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young political leaders



U.S. Embassy Macedonia

US to North Macedonia March 4-15, 2019

Exchange Guide

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Schedule

Monday, March 4, Washington, DC

4:00pm Arrive at and check-in to hotel:

Residence Inn by Marriott Dupont Circle

2120 P St NW
Washington, DC 20037

5:45pm Meet in hotel lobby

6:15pm Welcome dinner hosted by **Mr. Matt Robbins**
Director of Government Relations, AutoCare Association
[Delegation escort, ACYPL Trustee, and alumnus to Argentina and Uruguay 2007]

Location: City Tap House, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW

In attendance will be:

Ms. Libby Rosenbaum
CEO, ACYPL
[Timor Leste 2017]

Ms. Jacqueline Harris
Outreach & Engagement Director, ACYPL
[South Africa and Botswana 2017]

Ms. Cameron Schupp
Development & Special Projects Director, ACYPL

8:00pm Return to hotel

Tuesday, March 5 Washington, DC

Attire: *Business*
Breakfast: *At the hotel*
Additional: *Please check out and pay for any incidentals. Have your driver's license accessible for State Department security.*

8:30am Meeting in the lobby and load luggage into van

8:45am Depart for first meeting

9:00am Meeting with **Mr. Edward Joseph**
Lecturer, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

10:15am Depart for next meeting

11:00am Meeting at the **United States Department of State**

In attendance will be:
Mr. Brent Beemer
Program Officer, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Jill Dietrich
North Macedonia Desk Officer

Ms. Heidi Ramsay
Public Diplomacy Desk Officer

Location: 2201 C Street, NW

12:00pm Depart for next activity

12:30pm Meeting with **Ms. Libby Rosenbaum**
CEO, ACYPL

Also in attendance will be:
Mr. Gabe Bastomski
Communications Manager, ACYPL

1:30pm Lunch

2:30pm Depart for **Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

3:00pm Arrive at Dulles International Airport

Check into flight and proceed through security

6:05pm **Flight UA9822** departs for Vienna

Wednesday, March 6
Vienna, Austria/Skopje

8:45am Arrive **Vienna International Airport (VIE)**

Proceed to gate for connecting flight

10:05am **Flight UA9835** departs Vienna

11:40am Arrive at **Skopje International Airport (SKP)**

Proceed through customs and meet at baggage claim

12:45pm Arrive at and check into hotel

Skopje Marriott Hotel
Plostad Makedonija 7
Skopje 1000 North Macedonia

Use this time to change into business attire

1:30pm Gather in lobby and depart for lunch

1:45pm Lunch near hotel

2:45pm Depart for next activity

3:00pm Meeting at the **US Embassy—Skopje**

Topic: Security briefing
Location: Samoilova str, no. 25

4:30pm Return to hotel

Free time

6:30pm **Optional activity:** Women's event at the Embassy

Use your per diem for dinner

Thursday, March 7

Skopje

Attire: *Business casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel*

10:30am Meet in hotel lobby

10:45am Depart for first meeting

11:00am Meeting with **The Honorable Stefan Bogoev**
Mayor, Municipality of Karposh
[US 2018, New Hampshire]

In attendance will be:

Mr. Dimitar Karatashev

Advisor for Communications and Public Relations, Municipality of Karposh

Topic: Local government
Location: Radika str, no 9

11:50pm Depart for lunch

12:00pm Lunch meeting hosted by **Mr. Kostadin Bogdanov**
Attorney at law
[US 2018, New Hampshire]

Location: Kantina, Radnjanska str, no 4

1:30pm Depart for next meeting

2:00pm Meeting with **The Honorable Ziadin Sela**
Member of Parliament
President of the Alliance for Albanians party

Also In attendance will be:

Mr. Agon Ferati
Chief of the Foreign Policy Department
[US 2017, Florida]

Topic: Party politics and structure
Location: Pending

3:15pm Depart for next meeting

3:30pm Meeting with **Ms. Natasha Gaber –Damjanovska**
Director of Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors

Topic: The role of the Academy
Location: Jane Sandanski blvd, no 12, lam 12

4:30pm Depart for hotel

6:30pm Meet in hotel and depart for group dinner

7:00pm Dinner

Location: Centar Bar, Dimitrije Chupovski, no 6

Use your per diem for dinner

Friday, March 8
Skopje/Krushevo

Attire: *Casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel restaurant*
Additional: *Please check out and pay for any incidentals. Wear warm clothes.*

