Thank you to each of you for making our 2022-2023 PCFR season a brilliant success! We hosted over 3,100 people at programs where 63 speakers covered a range of issues, regions and hot spots around the globe, featuring ambassadors, foreign officials, scholars, and Arizona leaders. PCFR continues to deliver on our mission by bringing the world to Arizona by providing access to top foreign policy minds to discuss issues facing our world.

This year, we were pleased to partner with the Office of the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives to provide legislators and state leaders with opportunities to interact with a number of foreign delegations for the betterment of Arizona. Hosting foreign officials and exposing them to the many opportunities available in Arizona resulted in benefits for policymakers, community leaders, and PCFR members.

We celebrate a banner year, we are focused on our mission, and the future of PCFR is bright. Enjoy your summer! Wishing you health, happiness and a chance to relax and enjoy friends and family. We look forward to welcoming you back to PCFR in the fall for another season of relevant and informative international programs!

Best Regards,

Claire Sechler Merkel
2021-2023 PCFR President
OUR LEADERSHIP

STAFF
Tina Waddington • Executive Director
Samuel Richardson • Program Manager

OFFICERS
Claire Sechler Merkel • President
Luke Wenz • Vice President • U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
Andrew Jaynes • Chair • ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
Brett Johnson • Co-Chair • Snell & Wilmer
Steve Rodis • Treasurer • Wallace Plese + Dreher

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Ian Curtiss • Director • ASU WP Carey School of Business
Joan Jordan • Director
Dr. Sanjeev Khagram • Director • Thunderbird School of Global Management
Dan Kravets • Director • Freeport McMoRan
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Hon. Tony Rivero • Director • Global Connect Group
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Susana Trasente • Director • City of Peoria

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Brian Hall • Public Affairs Chair • Ballet Arizona
Caroline Lynch • Membership Chair • Copper Hill Consulting
David A. Merkel • Program Chair • Summit International Advisors, LLC

“Reflecting on this past year, I am so proud of what we’ve accomplished, together. From the quality of speakers, to the depth of conversations, to the enduring international connections that have sprouted through PCFR, we have continued our mission of growing Arizona’s footprint on the global stage and bringing the world a little closer to home. As PCFR’s Vice President, I am incredibly grateful to PCFR’s membership, partners, and staff, and look forward to the continued growth and success that lies ahead.”

LUKE WENZ
PCFR VICE PRESIDENT
MEET THE PCFR TEAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tina Waddington
"Over the past year, PCFR brought on new employees to support our growth. The entire team on this page has been involved with PCFR for many years in different capacities and it’s been a tremendous joy to grow the organization with supportive and talented individuals. My proudest moment this past year was opening up our annual report and reflecting on the impactful programming, but more importantly, feeling immense gratitude towards all of our members, board and volunteers who make our mission possible."

PROGRAM MANAGER
Sam Richardson
"Working with incredible staff, fellows, interns, and volunteers to put on over 58 PCFR events this year has been one of my proudest moments. Many times there would be hiccups in planning or an immense amount of work that needed to be done, but our PCFR team banded together to meet every challenge."

BOOKKEEPER
Marie Kennedy
"Working with this PCFR Team has been a challenging and inspiring experience with their schedule of powerful new programs, speakers and events! The result has been renewed interest, membership growth and increased activity year round!"

MARKETING COORDINATOR
Caitlin King Khoury
"I work with many nonprofit organizations, but PCFR stands out as one of my favorites. We have a positive, ambitious team and work well together -- it is truly a joy to be a part of it. My proudest moment of the year was seeing my designs on display at the International State of the State with Governor Katie Hobbs."
Volunteering for PCFR has provided extreme value to me as a student. I have learned exemplary leadership skills as well as task delegation not only from the staff of PCFR but from the other volunteers as well. Working events as a volunteer has allowed me to learn from the best, while being surrounded by intelligent and esteemed community members. Being able to network with the staff of PCFR as well as the volunteers and the attendees has allowed for many connections as well as learning moments. I look forward to continuing my journey as a volunteer and highly recommend other students to do so as well, to gain the value and knowledge that I have from PCFR.

