The genesis of the Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations was the establishment by Governor Raul H. Castro in 1975 of the Arizona Commission on National and International Commerce (ACNIC). Designed to focus CEO and other senior-level attention on economic development opportunities, ACNIC introduced a series of initiatives that broadened Arizona’s approach to the international arena.

Under the leadership of Dick Mallery, the international side of ACNIC quickly sponsored a series of trade missions and senior level business and government contacts from countries around the world. One of the early goals was to create a sense of the role for Greater Phoenix in the world community. The perceived need for greater awareness of economic, political and social issues led to a proposal from Mallery and Dino DeConcini, Chief of Staff to Governor Castro, of pursuing the establishment in Phoenix of a Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, located in New York City, administered an outreach program around the country. By providing knowledgeable speakers such as ambassadors, current and former government officials, academics and senior business executives, the Council mirrored in local communities the format which had become its hallmark in New York City: expert commentary by the speaker followed by a not-for-attribution discussion with by-invitation-only participants.

This sounded like the perfect vehicle to move Phoenix leaders to a higher level of international involvement and Mallery and DeConcini urged Governor Castro to convene a meeting of senior government, business and academic leaders to explore the founding of a Committee on Foreign Relations in Phoenix. Castro, a former US Ambassador to both El Salvador and Bolivia before his arrival to the Governor’s office, was a natural ally for this endeavor.

While still in the exploration stage, the Committee idea almost got derailed. The Council in New York had a moratorium on adding new committees because it had reached the limit of its ability to support the effort with the resources then available. Fortunately, Mallery’s former law school dean at Stanford University, Bayless Manning,
was the then Chairman of the Council and Dick’s access and persuasiveness soon had the door open for Phoenix.

All that was left was to get the buy-in of the local community. In November of 1975 Governor Castro invited a large group, well over 100, to a luncheon meeting at the Arizona Club to address the issue of whether or not Phoenix should formally apply to the Council to establish a committee. The group consisted of civic leaders and persons actively involved in international business, education, finance, law and related activities.

Both Arizona State University and Thunderbird were well represented and the response from the academic community was overwhelming favorable. Since the leaders in the business community had already signed on to the need for increasing international activities, they quickly saw the affiliation with the Council on Foreign Relations as a very positive step toward that goal. It wasn’t long before someone made a motion to pursue the idea which was quickly passed and the Council was advised of our decision.

Will Rapp was then a loaned executive from Valley National Bank to the Governor’s Office with the charge of increasing the international services of the State. In that role he had become the Executive Director of ACNIC at its formation and now took on the additional role of Executive Director of the newly-formed Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations (PCFR). Bill Voris, then President of Thunderbird, was tapped as the Chairman of the Committee.

Because so much work had been done on the front end with the Council, the PCFR was quickly operating. The first program was offered a few days later on December 7, 1976 at a dinner meeting held at the Arizona Club. The inaugural speaker was Dr Grace Ibingira, the former Ambassador to the United Nations from the Sudan. Then in exile from the despotic Idi Amin government, it was not until Amin’s overthrow in 1979 that he could safely go back to his home country.

It was a great beginning. While the Council added no other Committee for ten years, in many ways Phoenix became a model program based on the number and quality of programs offered as well as the level of participation of its active membership, more than justifying the Council’s confidence.
Grace Barbey  Philip Robbins
Dino DeConcini  Sheldon Simon
Don Fry  Alan Solheim
Eleanore Herring  Beverly Springer
Gerald Kleinfeld  Robert Tancer
Jim Lienenkugel  Shoshana Tancer
Richard Mallery  Bill Voris
Fritz Marquardt  Steve Walker
Pat Murphy  Guido Weidgend
Jack Pfister  Ambassador Cliff Wharton
Ambassador John Pritzlaff  Bob Youngblood
Will Rapp
1976  Inaugural Speaker - Dr. Grace Ibinqira, Former Ambassador to the UN from the Sudan

1979  General Alexander Haig – NATO Supreme Commander

1980s  Susan Kaufmann Purcell - Latin American Expert on the NY FR Council
        Clyde Prestowitz - Author of Trading Places, Economic Strategy Institute/ from NY FR Council
        Jack Thompson - Vice Chairman of Barrett Gold
        Shika Lubna - First Foreign Policy Cabinet Member in Dubai

1989  Eiji Toyoda - Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation

1996  Ambassador Donald Gregg - The Future of Two Koreas
        The Honorable George Shultz - U.S. Foreign Policy for the Millennium

1997  The Honorable Jeffrey Davidow - The Clinton Administration’s Approach to Latin America
        The Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor - Global Judicial Policies

1998  Michael Gallagher - The Euro and U.S. Trade with Europe
        Peter Brimelow - Common Sense About America’s Immigration Disaster
        Craig Weatherup - Business Perspective on the Rise of Pepsi-Cola
        Joseph P. Manguno, Jr. - The CNN Effect - The Media and Foreign Policy

1999  Ambassador Baki Ilkin, Turkish Ambassador to U.S. - The European/Asian Link
        Admiral Bobby R. Inman - A Perspective of a Rapidly Changing World-Challenges & Opportunities in Front of Us