8:30am Meet in hotel lobby and load luggage onto bus

9:00am Depart for **Krushevo**

12:00pm Arrive

12:30pm Meeting with **Mr. Tome Hristoski**
State Advisor for Real Property and Legal Affairs

Topic: City operations and tourism
Location: Nikola Gjuroviki str, bb, 7550 Krushevo

1:15pm Depart for lunch

1:30pm Lunch meeting pending

2:30pm Depart for cultural activities including visits to **Ilinden, Toshe Proeski House, National Institution of Culture**

5:00pm Depart for hotel

Hotel Montana
Pitu Guli str, bb
7550 Krushevo, North Macedonia

Free evening, use your per diem for dinner

Saturday, March 9

Krushevo/Valandovo/Gevgelja/Strumica

Attire: *Casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel restaurant*
Additional: *Please check out and pay for any incidentals*

8:30am Meet in hotel lobby

8:45am Load luggage into bus

9:00am Depart for **Valandovo**

11:45am Arrive

12:00pm Meeting with **The Honorable Pero Kostadinov**
Mayor of Municipality of Valndovo
[US 2018, Arizona]

Topic: Local business and agriculture
Location: Ivo Lola Ribar Str, bb, 2460 Valandovo

1:00pm Depart for lunch

1:30pm Lunch
Location: Valandovo cellar, Nikola Karey str, no 6,

2:30pm Depart for next meeting

3:00pm Meeting pending

4:30pm Depart for **Gevgelja**

5:30pm Arrive and check into hotel

Ramada Gevgelija
Granichen Premin Bogrodica, 1480 Gevgelja

7:30pm Dinner hosted by **The Honorable Kosta Janevski**
Mayor, Municipality of Strumica

Also in attendance will be:
The Honorable Kosta Kostadinov
Member of Parliament and Spokesman of SDSM
[US 2017, Florida]

Topic: Local governance and politics
Location: Vila Park, City Park, 2400 Strumica

9:30pm Return to hotel

Sunday, March 10
Strumica/Skopje

Attire: *Casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel restaurant*
Additional: *Please check out and pay for any incidentals*

9:30am Meet in hotel lobby

9:45am Load luggage into bus

10:00am Meeting with representatives of **Grozd**

Topic: Mastika production and exportation
Location: Pending

11:15am Depart for **Veljuša Monastery**

1:00pm Lunch

Use your per diem

Location: Pending

2:15pm Depart for **Stobi**

3:30pm Visit to **Stobi Archaeological site**

4:30pm Depart for Skopje

5:30pm Arrive and check-in to hotel:

Skopje Marriott Hotel
Plostad Makedonija 7
Skopje 1000 North Macedonia

7:00pm Meet in hotel lobby

7:30pm Dinner

Location: La Terrazza Italian Restaurant, Square Macedonia

Use your per diem for dinner

9:30pm Return to hotel

Monday March 11
Skopje

Attire: **Business casual**
Breakfast: **Available in hotel**

9:00am Meet in hotel lobby

9:15am Depart for first meeting

9:30am Meeting with **Ms. Nora Aliti**
President of Securities and Exchange Commission of North Macedonia
[US 2018, Arizona]

Topic: The Role of the Commission
Location: Macedonia str, bb Palace

10:45am Depart for next activity

11:00am Tour of the **North Macedonian Parliament** and meetings with representatives of political parties

In attendance will be:
The Honorable Pavle Bogoevski
Member of Parliament
[US 2017, Florida]

Location: 11 October blvd, no 10

1:00pm Depart for lunch

1:30pm Lunch pending

3:30pm Meeting with **The Honorable Oliver Derkoski**
President of the State Election Commission

Also in attendance will be:
Mr. Dragan Lazarov
Attorney at law
[US 2018, Arizona]

4:30pm Depart for hotel

Free time

6:30pm Meet in hotel lobby

6:45pm Depart for dinner

7:00pm Dinner hosted by **Ms. Nora Aliti**
President of Securities and Exchange Commission of North Macedonia

Location: Restaurant Pelister, Macedonia blvd

9:00pm Return to hotel

Tuesday, March 12
Skopje

Attire: *Business casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel*

9:00am Meet in hotel lobby

9:15am Depart for first meeting

9:30am Meeting with political party **SDSM** – Youth Representatives

In attendance will be:

Ms. Renata Jajoska
Chief, Cabinet of Deputy Minister for Culture
[US 2018, New Hampshire]

Ms. Ana Manasieva
Youth Sector, Agency for Youth and Sports
[US 2018, Arizona]

Topic: Social Democratic Youth
Location: Headquarters of SDSM, Bihacka str, no 8

10:45am Depart for next meeting

11:00am Meeting with **The Honorable Artan Grubi**
Member of Parliament
Chairman of Commission for EU Integration

