THE MERIDIAN CENTER FOR DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT
IS AN EDUCATION AND NETWORKING HUB FOR THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC CORPS BASED IN WASHINGTON, DC. WE SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

AT A GLANCE:

- More than 1,300 diplomats from 165 embassies have participated in our programs since 2019.
- With the advent of virtual programming in March 2020, the Center for Diplomatic Engagement has convened 18 sessions for diplomats.
- 95% of diplomats certify that Meridian improved their ability to perform effectively in their field.
- A majority of diplomats agree that Meridian events strengthen their understanding of U.S. foreign policy, the American political system, and key issues facing the U.S.
- Recent speakers include U.S. Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft, Representative Karen Bass, National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Deputy Secretary of State Steven Biegun.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:

- **COVID and the World of Entertainment:** This virtual program will highlight what the entertainment industry is doing to mitigate the COVID-19 impact on production, distribution, talent procurement, and industry best practices around the globe while also examining the implications of immigration restrictions and labor issues. *(October 15, 2020)*

- **Engage with American Voters Outside of the Washington Beltway: Elections Networking Event:** As opportunities for members of the foreign diplomatic corps to engage directly with American citizens outside of the Beltway have dwindled, this candid discussion with voters in Denver will offer a chance to discuss federal, state, and local races, mail-in voting, and priority issues. *(October 19, 2020)*

- **Diplocraft: A Global Response to Antimicrobial Resistance:** This program will examine the growing public health threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, the collaboration needed across sectors to address this global issue, and the investments needed to create a sustainable market to revitalize the antibiotic pipeline. This interactive briefing will raise awareness about the pressing need for new antibiotics and explore how countries can create a regulatory environment that promotes better stewardship and incentivizes novel antibiotic research. *(October 20, 2020)*

- **Meridian Summit - The Rise of Global Health Diplomacy:** Meridian’s signature event brings together diplomatic, government and business leaders to explore how COVID-19 has transformed public health into a central factor in nearly all global decisions. Over 30 international public and private sector visionaries will discuss the importance of collaboration on global health security, advancing equitable access to healthcare, retooling the global health workforce, breakthrough medical innovations, leadership in times of crisis, and international health supply chains. *(October 23, 2020)*

- **Insights @ Meridian with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson:** In a conversation tackling economic recovery, mail-in voting, and the upcoming elections, Governor Hutchinson will share his perspectives with an audience of ambassadors and private sector leaders. *(October 27, 2020)*

- **Diplocraft: Regaining Public Trust in Air Travel:** This interactive session will explore the future of air travel and how airlines can create safe and efficient air transportation systems that address the public health risks of COVID-19, an effort that will require the collaborative effort from governments, the private sector, and public health leaders. *(November 2020)*
OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIPLOMAT PARTICIPATION AND EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT:

- **DIPLOCRAFT - POLICY DEEP DIVES AND SEMINARS:** A key component of the Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement is our series of policy discussions and issue specific seminars for diplomats to hear from and interact with organizations and individuals on the front lines of the political, social, security and economic issues engulfing Washington. 2020 programs have focused on vaccine development, the role of the Federal Trade Commission, elections security, networking receptions for trade ministers, a deep dive into federalism in the U.S., and programs on sustainability.

- **INSIGHTS @ MERIDIAN:** This high-level briefing series provides ambassadors with an opportunity to hear from leaders in Congress, the Administration and state and local governments to exchange views and increase their understanding of the U.S. perspective on timely domestic and global issues. Meridian recently hosted USAID Administrator John Barsa, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Biden Campaign Tony Blinken, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and a panel discussion featuring mayors of mid-sized U.S. cities.

- **MERIDIAN GLOBAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE:** This platform provides international journalists and communicators a way to connect, gain insights and exchange perspectives on the news of the day. The initiative aims to offer a holistic view of the United States while strengthening global alliances and the U.S. reputation in the world. Through this program, embassy press attaches can connect with key newsmakers and journalists in the U.S. and from around the world. A recent program focused on how covering the news during the pandemic has changed and explored the shared challenges of reporting on events from afar.

- **FIGHTING ILLICIT ECONOMIES TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT SERIES:** Over the course of 2020 and 2021, this seven-part convening series will raise awareness on the tribulations of illicit economies. A cross-section of experts and decision-makers from the U.S. government, multinational institutions, foreign diplomatic corps, private sector, think tank community and civil society will examine areas of illicit economic activity and work towards viable multisectoral solutions. The sessions will be thematic and include corruption and impunity, crime and environment, violence and instability, illicit trade and financial flows, human mobility and exploitation, and cybercrime.

- **MERIDIAN GLOBAL BUSINESS BRIEFINGS:** Meridian partners with the corporate community to co-host dialogues where featured ambassadors or foreign government leaders engage with business executives and provide insight on the trade and economic landscape in their home nations.

- **RISING LEADERS COUNCIL:** This prominent network of mid-career professionals from the public sector, business world, and embassy community gathers periodically throughout the year to explore key issues, share perspectives, and strengthen peer relationships.

- **HEAD OF STATE OR MINISTERIAL BRIEFING:** Meridian's extensive network, nonpartisan platform, and highly professional staff combine to serve as an ideal partner and co-host for a virtual program with a prime minister, president, foreign minister or other senior official wishing to make a public address and/or engage a bespoke audience in the U.S.

The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement provides programming for foreign diplomats of any portfolio. To learn more about how the Center can strengthen your work, please contact Vice President Frank Justice (fjustice@meridian.org; (202) 939-5583) or Director Katherine Boyce (kboyce@meridian.org; (202) 939-5546).