2000  Ambassador Harriett C. Babbitt - The National Security Role of Development and Humanitarian Assistance
        Richard Threlkeld - Moscow Nightmare - Russia and America in the New Millennium
        Ambassador Richard Butler - Dealing with Rogue States: The Iraq Case
        General Barry R. McCaffrey - National Drug Policy Director - Domestic & Intl. Drug Control Challenges

        Stephen S. Chen - China’s New Environment - Implications for Business and Foreign Policy
        Panel - Toru Hasimoto, Prof. Koji Murata, Prof. Naoto Yamauchi - Contemporary US - Japan Relationships - Is Reform a Reality?
Ambassador Roscoe S. Suddarth - Is It Too Late For Peace In The Middle East
The Honorable Toni G. Verstandig - What Happened to the Middle East Peace Process

2002
Rebecca MacKinnon - 9/11 and North Asia: Security Implications
Secretary Steven P. Bucci - U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan
Stephen E. Flynn - America the Vulnerable: Rethinking Border Control in the Wake of 9-11

2003
Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi - The Future of Democracy and Capitalism in the Middle East
Senator Jon Kyl - War, Terrorism and Politics
Hugh Downs - Press Challenges and Responsibilities in Wartime

2004
The Honorable Jim Kolbe - Positioning US Foreign Policy for Greater Success Through Trade & Aid
James Bradley - The Legacy of Japan’s WWII Policy
Lee Cullum - American Hedemony: How Long Will It Last?

Governor Janet Napolitano – Inaugural International State of the State Address

2005
Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt - The Global War on Terror – Military Operations in the Middle East
Undersecretary Geronimo Gutierrez-Fernandez - US Relations with Mexico

Governor Janet Napolitano – 2nd Annual International State of the State

2006
Dr. George Poste - Biosecurity: A Crucial But Neglected Strategic Component of National Security Policy
General Vernon Clark - Perspectives on the Middle East and Asian Hot Spots
His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal - Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to The United States of America

Immigration & Security Panel of Agency Directors - Paul K. Charlton, US Attorney for District of AZ, Jana D. Monroe, Special Agent in Charge, Phx, Division, FBI; Michel Nicley, Chief Patrol Agent, US Government Border Patrol; Moderated by PCFR Member Dr. Mervyn Lakin

Governor Janet Napolitano – 3rd Annual International State of the State

2007
Ambassador Tony Hall - The Landscape of Global Poverty: Exploring Sustainable Solutions
Admiral James Stavridis, NATO Commander - Latin America and the
Caribbean: Linkages, Challenges, Promises
Lawrence Korb - National Security in an Age of Tyrants, Terrorists, and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Governor Janet Napolitano – 4th Annual International State of the State

2008 The Honorable Michael Oxley - The Globalism of the Financial Markets
David Low, former National Intelligence Council – Understanding Terrorism & What Could Be Next
Mike Chinoy – Meltdown: The Inside Stories of the North Korean Nuclear Crisis and the Pakistan Challenge

Governor Janet Napolitano – 5th Annual International State of the State

2009 Governor Eduardo Bours Castelo - Sonora: A Changing State in a Changing World
Daisy Kahn - Muslims as Part of the Solution in a Time of Global Turmoil
David A. Merkel - Foreign Policy Changes Faced by the New Administration

Governor Jan Brewer – 6th Annual International State of the State

2010 Ambassador Peter Burleigh - South Asian Challenges – India, Pakistan & Afghanistan
John Mroz, East West Institute - The US and the World in 2010: What We Need To Do Differently
Dr. Zuhdi Jasser - Islam, Islamists and the Relationship with America
Senator John McCain - Challenges Raised by Global Participation
Dr. Gal Luft - Turning Oil into Salt: How to Strip Oil of Its Strategic Status

Consul General David Siegel - A Regional and Global Security Assessment: The Israeli Perspective
Rebecca MacKinnon - Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom

Panel with Moderator Angel Cabrera, Thunderbird President
7th Annual International State of the State

2012 Dr. Shibley Telhami - Taking Stock: The Arab Uprisings, Two Years Later
Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf - How American Muslims Can Help Eradicate Extremism
Admiral Thad Allen - Leading in Crises and Complex Events to Create Unity of Effort
Dr. Yassin El-Ayouty - The Battle Between the Islamists and the Secularists Shall Define the Future of Peace In the Middle East

Panel with Moderator Angel Cabrera, Thunderbird President
8th Annual International State of the State
2013  
Ambassador Mark Gitenstein - Rule of Law and the Consolidation of Democracy in Romania
General Victor E. Renuart - The Challenges of Illicit Trade to the Partners of North America
Panel with Moderator Larry Penley, Ph.D., Thunderbird President - 9th Annual International State of the State, Arizona’s Future in the Global Economy