Topic: EU integration
Location: North Macedonian Parliament

12:00pm Depart for next meeting

12:30pm Meeting with **Mr. Izet Mexhit**
Director of the Institute Abdilaaim Ademi
Deputy Chairman of Democratic Union for Integration

Also in attendance will be:

Mr. Fitim Lloga
State Inspection Authorities
[US 2018, New Hampshire]

Mr. Armir Sadiki
Chief of Staff of Deputy Prime Minister of education and Science
[US 2017, Florida]

Topic: Democratic Union for Integration Party and Politics
Location: Institute Abdilaaim Ademi, SC Mayroyka

1:15pm Depart for lunch

1:30pm Lunch

Location: Bistro opera Pub

3:00pm Meeting with **The Honorable Ljubomir Joveski**
Public Prosecutor of North Macedonia

Topic: Combatting corruption
Location: Public Prosecutor's Office of North Macedonia

4:00pm Return to hotel

5:30pm Meet in hotel lobby

5:45pm Depart for next activity

6:00pm Drinks reception hosted by **The Honorable Micaela Schweitzer-Bluhm**
Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy Skopje

Location: Pending

7:00pm Dinner

Use your per diem for dinner

Wednesday, March 13

Skopje

Attire: *Business casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel restaurant*

9:30am Meet in hotel lobby

9:45am Depart for first meeting

10:00am Meeting with **Mrs. Olimpija Zaevska**
Foreign Affairs Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister
[US 2017, Florida]

Topic: Foreign Policy and International Relations
Location: Ilinden Blvd

11:15am Depart for next meeting

11:30am Meeting with **The Honorable Arber Ademi**
Minister of Education and Science
[US 2017, Florida]

Also in attendance will be:

Mr. Armir Sadiki

Chief of Staff of the Deputy Prime Minister
[US 2017, Florida]

Topic: Executive operations
Location: Ministry of Education and Science, St. Cyril and
Methodius str, no 54

12:45pm Depart for lunch

1:00pm Lunch meeting hosted by **Mr. Darko Aleskov**
Director of Citizens Association MOST

Topic: Elections Monitoring
Location: Saint Clement of Ohrid blvd, no 18

2:00pm Depart for next meeting

2:15pm Meeting pending

3:15pm Depart for next meeting

3:00pm Meeting with **Ms. Rima Safitli**
Advisor of Foreign Affairs, Office of the President of North Macedonia
[US 2018, Arizona]

Topic: Foreign Affairs
Location: Vila Vodono

5:45pm Depart for dinner

6:00pm Dinner hosted by **The Honorable Arber Ademi**
Minister of Education and Science
[US 2017, Florida]

Location: Old City House Restaurant

8:00pm Return to hotel

Thursday, March 14
Skopje

Attire: *Business casual*
Breakfast: *Available in hotel*

9:00am Meet in hotel lobby

9:15am Depart for first meeting

9:30am Meetings pending

12:00pm Depart for lunch

Use your per diem for lunch

1:00pm Depart for next meeting

1:30pm Meeting with **Mr. Zivko Muaketov**

Also in attendance will be:

Ms. Dijana Despodov

American Chamber of Commerce

Topic: Mission vision, and current activities

Location: GTC, loc. 2, D.E. 220

3:00pm Closing meeting with **US Embassy** team

4:30pm Return to hotel

6:30pm Meet in hotel lobby

6:45pm Depart for dinner

7:00pm Dinner with **US Embassy** team

Location: Three Kitchen and Bar, 50 Divizija str, no 25

9:30pm Return to hotel

Friday, March 15

Skopje

Attire: *Casual*

Additional: *Please pay for any incidentals and check out*

1:00am Meet in hotel lobby and load luggage into van

1:15am Meet in hotel lobby

1:30am Depart for airport

2:00am Arrive at **Skopje International Airport (SKP)**

Check in and proceed through security

4:25am **Flight UA 9834** departs Skopje

****End of Program****

Schedule Notes

Monday, March 4

Libby Rosenbaum serves as the Chief Executive Officer overseeing the ACYPL's fundraising, communications, grants management, new business development, and strategic planning. Libby previously served as the Vice President of Programs and Communications. Prior to this, Libby served as the Education Partnerships Manager at the British Council where she promoted and established US-UK university research collaborations and planned international summits devoted to higher education best practice. She also served as the Major Gifts Officer at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank, and as a fundraiser on the US Senate campaigns of Ken Salazar and Joe Hoeffel. Libby graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science and received an MSc in Politics and Government of the European Union from the London School of Economics. Libby is a recovering Anglophile who enjoys cooking, bad TV, Michigan football, and traveling. She traveled with ACYPL to China in 2009 and Timor Leste in 2017.

