Fellows visit the U.S. Department of State as part of the 2016 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI), a U.S. Department of State program implemented by Meridian to empower entrepreneurs and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We believe those leaders who have a global view, cultural awareness, peer networks, and the ability to collaborate produce better outcomes.

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday
President and CEO
Meridian International Center
MEET MERIDIAN

Headquartered in Washington, DC, Meridian International Center is a premier nonprofit, global leadership organization with more than 55 years of experience preparing U.S. and international leaders to meet global challenges and opportunities.

OUR MISSION

To create innovative exchange, education, cultural, and policy programs that advance three goals:

- Strengthen U.S. engagement with the world through the power of exchange.
- Prepare public and private sector leaders for a complex global future.
- Provide a neutral forum for international collaboration across sectors.

OUR VISION

We envision a more secure and prosperous world characterized by mutual understanding, innovation, economic growth, and inclusion. The path to realizing this vision is through more effective and connected public and private sector leadership at all levels.
Meridian annually produces more than 100 roundtable discussions, conferences, seminars, programs, policy discussions, and other neutral forums that bring together the world’s top private and public sector leaders, and the diplomatic corps.

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGES
BUILD EXPERTISE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Meridian’s tailored exchange programs allow leaders from around the world to connect with their American counterparts and collaborate on solutions to challenges facing their communities, organizations, and countries.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs at the Parliament of India, delivers a keynote address on the role of soft power in U.S.-India relations at the Cultural Diplomacy Forum on India.

Photos by Stephen Bobb Photography

OUR WORK

Participant from the U.S. Department of State’s 2014 Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program spells out her vision for leadership in Africa.

Members of Afghanistan’s High Peace Council, Malawi Ghulam and Fazel Karim, meet with U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara L. McQuade and her staff.

Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor Dina Powell engages in a discussion about global entrepreneurship and national security with Meridian President and CEO Ambassador Stuart Holliday.

Photo by Stephen Bobb Photography

NEUTRAL FORUMS
FOSTER DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION
TRAINING PROGRAMS
PREPARE LEADERS FOR SUCCESS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Building on more than 55 years of experience, Meridian’s custom training programs combine practical tools with expertise from our high-level network, ensuring our private and public sector partners are equipped to navigate global challenges and opportunities.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY
BRIDGE COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRIES

Though the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy, Meridian creates exhibitions, trainings, and conferences that bridge cultural divides. These programs increase understanding and strengthen relationships between the U.S. and countries around the world.
OUR APPROACH

We prepare emerging and established leaders to effectively meet the challenges of a complex global future.

CROSS-SECTOR LEADERS

We bring together a cross-section of established and emerging leaders:

- Corporations
- Governments
- Diplomatic Corps
- NGOs
- Foundations
- Individuals

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Provide them with resources and insight on key global issues through our:

- Exchanges
- Training
- Forums
- Cultural Diplomacy Initiatives

BETTER OUTCOMES

They gain knowledge and valuable skills that increase their effectiveness as leaders:

- Global Competency
- Insight and Context
- Applied Leadership
- Networks

VALUE AND IMPACT

Which benefits individuals, communities, and countries around the world:

- Greater Security
- Economic Development
- Innovation
- Mutual Understanding

Former Secretary of Commerce and Kellogg CEO Carlos M. Gutierrez accepts the Meridian Global Leadership Award. Photo by Shevett Studios
OUR PROGRAMS

Our suite of programs delivers the approach and environment for leaders to understand global issues and cultures, exchange ideas, collaborate on solutions, and build valuable relationships.

EXCHANGE
- Professional Leadership Exchanges
- Youth Leadership Development Initiatives
- Multi-City Programs and Facilitated Workshops
- Media Co-ops and Reporting Tours
- Trade Missions

CULTURE
- Curated Cultural Exhibitions and Presentations
- International Museum Capacity Building
- Educational Initiatives for Youth
- Film Series

FORUMS
- Leadership Summits
- Seminars and Conferences
- Speed Convening
- Salon Dinners
- Roundtable Discussions
- Annual Meridian Ball

TRAINING
- Country and Regional Briefings
- Practitioner-Led Workshops
- Leadership Skills Development
- U.S. Federalism Briefings
- Stakeholder Engagement and Sustainability Strategies
- Business Diplomacy and Cultural Intelligence Trainings

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden meets with international leaders.

Artist Zeinab Al Hashemi at the Past Forward exhibition opening.

Ambassador of India to the United States H. E. Navtej Sarna discusses the U.S.-India relationship at the Cultural Diplomacy Forum on India.