2014  
Senator Jeff Flake - Foreign Policy Update From the U.S. Senate
Andrew Nagorski - Putin, His Record and What He’s Up To
Nicholas Chen - Managing China Risk in a Changed Business Ecosystem
Ambassador Kurt Volker - Navigating U.S. Policy in a Troubled World
Panel with Moderator Larry Penley, Ph.D., Thunderbird President – 10th Annual International State of the State, Arizona’s Place in International

2015  
Cindy McCain with Senator Jon Kyl - A Conversation about Human Trafficking Here and Around the Globe
Ambassador Robert Ford - Crisis in the Levant: from Lebanon to Iraq
David Cohen - Global Hotspots, Terrorism and Intelligence
Dirk Dijkerman – The Ebola Virus Disease: How the US Responded in West Africa and What’s Next?
Governor Doug Ducey – 11th Annual International State of the State, Steering Arizona’s Future in International Waters

2016  
PCFR 40th Anniversary Celebration – Peter Bergen, Marco Vicenzino, Ambassador Stapleton Roy, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

2012  
Admiral James Stavridas, NATO Commander - Leading in Crisis and Complex Events to Create Unity of Efforts - A Collaborative Meeting with The O’Connor Institute

2013  
David Ignatius - A Conversation with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor - A Collaborative Meeting with The O’Connor Institute

2014  
Dr. Bernd Fischer – How Germany & Europe Matter for Arizona - A Collaborative Meeting with the American Council on Germany in Arizona

2015  
Ambassador Sir Peter Westmacott – The United Kingdom: Navigating Global Challenges - A Collaborative Meeting with The McCain Institute

2016  
His Excellency, Ambassador Cui Tankai– The Future of China and U.S. Relations - A Collaborative Meeting with The McCain Institute and O’Connor Institute
1975 - 1980

**1975**
- Governor Castro establishes AZ ACNIC
- Dick Mallery leads ACNIC
- Dick Mallery, Bill Voris, Dino DeConcini propose PCFR
- Will Rapp named Exec. Dir. ACNIC and ED PCFR
- Bill Voris named Chairman PCFR

**1976**
- First dinner program December 7, 1976
- Inaugural speaker Dr. Grace Ibingira
- Will Rapp named PCFR President
- Amb. Bill Turner coordinates CFR(NY) speakers
- PCFR contrasts w/ CFR's Euro-centric focus
- USA celebrates bicentennial
- Chairman Mao dies
- Apple is founded

**1977**
- Arizona Tomorrow Project established
- Wesley Bolin elected AZ Governor
- Jimmy Carter elected President

**1978**
- Bruce Babbit elected AZ Governor
- The Jonestown Massacre

**1979**
- Shah of Iran deposed; US Embassy taken hostage

**1980**
- Pacific Basin Institute formed in Phoenix
- Iran-Iraq War starts
- China implements one-child policy
1981 - 1989

Dick Mallery, Russell Nelson (Pres ASU) attend PBEC summit

Japanese banks fund PHX real estate

Will Rapp, Bill Voris, Berger Erickson (COO, Thunderbird) link MX

Ronald Reagan elected President

1981

Sally K. Ride first woman in space

1983

Space shuttle Challenger explodes

1986

Evan Mecham appointed AZ Governor

1987

Rose Mofford appointed first woman AZ Governor

Soviets withdraw from Afghanistan war

1988

1989

Toyota selects AZ as proving ground site

Governor Rose Mofford hosts Toyota Chairman

George H.W. Bush elected President

Berlin Wall falls

Tiananmen Square Massacre
1990 - 1998

1990
- J. Fyfe Symington elected AZ Governor
- First START Treaty (nuclear weapons)
- The Soviet Union collapses

1991
- Gorbachov elected President of Russia

1993
- Bill Clinton elected President
- The European Union formed
- Susan Shultz named PCFR President

1994
- Oklahoma City bombing
- Apartheid ends in South Africa

1995

1997
- PCFR separates from NYC CFR

1998
- International Space Station launched
1999 - 2007

1999
- NATO expansion accepted
- Euro introduced into circulation
- George W. Bush elected President
- 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers
- War in Afghanistan begins

2001
- Janet Napolitano elected AZ Governor
- Inaugural PCFR International State of the State
- Governor Napolitano ISOS keynote speaker
- US invades Iraq

2003
- Putin re-elected President
- Soviet Union

2004
- PCFR Committees formed
- Board processes refined

2005
- PCFR membership exceeds 275
- ISOS alliance built with 41 entities

2006
- Putin re-elected President
- Soviet Union

2007
- Putin re-elected President
- Soviet Union
Jan Brewer named Governor of Arizona
Janet Napolitano leads Dept Homeland Security
Barack Obama elected President
Susan Lavenson named PCFR President
BRIC Group forms

2009

SB 1070 signed into law

2010

Keith Galbut named PCFR President

2011

Russia invades the Ukraine

2013

Paul G. Johnson named PCFR President
Topical Discussions added to Programs

2014

South Africa joins BRICS

2015

PCFR Reading Group formed

2016

Doug Ducey elected AZ Governor
Mel Sanderson named PCFR President
Member Muse monthly newsletter launched

2009 - 2016

PCFR Celebrates 40 years!