Letter from Board President and Executive Director

Dear Members,

Few expected the impact of COVID to bring yet even more challenges in its second year, but sure enough, that’s what happened! We hope that you, your friends and families have weathered the storms of the pandemic and, like us at the Council, look forward to the coming year as one of slow return to normalcy. We review last year’s highlights below, while presenting additional details in the rest of this report. Please let us know if you wish further clarification or have questions.

The highlights:
Perhaps most significantly, in 2021 we started a strategic planning review to determine the direction of the Council in the coming years. We anticipate a thoughtful blending of many of our COVID-driven innovations with traditional WACNH programs, plus creative initiatives to move us forward. We look forward to sharing the results of our work in late 2022.

We also initiated the important work of folding DEIJ (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion, & Justice) into the Council’s work, which, through an ongoing commitment, will result in a better future for our organization and the audiences we serve. By working with a consultant, WACNH will ensure that our programs remain an open and welcoming environment for staff, volunteers, NH’s many diverse communities, and our international visitors.

Despite an extremely tough year globally, you, our members and donors helped us achieve another successful year overall, especially in the areas of financial stability and program-reach. Most notably, we hosted three members of Ukraine’s parliament through our Open World exchange program. We continue to talk with these visitors, who remain safe, but still need our help.

Last year also saw strong audience engagement in programs, especially online: Our podcast had over 10,000 “listens” from 72 countries and 39 states; we had over 2,700 “views” of speaker programs from 137 countries and 43 states; we held three “hybrid” (both in-person and online) events; more than 140 visitors participated in virtual programs with us; we brought Academic WorldQuest online for the first time ever, with 96 students from nine states participating and we partnered with seven other World Affairs Councils.

Financially, we had a 37% increase in the number of donors and a record 41% increase in total funds raised through our NH Gives and annual fund campaigns. This success demonstrates the value the community places on our work.

We look forward to continuing to bring engaging, insightful, and timely programs that highlight diverse perspectives and foster people-to-people connections. As we bring our programs back to in-person, we hope to see you there.

Peter Bowman, president
Tim Horgan, executive director
We appreciated the Ambassador’s clear and thoughtful presentation. It was an exceptional presentation and the questions that Tim selected to present to him were perfect.

JOHN & SANDRA ELLER
Manchester, NH

Gina and I wanted to thank you for a wonderful experience. The Diplomacy Simulation was an enormous success. We are so proud of our students and thankful that we have been able to partner with the both of you.

NICK WATSON
Bow, NH
By exploring the world in 30 minute chunks, the Global in the Granite State podcast has provided thousands of people the opportunity to understand the complex challenges the world faces. Diving deeper into the conversation than a two minute news story can, listeners gain valuable insights and perspectives, which position them to lead factual community discussions on the issues. By utilizing this format, the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire has created a new community of globally engaged citizens, which breaks down borders and builds understanding. As the most accessible program of the Council’s many offerings, it serves a core function in the organization’s work to increase diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

Over the course of 2021, this program explored topics as diverse as one woman’s harrowing story of her escape from Afghanistan after the collapse of the internationally recognized government, to an engaging look at what drives people to support authoritarian leaders at the expense of their own freedom. Relying on experts with long careers in the field or lived experiences, WACNH opens the conversations and invites everyone to join. Through the stories this program tells, listeners can cut through the fog of disinformation and engage in the basic duty of a global citizen... becoming active participants in the global society.

**TOP EPISODES OF 2021**

- **Breaking Down the Ethiopian Civil War**
  - 1,245 listens

- **Understanding Support For Authoritarianism**
  - 1,378 listens

- **The Changing Climate and You**
  - 1,209 listens

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“...I finally had a chance to listen to the full podcast yesterday and I think it came out very well. I like the way your interspersed statements to frame the story--it’s very well-done...”

Elise Giuliano
New York
For the 2021 Academic WorldQuest Challenge, the innovative and collaborative spirit of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire was on full display. Having led a nationwide trivia challenge the year before, the organization had great insights into running efforts like this. As a leader in the network, five other World Affairs Councils looked to WACNH for assistance in running their own virtual competitions. This led to an amazing online regional competition where students from nine states came together for a fun and engaging day.

By utilizing the Wonder.me and MyQuiz.org platforms, WACNH recreated the atmosphere of an in-person competition in an online space. Teams were able to gather in small conversation groups, while the day's emcee read out the questions. This unique combination of private groups and broadcast messages ensured the student teams could talk amongst themselves, while signing in from their homes. It also ensured that all students had an equal opportunity to see and hear the questions, engaging all types of learners.

This new effort required a deep level of engagement by staff, volunteers, partners, and participants to ensure a smooth operation of the day. A huge thank you to all the partners and the WACNH Education Committee for the extensive efforts undertaken to ensure this program’s success. Without the countless hours of preparation by everyone, the program would have suffered. Fortunately, the 2021 Academic WorldQuest ran without a hitch and the students appreciated the opportunity to study the world.