Jacqueline Harris joined ACYPL in June 2016 and serves as the Outreach & Engagement Director. In this role, Jacqueline manages ACYPL's delegation nomination and selection process, maintains ongoing alumni relations, and works closely with our partners and board members. Jacqueline graduated from Syracuse University with a double major in political science and international relations, concentrating on international security and diplomacy and Middle Eastern studies. Since then, she spent four years serving the Obama Administration first as an Intern in the Office of the First Lady, then as an employee in the offices of Presidential Correspondence and Legislative Affairs. Jacqueline also worked at ONE, an international campaigning and advocacy organization dedicated to ending extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. Jacqueline tends to spend her free time comparing ticket prices and plotting her next trip abroad. She traveled on an ACYPL exchange to South Africa and Botswana in 2017.

Cameron Schupp joined ACYPL in September 2015 and serves as the Development & Special Projects Director. In this role, Cameron is responsible for managing fundraising initiatives, donor stewardship, and coordinating ACYPL events. Cameron has worked in various capacities in the nonprofit sector and prior to joining the ACYPL team, worked with the international development NGO International Executive Service Corp and as a Program Assistant at JASS, a women's rights organization. Cameron graduated from George Mason University in 2013 with a bachelor's in global affairs and conflict analysis and resolution. In her spare time, she enjoys checking out live music, comedy, and theatre in the DC area.

Tuesday, March 5

Edward P. Joseph is a Senior Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He is an expert on the Balkans and field practitioner specializing in conflict management. He is the former Executive Director of the Institute of Current World Affairs, and is currently Executive Director of the National Council on US-Libya Relations. Edward earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a JD from the University of Virginia. A US Army veteran, he has served with NATO during conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, and North Macedonia and speaks Croatian, Serbian, French, Italian, and Spanish.

Jill Dietrich is the Macedonia Desk Officer at the US Department of State. She has previously worked in South America in a variety of roles.

Heidi Ramsay is a career foreign service officer, having joined over nine years ago. Prior to this, she was a Captain in the US Army Reserve. In her career in the Foreign Service, she has worked

in South Africa, Afghanistan, and more. Heidi received her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, a master's in public administration from Suffolk University and a master's of strategic intelligence from the National Intelligence University.

The U.S. Department of State is the federal executive department responsible for the international relations of the United States, equivalent to the foreign ministries of other countries. The Department was created in 1789 and was the first executive department established. The Department operates the diplomatic missions of the United States abroad and is responsible for implementing the foreign policy and diplomacy efforts of the United States. The Department is led by Secretary Mike Pompeo who was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the US Senate in April 2018.

Gabriel Bastomski joined ACYPL as communications manager in July 2018. In this capacity he works to advance ACYPL's mission through strategic communications. He also contributes to outreach, engagement, and fundraising. Previously, Gabriel served as communications director for a member of the United States House of Representatives. Originally from Santa Barbara, CA, Gabriel graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2015 with a degree in Political Science. During downtime, Gabriel enjoys watching *The West Wing*, traveling, and exploring Washington.

Wednesday, March 6

Skopje is the capital and largest city of North Macedonia. The territory of Skopje has been inhabited since at least 4000 BC; remains of Neolithic settlements have been found within the old Kale Fortress that overlooks the modern city center. Skopje is located on the upper course of the Vardar River. It is a center for metal-processing, chemical, timber, textile, leather, and printing industries. Industrial development of the city has been accompanied by development of the trade, logistics, and banking sectors, as well as an emphasis on the fields of transportation, culture and sports. According to official estimates, the city has a population of 544,086 inhabitants, as of June 30, 2015.

The **US Embassy in Skopje, North Macedonia** is the US diplomatic mission to the country following the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The primary function of this mission is to provide support to Americans living in North Macedonia, and to issue visas for foreign nationals wishing to visit or immigrate to The United States. The current Chargé d'Affaires is Micaela Schweitzer-Bluhm.

Thursday, March 7

Stefan Bogoev was elected Mayor of Karpoš municipality in 2017. He represents the nearly 60,000 residents of the municipality; one of 10 that make up Skopje. He is also the President of the Social Democratic Youth of North Macedonia, the youth wing of the Social Democratic Union. Prior to his election, Stefan served two terms as a member of the Assembly of North Macedonia. Stefan has his bachelor's degree in business administration from American College – Skopje.