Brianna Bonnell, PCFR Member & Volunteer

As a PCFR volunteer, I appreciate the diverse content and speakers, ranging from academics, to ambassadors, to former national security advisors. Volunteering for PCFR does not feel like work, because I have been able to make great professional connections with subject matter experts, and build relationships with other members who share similar interests and passions, in the process. I love that PCFR offers both in-person events and virtual programming, like the monthly Great Decisions discussion group. I have found those conversations to be informative and useful, both personally and professionally. With PCFR, I get to help bring the world to Phoenix, and Phoenix to the world.

Richard Beitman, PCFR Member & Volunteer
MISSION IN ACTION

58 TOTAL PROGRAMS

3,100 PROGRAM ATTENDEES

$1,200 IN PROGRAMMING VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS

530 ATTENDEES IN THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL STATE OF THE STATE TO DATE

COLLABORATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance for Securing Democracy
- Arizona Commerce Authority
- Arizona Defense and Industry Coalition
- Arizona Governor’s Office
- Arizona House of Representatives
- Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association
- Arizona Public Service
- Arizona Swiss Society
- Arizona Tech Council
- ASU Center for Constitutional Design
- ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- ASU Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies
- ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
- ASU School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership
- ASU School of Politics and Global Studies
- ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
- City of Phoenix
- Consulate General of Mexico in Phoenix
- Diplomatic Corps of Arizona
- Global Ties Arizona
- Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library
- Maricopa Community Colleges
- The McCain Institute at ASU
- Phoenix Community Alliance
- Salt River Project
- Thunderbird School of Global Management
- Town of Gilbert
- Treffpunkt
- University of Arizona

OUR PROGRAMS

- Speaker Series
- International State of the State
- Worldly Perspectives
- Great Decisions | Foreign Policy Association
- New Look Book Club
- Annual Holiday Party
MISSION IN ACTION

PROGRAMMING BY COUNTRY

- U.S. 28
- CHINA 11
- UKRAINE 6
- RUSSIA 4
- IRAN 3
- SAUDI ARABIA 2
- AFGHANISTAN 1
- CAMBODIA 1
- CHILE 1
- D.R. CONGO 1
- GHANA 1
- GUAM 1
- INDIA 1
- ITALY 1
- IRELAND 1
- KOSOVO 1
- MEXICO 1
- MYANMAR 1
- NIGERIA 1
- N. IRELAND 1
- PERU 1
- SOUTH AFRICA 1
- SWITZERLAND 1

# PROGRAMS BY REGION

- 29
- 3
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 4
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 1

# PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

- Culture
- Energy & Environment
- Human Rights
- Economics & Business
- Defense & Security
- Diplomacy & Intl. Institutions
- Politics & Government
- Other

SPEAKERS INCLUDED

- 27 Thought Leaders
- 24 Government Leaders
- 5 Ambassadors
- 3 Business Leaders
- 3 Military
2022-2023 SEASON

SEPTEMBER

AMERICA’S GREAT-POWER OPPORTUNITY: REVITALIZING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF STRATEGIC COMPETITION
Ali Wyne
CELEBRATION OF THE 212TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF MEXICO
Jorge Menendoza Vescas
GREAT DECISIONS: MYANMAR AND ASEAN
Dr. Sofia Liar
FOOD INSECURITY AND ITS RISING THREAT
Dr. Miguel Rodrigues
BEYOND THE HEADLINES: AFGHANISTAN’S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
Ambassador Jawid Quem, Honorable Rangina Hamidi, Jack McCain
SEPTEMBER READING GROUP
America’s Great-Power Opportunity: Revitalizing U.S. Foreign Policy to Meet the Challenges of Strategic Competition by Ali Wyne

OCTOBER

NAVIGATING STRATEGIC COMPETITION
Congressman Mark Kennedy
NEW MEMBER MIXER / WORLDLY PERSPECTIVES
Glen Loveland, Erika Neuberg, Adelaida Severson, Jacob Weinberg
WHY DO FOREIGN ACTORS WANT TO ERODE U.S. DEMOCRACY?
Bill Gates, Tim Roemer, Laura Thornton, Paul Fagan
INDIA - AN UNCERTAIN BALANCE ABROAD AND AT HOME
Ambassadors Nancy Powell & Douglas Hartwick
GREAT DECISIONS: CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS
Dr. Daniel Nielson
INTERNATIONAL CAREERS SERIES
Matt Jacobs
THE RISE OF GIORGIA MELONI - WHAT IT MEANS FOR ITALY AND THE WORLD
Dr. Lorenzo Catelan, Dr. Paul Letter Kurzer
OCTOBER READING GROUP
The Age of the Strongman: How the Cult of the Leader Threatens Democracy Around the World by Gideon Rachman

