

Albuquerque Council for International Visitors

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Albuquerque Council for International Visitors' "New Strategy" Engages Local Leadership

On Sunday April 6, the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors (ACIV) announced a major commitment to better serve the Albuquerque community and the U.S. State Department international visitors it hosts. Forty-five ACIV members and community leaders attended a strategy launch reception on Sunday. Uniquely positioned to attract current and future leaders from nations around the world, the ACIV brings 200 international visitors each year to New Mexico, resulting in a total annual economic impact over \$300,000 dollars to the New Mexico economy, as well as lasting friendships and commercial ties to 208 countries.

Supporting Governor Susanna Martinez's announced intent to increase New Mexico's foreign trade dollars, ACIV foreign visitors meet with New Mexicans from all walks of life to learn about how New Mexico handles the many social, economic, and cultural issues that the foreign guests also deal with in their home countries.

"A part of ACIV's reinvigorated commitment to the Albuquerque Community is a streamlined 'Framework for the Future,'" Carol Yarnall, the organization's President, announced. "This new strategic direction sets us on the path to further grow our organization and actively engage business owners, government officials, education leaders, and community members.

Randy Trask, Manager of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Trade Alliance, understands the importance of the ACIV's strategy to provide outstanding experiences for visitors from other countries. "The ACIV plays an important role in helping to create enduring relationships between emerging international leaders and the business community - relationships that can lead to potential trade relations between New Mexico and other countries," Trask commented. "The relationships forged can also become powerful tools for addressing some of our biggest global challenges."

Through the United States Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the ACIV has hosted upcoming leaders from around the world for nearly 40 years. Worldwide, 53 current and 275 former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government are IVLP alumni. The significant number of visitors sent to Albuquerque through this program (Over 5300 visitors from 208 countries) confirms that New

Mexico offers rich educational and cultural experiences, not to be had elsewhere in the U.S.

“The importance of developing strong international relationships for the benefit of our community, state, and nation is growing stronger every day,” reflected Yarnall. “Over the coming months, the ACIV will seek to further highlight our region’s assets as we build and grow a coalition of community leaders and ACIV members who will engage with our visitors in ways that can benefit everyone. We are issuing an open invitation for anyone out there who is interested to become involved as a volunteer or a professional resource partner.”

Upcoming programs this spring include visitors from Iraq interested in learning about transparency in government, firefighters from Palestinian Territories, Latina entrepreneurs, and a group exploring cultural preservation. “Visitor itineraries are being finalized, and there is room for interested leaders to engage,” Yarnall added.

The ACIV is part of the Global Ties U.S. Network (formally the National Council for International Visitors) with over 100 nonprofit organizations across the country that share a common mission to build peace and understanding through international exchange.

For more information call the ACIV office at [505-888-1867](tel:505-888-1867); view our website at www.abqcouncil.org