Dimitar Karatasev is the head of social media for the Social Democratic Youth of North Macedonia.

Kostadin Bogdanov is the Founder of the Bogdanov and Bogdanov Law Firm, where he practices civil law with a special focus on the protection of companies and other economic entities before the judicial and administrative bodies. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the VMRO-DPMNE, which is North Macedonia's leading opposition party. Kosta received his master's degree in law from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Ziadin Sela is a member of Parliament and the President of the Alliance for Albanians political party. Previously he served as the Mayor of Struga. He was seriously injured in the April 27, 2017, attack on Parliament and seven men were convicted of attempted assassination against him.

The **Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors** provides initial training to law school graduates who aspire to become judges and public prosecutors and offers continuing education for people already fulfilling those roles.

Agon Ferati works for the Department for Local Economic Development for the municipality of Tetovo. In addition to his role for the city of Tetovo, Agon is also the Vice President of the Alliance for Albanians party. Agon earned his undergraduate degree in business and economics and a master's degree in economics from South East European University.

Natasha Gaber-Damjanovska is a Constitutional Court Justice in North Macedonia. She was formerly the President of the Board for the NGO Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and also serves as Director of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors. Natasha was the primary drafter of North Macedonia's 1998 Law on Associations and Foundations.

Friday, March 8

Kruševo is the highest town in North Macedonia at an altitude of over 4,400 feet above sea level. The town is located in the mountainous central region of North Macedonia and is home to around 5,300 people. The town is known for 19th-century domestic architecture, and is a winter skiing destination. In 1903, Kruševo was the starting point for the Ilinden Uprising during the North Macedonian struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire. On August 2 of every year, the town is the location of traditional Independence Day celebrations which are attended by the North Macedonian president and many politicians.

Tome Hristoski serves as the Mayor of the municipality of Kruševo. He belongs to the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia.

Petar Bogojeski is a state adviser for real property and legal affairs for the Ministry of Defense. In this role, Petar participates in the creation of the North Macedonian Army's standing operating procedures, is President of the Real Estate and Personal Property Commission for the Ministry of Defense, and is helping to create and implement the Ministry of Defense's Long-Term Plan of Defense that is in effect until 2023. Petar received an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, a master's degree in political science from Pasij Hilendarski University in Bulgaria, and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski.

The Ilinden Monument, also known as the Makedonium, is located in Kruševo. The monument opened on August 2, 1974 on the 71st anniversary of Ilinden uprising. The Ilinden Monument is dedicated to the fighters and revolutionaries who took part in the Ilinden uprising of 1903, as well as soldiers of the National Liberation Struggle from 1941 to 1944.

The **Toše Proeski house** is a memorial to Todor "Toše" Proeski, a famous North Macedonian singer, songwriter, and actor. The house was built in 2011 following the 2007 death of Toše in an automobile accident. The memorial house, containing his personal effects, has won many prizes for architecture.

Saturday, March 9

Valandovo is a town located in southeastern North Macedonia with a population of 12,000.

Pero Kostadinov is the mayor of the Municipality of Valandovo. He has served in this position since October 2017. Pero previously served on the Council of the Municipality of Valandovo. Pero earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius.

Gevgelija is a town situated between the Kožuf and Pajak mountains, and located on the border with Greece. Gevgelija has a population of around 15,000 and is colloquially referred to as the "Las Vegas" of North Macedonia due to the number of casinos found there. Gevgelija's geographical location makes it the perfect spot for growing fruits and vegetables such as figs, lemons and pomegranates. The town is also widely known for growing silk worms and their 'healing' Sulphur baths.

Kosta Janevski is the Mayor of the municipality of Strumica. A doctor of internal medicine by trade, he also previously served as an elected member of the Council of the Municipality of Strumica and as an MP in the Assembly of the North Macedonia. He is a member of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia party.

Kostadin Kostadinov is a member of the Assembly of North Macedonia, having first been elected in 2017. In addition to his role in the Assembly, Kostadin is also the President of the Social Democratic Youth of North Macedonia – Strumica. Prior to his election at the federal level, Kostadin began his political career in Strumica as a member of the City Council. He also served as spokesman of the Social Democratic Union of North Macedonia – Strumica and was Acting Mayor of Strumica until the elections in 2017. Kostadin previously worked as a sales manager at Fani Skopsko Pivo and served as CEO at Intermetal. Kostadin earned his undergraduate degree in economics from FON University, Skopje and is currently enrolled in a master's program in financial management at MIT University, Skopje.