NOVEMBER

CAN COURTS SAVE DEMOCRACY?
Jeffrey K. Stanton, Larry Diamond, Tom Daly, Stephanie Lindquist
GREAT DECISIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE
Dr. Gregory Collins
THREATS, BLACKMAIL AND NUKES - ARMS CONTROL IN A NEW AGE
Ambassador John Erath, Dr. Luke Perez
AN EVENING WITH ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY, NORTHERN IRELAND
Alderwoman Stephen Ross, Majella McAlistter
AN EVENING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND TO THE UNITED STATES FEATURING AMBASSADOR JACQUES PITTELoud
Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud, Dr. Amy Hillman
CHIP WAR: THE FIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S MOST CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY
Dr. Chris Miller
NOVEMBER READING GROUP
Chip War: The Fight for the World’s Most Critical Technology by Dr. Chris Miller
PCFR SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY + PRESENTATION OF GLOBAL ENVOY AWARD
Speaker Rusty Bowers
GREAT DECISIONS: U.S. & RUSSIA
Heli Hautala
DECEMBER READING GROUP
Four Treasures of the Sky by Jeromy Tinghui Zhang
PUTIN’S WAR: RUSSIA AGAINST THE WEST AND WITH THE REST
Dr. Angela Stent
A SACRED OATH: AN EVENING WITH FORMER US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MARK ESPER
Dr. Mark T. Esper
JANUARY BOOK CLUB
A Sacred Oath: Memoirs of a Secretary of Defense During Extraordinary Times by Dr. Mark T. Esper
RUSSIA’S WAR – WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES’ GOAL?
General Philip Breedlove, Robert McConnell
THE STRATEGY OF DENIAL: AMERICAN DEFENSE IN AN AGE OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT
Secretary Elbridge Colby
LUNCHEON WITH A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER: RUSSIA’S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE AND CAREERS AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Thomas Woots
GREAT DECISIONS: IRAN AT A CROSSROADS
AN EVENING WITH AMBASSADOR MARC GROSSMAN
Ambassadors Marc Grossman & Barbara Barrett
IRAN’S “WOMEN, LIFE, FREEDOM” MOVEMENT: WILL IT LEAD TO CHANGE?
Jasmin Ramsey, Vice Mayor Yassamin Ansarai
FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB
The Strategy of Denial: American Defense in an Age of Great Power Conflict by Secretary Elbridge Colby
“THE WORLD IS MIRRED IN HISTORY AGAIN”: WHAT THE UNITED STATES PAST MEANS FOR ITS FUTURE
Dr. Will Inboden
CIVIL WAR BY OTHER MEANS
Dr. Jeremi Suri
TRAFFICKING DATA: HOW CHINA IS WINNING THE BATTLE FOR DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY
Dr. Ayine Kodis
GREAT DECISIONS: POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA
18TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STATE OF THE STATE
Governor Katie Hobbs, Laura Franco French, Jorge Menendoza Vescas, Stefan Schneider, Dr. Hillel Newman
MEMBER BOOK CLUB
The Peacemaker: Ronald Reagan, the Cold War, and the World on the Brink by Dr. Will Inboden
LAND POWERS, SEA POWERS, AND FALLING SKIES
Walter Russell Mead

APRIL

GREAT POWER COMPETITION SERIES: THE U.S.-CHINA RIVALRY
Richard Fontaine
FRAMING UKRAINE: CLOSE-UP TAKES FROM ARMENIA, BELARUS, LATVIA AND RUSSIA
Katerina Barusliya, Hakob Karapetyan, Nelliza Locmele, Regina Revazova
GREAT DECISIONS: WAR CRIMES
Andrea Cayley
RISING POWERS OF THE PACIFIC
Dr. Mary Therese Perez-Hattori
SECURING AMERICA’S SUPPLY CHAIN: A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH SENATOR KYRSTEN SINEMA
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
APRIL BOOK CLUB
Traffic Jam: How China is Winning the Battle for Digital Sovereignty by Dr. Ayine Kodis