Sir Richard Branson, Founder of the Virgin Group, meets with Fellows of the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI).
OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

Our impact is felt by individuals, organizations, and communities around the world, who rely on our expertise in key global issues.

IMPACT AREAS

MERIDIAN’S PROGRAMS ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES:

- Business and Trade
- Civic Engagement
- Cultural Diplomacy
- Education
- Empowering Women and Girls
- Energy and the Environment
- Entrepreneurship
- Food Security
- Foreign Policy
- Global Health
- Governance and Transparency
- Human and Civil Rights
- Media and Journalism
- Public Diplomacy
- Science and Technology
- Volunteerism
- Youth Leadership Development

SINCE 1960

WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. ALUMNI INCLUDE:
EACH YEAR
THROUGH OUR
500+ PROGRAMS
AND
EXCHANGES
WE IMPACT:

› 180+
COUNTRIES

› 3,500+
LEADERS

› 30+
MULTI-NATIONAL
CORPORATIONS

70,904
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS,
FORTUNE 500 EXECUTIVES, AND
OTHER EMERGING LEADERS

4
NOBEL PRIZE
WINNERS

168
HEADS OF
STATE

Darker shades of blue
reflect higher numbers of
Meridian programs and
greater levels of impact.
Meridian is a principal partner of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE and other government agencies. We implement the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), which promotes mutual understanding between countries around the world and the U.S.

The world’s leading MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS count on us to design programs that address critical business challenges and opportunities, elevate their CSR initiatives, and accelerate development of their leaders.

CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) Hon. Patricia de Stacy Harrison, Actress America Ferrera, and New Light Founder Urmi Basu join Meridian, the Independent Television Service, and CPB for the D.C. premiere of Half the Sky.
We work closely with the **DIPLOMATIC CORPS** in Washington, D.C. to foster greater understanding of their cultures, create networks with U.S. private and public sector organizations, and provide opportunities for advancing business and trade relations.

We partner with **NGOs** from around the world to convene programs on topical international issues, including: human trafficking, women’s empowerment, entrepreneurship, trade, cultural diplomacy, security, environmental sustainability, and global health.
OUR CAMPUS

Meridian’s campus features two historic buildings, Meridian House and White-Meyer House.

Meridian stewards these residential jewels designed by John Russell Pope, architect of the Jefferson Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Archives. Both houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The campus serves as the unofficial “Embassy of Washington,” welcoming the more than 3,500 leaders who come through our doors each year.

Meridian House, built in 1923 by Ambassador Irwin Boyle Laughlin, U.S. Ambassador to Greece (1924-1926) and Spain (1929-1933).
The grand entrance of Meridian House greets visiting leaders from 180 countries each year.

Photo by Rodney Bailey

White-Meyer House, built in 1917 by Ambassador Henry White, U.S. Ambassador to Italy (1905-1906) and France (1906-1909), is home to Meridian’s Cafritz Galleries.

Photo by Rodney Bailey

Meridian’s campus is a spectacular retreat, surrounded by stone walls that shelter manicured gardens and a distinctive grove of linden trees.

Meridian is strategically located between the White House and Embassy Row. It forms a city block of historic and architectural interest.

Photo by Rodney Bailey
For half a century, Meridian has exemplified the value of international exchange programs in promoting mutual tolerance and respect among different peoples. Indeed, the Center is a cornerstone of mutual efforts to foster greater understanding and cooperation among nations in our ever-changing world.

Hon. George W. Bush  
43rd President of the United States

Meridian plays an important role for the diplomatic community in fostering global partnerships, strengthening international understanding, and furnishing innovative solutions to today’s challenges.

H.E. Jaime E. Aleman  
Former Ambassador of Panama to the U.S.

Meridian’s team of seasoned practitioners partnered with leaders of my organization to develop a customized program using case studies based on current business challenges. As a result, the program was effectively tailored to address our business needs using an ideal balance of theory and practice.

Cindy R. Kent  
President and General Manager, 
Drug Delivery Systems Division, 3M
Meridian International Center becomes a real gathering place, a market of exchanges and networking….Even in this world of virtual reality where you can communicate instantaneously, nothing substitutes for personal relationship building.

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Former U.S. Secretary of State

There is no substitute for these kinds of personal exchanges — especially those based on the arts. They allow us to better understand one another, to respect and value our differences, and more importantly, our similarities.

Quincy Jones
Entertainment Executive, Grammy Award Winner

We’re seeing a wave of innovation across the globe that’s transforming how we manage our lives, connect with others, and operate our businesses. Today, AT&T’s customers are doing business in virtually every country and territory and our relationship with Meridian is helping to promote sustained cooperation and understanding between AT&T and a global community.

Eric Loeb
Vice President, International External Affairs, AT&T