouri and Wyoming... **Adam Ortiz** (Uruguay and Argentina '07) in his run for county council in Prince Georges County, Maryland... and **Cary Johnson** (Australia '07) who looks to become a member of the board of commissioners in Clatsop County, Oregon.



Alaska State Senator **Bill Wielechowski**, Oregon State Senator **Bruce Starr**, Colorado State Representative **Cory Gardner**, Pennsylvania State Senator **John Pippy** with U.S. State Department International Visitor Exchange Specialist **Colleen Fleming** and Indian officials during ACYPL's 2007 U.S. to India & Pakistan exchange.

Mark Your Calendars...

JUNE 19, 2008

Insider Briefing

Road to the White House: Domestic and International
Policy Priorities for the Next President
Washington, DC
9am

Annual Congressional Honors Gala

Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
Washington, DC
6pm

[Click here to view the Invitation!](#)

JULY 24, 2008

Annual Alumni Reunion Reception

National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting
Pat O'Brien's on the River, Promenade Room
New Orleans, LA
5-7pm

[Click here for information about joining the Host Committee!](#)

SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Insider Briefing

Road to the White House: The Final Weeks
Washington, DC

DECEMBER 12-13, 2008

Insider Briefing

U.S. Financial Markets in the Global Economy
New York, NY