MAY

SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, AND CHINA: WHAT BROKED PEACE MEANS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST
Dr. Robert Satloff
THE EVOLVING MIDDLE EAST
Dr. Gregory Gause
AN AFTERNOON WITH SENATOR MARK KELLY
Senator Mark Kelly
GREAT DECISIONS: CHINA AND THE U.S.
Dr. Doug Gurrrie
MAY BOOK CLUB
Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy by Henry Kissinger

JUNE

SUDAN IN TURMOIL
Joshua Meservey
25 YEARS LATER: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND
Consul General Marcella Smyth
THE SOURCES OF PUTIN’S CONDUCT AND THE WAR ON UKRAINE
Ambassador Larry C. Napper
JUNE BOOK CLUB
Isolationism: A History of America’s Efforts to Shield Itself from the World by Dr. Charles A. Kupchan
BRINGING THE WORLD TO ARIZONA

PCFR works hand in hand with community and government partners to assist delegations whenever foreign governments aim to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties with Arizona. This has led to increased program options for both PCFR members and the community. In the previous year, PCFR and its collaborative organizations have worked together in supporting foreign delegations from various nations.

DIPLOMATIC VISITS FROM:

- Canada
- Germany
- Italy
- Mexico
- Northern Ireland (UK)
- Romania
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
NEW LOOK BOOK CLUB

This season's featured books included:

- **America's Great-Power Opportunity**
  Ali Wyne

- **The Age of the Strong Man**
  Gideon Rachman

- **Chip War**
  Chris Miller

- **Four Treasures of the Sky**
  Jenny Tinghui Zhang

- **A Sacred Oath**
  Mark T. Esper

- **The Strategy of Denial**
  Elbridge A. Colby

- **The Peacemaker**
  William Inboden

- **Trafficking Data**
  Aynne Kokas

- **Leadership**
  Henry Kissinger

- **Isolationism**
  Charles A. Kupchan

"I love PCFR because it provides a broader perspective about what's happening in the world. There's a lack of understanding about global affairs and their repercussions which affect us locally. PCFR helps close that knowledge gap through the excellent programs and events it holds. I think in today's ever evolving and shrinking world, it is important to remain knowledgeable and understand the effects of global on local. It also helps me connect with a community of like-minded people who are interested in what happens both inside and outside the valley."

Jacob Weinberg, PCFR Member since 2020
For the fourth consecutive year, PCFR partnered with Global Ties AZ to offer our members the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Great Decisions sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. Participating members took a deep dive into eight of the most critical issues facing U.S. foreign policy makers. Members came prepared to each Great Decisions virtual session by reading a chapter from the Great Decisions Briefing Book and each session featured a subject-matter expert. PCFR and Global Ties Arizona covered the cost of the Great Decisions Briefing Book (a $35 value) for PCFR members and GTAZ participants. This year's featured topics included:

- Iran at a Crossroads
- Politics in Latin America
- War Crimes
- China and the U.S.
- Economic Warfare
- Global Famine
- Energy Geopolitics
- Climate Migration

“My husband Mel, a lifelong international geophysical operations manager, and I are now marking 25 years since we moved to Mesa from my diplomatic post in Bulgaria, and I must say, PCFR has been a stimulating part of our lives in the Valley the entire time. We have greatly appreciated hearing directly from so many top-level speakers on foreign policy from the realms of government, business, academia and journalism. What a privilege to meet them personally and to share insights face-to-face! PCFR management has continued to add valuable new features, like the stimulating Great Decisions program from the Foreign Policy Association, and the selection of key articles from the press to keep us up to date on evolving issues. Kudos to the staff and members who make PCFR the marvelous forum it is for all of us world citizens!

SUSAN WEIDNER, PCFR MEMBER SINCE 2001
MEMBERS

PCFR members are inquisitive globe-trotters with a keen interest in the world. Our members have travelled, worked abroad, and collectively share a deep interest in foreign relations. Many of our members are committed to using their voice and their influence to ensure that Arizona can continue to expand and deepen our footprint globally.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Full Member • $265 annually
Young Professional Member • $75 annually
Digital Member • $50 annually

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

• Discounted event pricing
• Invitations to PCFR members-only speaker & networking events
• Access to all virtual programs
• Access to PCFR members for networking and professional development
• Participation in the members-only book club, the PCFR Book Club, Worldly Perspectives series and Great Decisions by the Foreign Policy Association
• Member portal with past program recordings
• Access to the full directory of members
• Subscriptions to the in the News and Member Muse emails
WHY WE SUPPORT PCFR