Sunday, March 10

Grozd is a winery in Strumica which has been in operation since 1953. It is a major producer of Mastika, a liqueur seasoned with resin from a mastic tree.

Veljuša Monastery or the monastery of The Holy Mother of God Eleusa is located in the village of Veljuša. The historical documents originally preserved in this monastery are very significant in the ecclesiastical and cultural history, not only of North Macedonia, but also in the Balkans.

Stobi was an ancient town of Paeonia, conquered by Macedon, and later turned into the capital of the Roman province of North Macedonia Salutaris. It is considered by many to be the most famous archaeological site in the country. Stobi was built where the Crna and Vardar Rivers meet, making it strategically important as a center for both trade and warfare.

Monday, March 11

Nora Aliti is the President of the Securities and Exchange Commission of the North Macedonia. In this role, she proposes the agendas, conducts meetings, submits reports, provides instructions to commissioners and employees, and ensures a fair, transparent, and effective securities market. Nora earned a master's degree in insurance and risk management from MIB Italy and a bachelor's degree in economics from New Bulgarian University.

Pavle Bogoevski is an independent member of the Assembly of North Macedonia, having first been elected in 2016. Pavle currently sits on the committees of Defense and Security, Equal Opportunity for Women and Men, Rules and Procedures, Security and Intelligence, and the Protection of Civil Freedoms and Rights. Pavle earned a degree in security from the University of St. Kliment Ohridski – Bitola and is currently in a master's program in criminology at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski - Bitola.

Oliver Derkoski is the President of the State Election Commission, appointed in 2018, and he also oversaw the recent name-change referendum.

Dragan Lazarov is an attorney in private practice specializing in civil, commercial, and business law, and providing full legal services, including in areas relating to banking, intellectual property, labor relations, real estate, public financing and government contracts, and civil, criminal, and commercial litigations. Dragan earned both his master's of business law and bachelor's of law degrees from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius.

Tuesday, March 12

Renata Jajoska is a member of the Municipal Council of Aerodrom and also serves as Vice President of the Young European Socialists. Additionally, she is a member of the Executive Board of the Social Democratic Youth of North Macedonia, and serves as Chief of Cabinet for the Deputy Minister of Culture. Renata received her bachelor's degree in Italian, literature, and philosophy from the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and a second bachelor's degree in political science and diplomacy from FON University.

Ana Manasieva serves in the Youth Sector for the Agency for Youth and Sports for North Macedonia and is a member of Executive Board of the Social Democratic Youth of North Macedonia. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from FON University.

Artan Grubi is an Albanian politician, a member of Parliament, and the Chairman of Commission of EU Integration. He also sits on various other committees including the Committee on Political Systems and Interethnic Relations, Committee on Healthcare, Committee on Defense and Security and Foreign Policy Committee. Mr. Grubi is also the founder of the Albanian NGO Wake Up!, which established the roots of the Albanian civil society in North Macedonia.

Izet Mexhiti is a politician, former Mayor of Čair, and current Director of the Addilqim Ademi Institute. Izet earned a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius.

Fitim Loga is a member of the Youth Forum of the Democratic Union for Integration, the largest Albanian political party and third largest political party in North Macedonia. He also works on the Modernizing the Inspection Authorities Project, a USAID project being conducted in partnership with the Center for Development Policies and the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. Fitim has a law degree from State University of Tetovo and is currently working on a master's degree in international law and diplomacy from FON University.

Armir Sadiki is the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Minister of Science and Education, where he provides support and assistance to the Deputy Minister. Prior to his current position, Armir held several positions within the North Macedonian government including in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the office of the Vice President, and the Macedonian Bank for Development Promotion. Armir graduated from South East European University with a degree in law specializing in international criminal law.

Ljubomir Joveski is the Public Prosecutor of North Macedonia. In 1996, Joveski was appointed Judge of the Skopje Basic Court. After seven years in this post, he became a prosecutor. Joveski's last appointment was as member of the Prosecutors' Council and he was one of ten deputies to the former chief prosecutor, Marko Zvrlevski. Ljubomir Joveski was also Chairman of the Management Board of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, and was a member of the Presidency of the Association of Penology Associations of Macedonia for two years before becoming its president.

Micaela Schweitzer-Bluhm assumed the role of Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia on March 1, 2019. Previously, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission. She has also worked at the U.S. Embassies in Zagreb, Cairo, Baghdad, Tunis and Kathmandu and at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, where she was the Public Affairs Officer and spokesperson for the Consulate. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from Brown University and a master's degree in national security studies from the National War College.