Well done for pulling that off so successfully. What a big lift, but WACNH really shone

Ann-Louise Colgan
Washington, DC

2021 Participating Councils:
Even before the invasion of Ukraine, the one international visitor group that came to New Hampshire in 2021 was already a special one. In July of 2021, the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire was honored to host three members of the Ukrainian Parliament for a five day stay. During their time here they built strong connections with local leaders, residents, and friends who helped them to understand how governmental systems work here in New Hampshire. Many of them are still in touch with these amazing members of parliament, as they continue to struggle in their fight against Russia. Through connections like this, the people of New Hampshire gain a spotlight on the world that they cannot get anywhere else. This program, in part, lead to the creation of the New Hampshire Ukraine Relief fund, which helped raise over $1 million in cash and supplies for everything needed to support the people of Ukraine at this difficult time and support Poland in their effort to resettle Ukrainian refugees.

Beyond this group from Ukraine, WACNH hosted 140 international visitors from 74 different countries in the online space. The visitors met with 147 individuals from the state to talk about issues ranging from government accountability to video games for small business development. Through their professional meetings they shared best practices with their counterparts in a two-way exchange, benefiting all sides. They also had the opportunity to socialize with everyday Americans who shared different cultures and perspectives. One of the most exciting opportunities was a social hour on Halloween that included pumpkin carving and discussions of fall traditions around the world. These interactions help to make the world a little bit smaller every time and build understanding in a world of disinformation and stereotypes.
Where Visitors Came from in 2021

74 Different Countries & Territories Visited NH Virtually in 2021

Angola  Argentina  Armenia  Australia  Azerbaijan  Bahamas  Bahrain  Bangladesh  Bolivia  Brazil  Bulgaria  Cambodia  Canada  Chile  China

Colombia  Congo  Costa Rica  Cote D’Ivoire  Croatia  Czech Republic  Egypt  El Salvador  Estonia  Ethiopia  Gambia  Ghana  Guyana  Lebanon  Liberia

Haiti  Honduras  India  Israel  Italy  Jamaica  Jordan  Kazakhstan  Kenya  Kosovo  Kuwait  Kyrgyzstan  Philippines  Poland  Sao Tome & Principe

Libya  Madagascar  Malaysia  Malta  Mexico  Mozambique  Nicaragua  Nigeria  North Macedonia  Pakistan  Peru  Togo  Trinidad And Tobago  Turkey  Ukraine

Saudi Arabia  Senegal  Slovakia  South Korea  Sri Lanka  Suriname  Taiwan  Tajikistan  Thailand  Timor-Leste  Uruguay  Uzbekistan  Venezuela  Zambia
Global Speakers Programs

The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire continued its strong tradition of providing opportunities to hear from respected experts in the field about current and future issues of global importance. When the organization hosted General Stanley McChrystal in May of 2021, audiences heard about the potential for a rapid collapse of the Afghanistan and that the U.S. needed to step up its efforts to resettle those who worked closely with our military. When Ambassador David McKean gave remarks on the trans-Atlantic alliance in December, he indicated that a strong N.A.T.O. and united Europe could help solve many of the issues the world faces today. These programs preceded two of the biggest foreign policy challenges of the past year, preparing audiences for what happened next.

Through these engaging programs, WACNH provides the opportunity for people to uncover diverse perspectives, understand their connections to the wider world, and empowers them to take action on issues they find important. From making their voices heard with Congressional leaders, to creating fundraisers to support causes like the Ukrainian refugee crisis, WACNH attendees are at the table for critical discussions and lead responses to global issues with local impact.

An educated public is vital to a responsive government and vibrant democracy. Each and every day the Federal government takes global action in the name of the American people. It is incumbent on the people of New Hampshire and the country to understand these complex global issues to ensure U.S. foreign policy matches their values. The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire proudly provides the opportunity for all to learn, engage, and discuss.

2,700+ Audience Views
137+ Countries
3 Hybrid Events
89% of Participants gained a new perspective
Total 2021 Income
$384,779

41% increase in donations raised
78% increase in grant funds

World Affairs Council of New Hampshire

Total 2021 Expenses
$304,693

International Exchanges
$197,837 - (51.4%)

Investment Funds Used for Operations
$21,967 - (5.7%)

Foundation and Other
$77,238 - (20.1%)

Events and Education Programs
$21,696 - (5.6%)

Annual Fund and Membership
$66,041 - (17.2%)

International Exchanges
$128,971 - (42.3%)

Professional Services
$17,087 - (5.6%)

General Operating
$45,426 - (14.9%)

Other
$23,032 - (7.6%)

Events and Education
$59,379 - (19.5%)

Annual Fund and Membership
$30,798 - (10.1%)

4 Employees Supported
150+ Volunteers Engaged
Thank You!

Donors

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President's Award for Service and Support
Carolyn Richmond and Carolyn Hollman received the WACNH President’s award from Ginny Szymanowski for their efforts to increase the high school education offerings of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire. As co-chairs of the education committee of the board, they were instrumental in helping to shepherd the Academic WorldQuest competition through the tumultuous pandemic. Through the use of multiple technologies and partner organizations, WACNH lead a successful effort to sustain global engagement for high school students here in New Hampshire.
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The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire believes in a world where an empowered public engages in global understanding and people-to-people diplomacy. Through the various programs provided to the community, WACNH works to create an informed populace that will foster civic discussions on complex issues, providing guidance to policymakers, businesses, community leaders, and others.