



May 25, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Last year thirty-two leaders from throughout the United States met at the Johnson Foundation Wingspread Conference Center to develop a consensus and strategy to promote greater international engagement by Americans through a strengthened Citizen Diplomacy movement. From that gathering of The Wingspread Citizen Diplomacy Leadership Forum has sprung a nation-wide initiative of Community Summits that will culminate in a National Summit on Citizen Diplomacy in Washington, D.C. in July 2006.

By participating in this initiative, you join a far-reaching community of citizens across the country who are committed to harnessing the power of Citizen Diplomacy and citizen exchange to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We believe that by engaging greater numbers of Americans in meaningful person-to-person encounters with citizens from around the world, we can have a significant effect on our national well-being.

Our objective through these Summits is to increase the public's awareness of the Citizen Diplomacy movement and its positive impact on America's long-term security, to build the capacities of community institutions to become more globally engaged, to strengthen coordination and cooperation among these organizations, and to present to the President, the Congress, and the American people an action plan for the future of Citizen Diplomacy.

Some of you have a great deal of experience organizing events such as these Summits. For others, it is a new challenge. For this reason, the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy has put together a Toolkit for your reference. We welcome your suggestions, additions and lessons learned from your own community experiences.

Please feel free to contact your national association or the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy at info@citizen-diplomacy.org for additional information or guidance as you move ahead with your Community Summit on Citizen Diplomacy.

With appreciation,

Michael McCarry
Executive Director
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