Wednesday, March 13

Olimpija Hristova Zaevska is a foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister of North Macedonia. In addition, she is a consultant with Finance Think, Program Director for the Impact Institute for Research, and a project manager for the European Policy Institute. Olimpija completed her undergraduate degree from the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in law and a master's degree in political science from the Central European University, Budapest. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Central European University, Budapest.

Arber Ademi is the Minister of Education and Science for North Macedonia, a position he was elected to in 2018. Prior to this he was a professor of law at the State University of Tetovo. Arber earned an undergraduate degree in law and a graduate degree in civil law from the State University of Tetovo and completed his doctoral studies at the University of Tirana – Albania.

Darko Aleksov is the Executive Director of MOST, an NGO that works toward improving government transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. Aleksov has extensive experience in the field of elections, and in 2016, MOST monitored over 55% of the polling places during the parliamentary elections. He holds a bachelor's degree in Management and is currently enrolled as a graduate student in Foreign Policy and Diplomacy.

Rima Safiti is the Head of the Foreign Affairs Sector in the Office of the President of North Macedonia. Rima was previously the Head of the European Union and NATO Unit in the Foreign Policy Sector in the Office of the President. Rima earned her bachelor's degree in conference interpreting in English and French from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius.

Thursday, March 14

Mr. Zhivko Mukaetov is the President of the Management Board and Chief Executive Officer of Alkaloid AD Skopje. Mukaetov has been a Member of the Management Board since 2004, was appointed as President of the Management Board in 2007 and is responsible for the overall operations of Alkaloid Group. He holds a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and has a postgraduate degree from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in London, UK.

Dijana Despodov is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in North Macedonia.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia is a membership organization founded in 2000 which aims to strengthen the voice of international business in North Macedonia and promote a sustainable, predictable, and competitive business landscape through advocacy and events as well as sharing best practices.

Alkaloid AD Skopje is a company that has manufactured drugs, cosmetic and chemical products, and processed botanical raw materials for 80 years. The company has 1,430 employees in North Macedonia, and 384 employees in subsidiaries and representative offices abroad.

Jovan Despotovski is an economist at the Faculty of Economics at the University St. Cyril and Methodius, and a postgraduate in international relations and diplomacy at the American

College – Skopje. He has extensive experience in strategic planning and program development, creating programs financed by the Government of North Macedonia and foreign donors. As head of the Sector in the Secretariat for European Affairs of the Government of the North Macedonia, he has supported the realization of Corridor X, one of the pan-European corridors which passes through Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, and North Macedonia. He served as program coordinator for the Office for National Aid and led a working group to create the Questionnaire of the European Community for the application of North Macedonia for EU membership in the field of economics, which gives North Macedonia the status of an EU member state.

The Fund for International and Technological Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, is implementing the Skills Development and Innovation Support Project. The project aims to improve the transparency of the allocation of resources, promote accountability in higher education to improve the relevance of secondary, technical, and vocational education, and to support innovation in the country.

Delegate Biographies

Ms. Christina Blackcloud

Director of Business Development
Fox Professional Services, Inc.
Democrat

Christina is the Director of Business Development at Fox Professional Services, Inc., a division of Meskwaki, Inc., an economic diversification effort wholly owned by the Meskwaki Tribe in Tama, Iowa. Fox Professional Services provides on-the-ground services to government and commercial agencies including telecommunications, healthcare, law, and financial sectors.

Christina has served a variety of roles within the Sac and Fox Tribe in Iowa including Executive Director, the Director of Senior Services, and the Historic Preservation Assistant. She has twice served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and also as the Chair for the American Indian Caucus for the Iowa Democratic Party from 2010-2016.

Christina has a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Administration from Buena Vista University.

Ms. Arusha Gordon

Counsel, Voting Rights & Stop Hate Project
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Independent

Arusha serves as Counsel on the Voting Rights Project and Stop Hate Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where she focusses on ensuring equal voting rights and responding to hate crimes. Other projects Arusha has worked on include employment, education, and a housing issues.

Before joining the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Arusha worked for the ACLU on the Women's Rights Project. She also worked on both of President Obama's campaigns as Early Vote Director in 2012 in Ohio and as New Media Director for in Virginia in 2008.

Arusha earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Arusha was a 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar in Egypt and UNESCO in Paris, where her research focused on gender issues and civic participation.

Ms. DiAnne Graham

President
Graham Advisors, LLC
Republican

DiAnne is the Founder and President of Graham Advisors, LLC, a full service consulting firm that specializes in political fundraising, event management, protocol and international relations. Her expertise includes in major donor fundraising, high-level event strategy and implementation, project management, strategic partnerships and introductions.

