



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY

The backbone of American diplomacy relies on the strength of our people. To continue to build U.S. diplomatic capacity, we must invest in our people to better reflect the diversity of our country and prepare leaders for 21st-century statecraft and knowledge.

DiplomacyRISE is Meridian's investment and solution into strengthening America's foreign affairs ecosystem by developing the next generation of diplomats -- an inclusive professional development initiative providing college students and young professionals with greater access to critical skills training, career guidance networks and emerging issue area expertise.

OUR GOALS



INCREASE DIVERSITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Create pipelines to professional development programs at formative and early career levels to build greater access to international affairs from all backgrounds and perspectives.



EXPAND CAPACITY FOR NEW FRONTIERS OF DIPLOMACY

Equip diplomats at all levels with the resources, networks and knowledge to tackle the issues that will dominate the 21st-century, including global health, climate change, and cyber and technology issues.

OUR PARTNERS

Since launching DiplomacyRISE in April 2021, Meridian has partnered with the following organizations to build their career development programs while routinely speaking with college and university groups on professional paths to diplomacy.

- U.S. Department of State
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program
- National Science Policy Network
- Theodore Roosevelt High School
- Una Chapman Cox Foundation
- Howard University Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center
- Global Blood Therapeutics
- Community College for International Development
- Global Community College Transfers



As diplomacy evolves, Meridian is helping shape its future. For more information, please contact fjustice@meridian.org or scan the QR code.



Photo Credit: Stephen Bobb

"I think we need more **intersection** between science and diplomacy. There's just so much work to be done and we could always use more **collaboration**."

- **Sharmini Pitter, Ph.D.**
Environmental Earth Science, Stanford University



GEORGE C MARSHALL CONFERENCE CENTER





“Diplomacy has never been more important than now to revitalize our standing in the world. To do this, the American international affairs community must reflect the full diversity of our country – our backgrounds, beliefs, and values. That is, after all, the greatest asset our nation has.”

- Natalie Jones,
Executive Vice President,
Meridian International
Center



OUR WORK

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Diplomatic Skills Training for Young Scientists: Meridian partners with the National Science Policy Network on the Diplomatic Skills Training for Young Scientists course to provide scientists, doctors, engineers, and similar professionals interested in becoming international affairs practitioners with education focused on soft skills that are central to diplomacy, such as cultural competency, protocol, and negotiation. During the summer 2022 pilot course, Meridian offered a four-week virtual diplomatic skills training pilot program for 25 NSPN Science Diplomacy Committee Members. The course will expand to six-weeks in summer 2023. Global Blood Therapeutics (2022) and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (2023) are the course underwriters.

Summer Mentorship Program: Meridian organizes international affairs workshops as part of the Global Community College Transfers Summer Mentorship Program.

FELLOWSHIPS

Community College Global Affairs Fellowship: Meridian created a paid summer enrichment and mentorship program to expand access to global education opportunities and international affairs careers to community college, transfer, and non-traditional students. Taking place in 2023, the fellowship is a new initiative held in partnership with Global Community College Transfers and Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) through the generous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The CCGAF is the only program of its kind and provides evidence-based skill-building, mentorship, one-on-one coaching, and ongoing access to networks and support that these students and professionals need to grow in their work, advance to higher levels of leadership, and become decision-makers on the world stage.

CONVENINGS

Diplomacy Forum: Meridian’s annual Diplomacy Forum gathers American and international diplomats, military officials, business leaders and policy experts to explore trends and challenges in U.S. and international statecraft. Meridian supports the career development of college students and young professionals by welcoming them to participate alongside established global affairs practitioners in this Forum, which includes an evening networking reception specifically geared towards engaging these next generation diplomats with current international relations professionals.

SXSW EDU: Meridian spread DiplomacyRISE principles beyond Washington at the 2022 SXSW EDU Conference and Festival through “American Diplomats Should Look Like America.” This session covered the value and benefits of an American diplomatic corps that reflects the diversity of our country. Meridian will return to the SXSW EDU stage for 2023 with our upcoming panel discussion on “Pathways for Global Affairs on College Campuses,” which will cover how global affairs pathway programs and internationalizing our college campuses can provide greater opportunities for underrepresented youth and revolutionize American representation abroad.