As an ardent supporter of PCFR, I appreciate the invaluable platform it offers for enriching dialogue, fostering understanding, and enabling strategic collaborations on international issues. At Thrive Services Group, our vision closely aligns with PCFR's ethos. We believe in building resilient communities by providing transformative services. Our approach is grounded in cultivating relationships with community members, investors, and business partners, much like the partnerships PCFR nurtures to promote international discourse. PCFR's commitment to a globally interconnected community mirrors our commitment to creating innovative and effective solutions that have both social and financial impacts. Supporting PCFR not only underscores our belief in the importance of global dialogue but also bolsters our mission at Thrive - to change human lives and create a lasting impact for generations to come. The synergy between our missions makes our support for PCFR not just beneficial but essential.

I was invited to a PCFR event promoted by the Town of Gilbert. After meeting many of the passionate PCFR members and leaders at that event, I was hooked. I knew that my involvement would be a way that I could get involved with international issues that matter to Arizona. I’m now a proud PCFR member and I’m grateful that my company AT&T shares my commitment to our great state through its support of PCFR.

The Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations (PCFR) has provided valuable experiential learning and networking opportunities for our Maricopa Community College students. Our Maricopa students have diverse backgrounds and experiences so the exposure to foreign dignitaries and issues only enhances their learning and encourages active civic engagement.
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GLUE UP

In Fall 2022, PCFR switched to a new membership software, Glue Up, to provide an easier and more convenient experience for our members.

PCFR membership includes access to the My Glue app, a tool that allows you to engage, network, and receive important information no matter where you are.

Search for members in the virtual directory, manage your profile and event registrations, and more with the My Glue app.

IN THE NEWS

PCFR members receive the bimonthly *In the News* newsletter chock-full of articles and resources handpicked by our foreign policy experts on the latest on what’s happening across the globe.

MEMBER MUSE

PCFR members are subscribed to receive a monthly *Member Muse* newsletter featuring exclusive opportunities, invitations to members-only events, new members features and more.

I first attended a PCFR event as a guest, and I left so impressed that I submitted my membership application that night. As a high school principal, I believe strongly in pursuing knowledge and growth whenever possible, and I find that in PCFR, both through the interesting talks and networking with other members and guests. The opportunity to meet professionals from other industries with a shared interest in learning about international affairs has been a fun, enriching experience, and I look forward to every event.

JAMES WILLIAMS, PCFR MEMBER
2022
GLOBAL ENVOY AWARD
SPEAKER RUSTY BOWERS

The Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations was proud to honor our second recipient of the Global Envoy Award, Speaker Rusty Bowers, at the second annual PCFR Holiday Party at the Snell & Wilmer offices on December 7th.

From his position of leadership, Speaker Bowers has been instrumental in elevating Arizona’s global prominence. In countless meetings with foreign diplomats and business leaders across the globe, Speaker Bowers has represented the best that Arizona has to offer to the world. Through his tireless leadership, he has helped strengthen and expand Arizona’s international economic ties and create greater cultural exchange. In all these efforts, Speaker Bowers has embodied the spirit of the PCFR Global Envoy Award.

Submit a nomination for the 2023 Global Envoy Award on our website at pcfraz.org.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

PCFR is committed to educating and training the future leaders of Arizona by offering volunteer opportunities, internships and fellowships to accommodate students at different points in their education path. Our goal is to inspire the future workforce to explore career paths from a global perspective to help meet the needs of Arizona's economy and beyond.

STUDENT FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Student Fellows Program is a unique opportunity for graduate students attending Arizona State University or the University of Arizona who have a demonstrated interest and focus on international affairs or related industries. Students can reside anywhere in Arizona to be eligible for this fellowship. The fellowship program is generously funded by PCFR member Jerry Hirsch.

CONNI INGALLINA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Conni Ingallina Internship provides undergraduate students from Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Maricopa County Community Colleges the opportunity to participate at the forefront of Arizona’s premier foreign relations organization. Student interns gain hands-on, real-world experience through projects that directly impact PCFR’s members, programs, development and marketing efforts. The internship program is generously funded by the Galbut, Morris and Mitchell Families.

Learn more about upcoming student opportunities at pcfraz.org
SUPPORT PCFR
pcfraz.org/give

The Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations is a 501(c)(3) organization and, as such, your donations are tax deductible.

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