Before founding Graham Advisors, DiAnne directed the Republican Governor's Association's Roundtable Program and during her three-year tenure, the program raised over \$50 million. DiAnne also served as a political appointee in the US Department of State during George W. Bush's administration. She held the position of Senior Outreach Protocol Officer and also served in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

DiAnne received her bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Mississippi and has been active in the Alumni Association, currently serving as President of the mid-Kansas Rebel Alumni Club.

The Honorable Jefferson Griffin

District Court Judge
State of North Carolina Judicial District 10
Republican

Jefferson has served as a District Court Judge since 2015 after being appointed by Governor McCrory, and was elected to a four year term in 2016. He handles civil and criminal cases from all over Wake County.

Jefferson is also a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard as a Judge Advocate General. Prior to his appointment as a judge, Jefferson worked in the Wake County District Attorney's Office.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Jefferson went on to complete his US Coast Guard Captain's license and then his degree in law at North Carolina Central School of Law in 2008.

Mr. Ken Maxey

Director of External Affairs
Comcast Corporation
Democrat

Ken is the Director of External Affairs for Comcast Corporation where he forges partnerships with technology, governmental, business, education, and non-profit sectors in California.

Previously, Ken was the California State Director for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Ken also has extensive experience within the Democratic Party including serving most recently as the Get Out the Vote Director in Des Moines, Iowa for President Barack Obama, Deputy Director for the DNC Convention in 2008, and the Southern California Political Director for the DNC and the California Democratic Party.

Ken received his bachelor's degree in political science and history from Notre Dame de Namur University in California and immediately went on to get a certificate in Arabic language from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. He also has a master's degree in public administration from Howard University, a master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution from the American University, and a certificate in executive leadership from the University of Virginia.

The Honorable Justin Roebuck

County Clerk and Register of Deeds
County of Ottawa
Republican

Justin serves as the Ottawa County Clerk and Register of Deeds, a position he was appointed to in 2014 and elected to in 2016. He oversees the elections process in 23 local cities and townships for the county's 195,000 registered voters. Additionally, the County Clerk is responsible for maintaining all vital statistics of the county including birth, marriage, and death records and deeds of mortgages, liens, and more.

Prior to this role, Justin served as elections coordinator in the Clerk's Office for five years. He has also served as Campaign Manager for US Representative Tim Walberg in Michigan's 7th Congressional District and on the executive staff of former Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

Justin has a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Escort

Mr. Matt Robbins

Director, Government Relations
AutoCare Association
Republican

Matt is the Director of Government Relations for The AutoCare Association where he specializes in strategic planning and execution, complex issue-campaign management, and state coalition building.

Matt has a varied background in political consultancy, grassroots activism, and nonprofit advocacy. Previously, he was a Senior Consultant at RCI and prior to this was the President and National Executive Director of American Majority, where he led dramatic growth for seven years and delivered nearly 1,000 training events to almost 40,000 candidates and activists in 26 states.

Matt received his bachelor's degree in English from Pepperdine University in California. He serves on the ACYPL Board of Trustees and traveled with ACYPL to Argentina and Uruguay in 2007.

Program Contact Information

Washington, DC – March 4-5 2018 **American Council of Young Political Leaders**

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Hotel in Skopje (March 6-8, March 10-15)
Skopje Marriott Hotel
Plostad Makedonija 7
Skopje 1000 North Macedonia

Hotel in Krushevo (March 8-9)
Hotel Montana
Pitu Guli str, bb
7550 Krushevo, North Macedonia

Hotel in Gevgelija (March 9-10)
Ramada Inn Gevgelija
Granichen Premin Bogorodica, 1480
Gevgelija

Flight Confirmations and Itineraries

Last Name	Confirmation Number
Blackcloud	O776KY
Gordon	EF56C (UA) WTRYKX (OU)
Graham	FN6RMY
Griffin	FVVBLC
Maxey	EJ1F8R
Robbins	K2J33BB
Roebuck	K2SF04

Tuesday, March 5 United Airlines #9822

IAD Dulles Washington
VIE Vienna, Austria

Depart: 6:05pm
 Arrive: 8:45am +1

Wednesday, March 6 United Airlines #9835

VIE Vienna
SKP Skopje

Depart: 10:05am
 Arrive: 11:40am

Friday, March 15 United Airlines #9834

SKP Skopje
VIE Vienna
 Depart: 4:25am
 Arrive: 6:05am

United Airlines #9821

VIE Vienna
IAD Dulles Washington
 Depart: 10:35am
 Arrive: 3:55pm