

**Who We Are**

The Columbus International Program (CIP) is a non-profit organization committed to promoting international understanding through professional development and cross-cultural exchange. We do this by providing the necessary J-1 visas, as well as facilitating training programs at central Ohio social service, business, non-profit and public organizations for individuals and groups residing outside the U.S.

**Mission Statement**

Promoting international understanding through intercultural exchange.

**Vision Statement**

CIP envisions a day when central Ohio is known around the world for its vibrant, multi-cultural community and its warm welcome to international professionals.

**Values**

*Strength through diversity*: CIP believes that through individual diversity, our collective world is stronger.

*Professional growth through global connections*: CIP believes that the creation of international networks creates opportunities for people to grow both professionally and personally.

*Personal transformation*: CIP believes that lasting international relationships prompted by CIP training programs help to transform lives around the world.

*Intercultural understanding as a pathway to peace*: CIP believes that the importance of intercultural understanding will reduce the likelihood of future wars.

**Primary Goals**

CIP fosters the international connectedness, intercultural relationships, and economic growth of the central Ohio community by:

1. Providing excellent services for international trainees and central Ohio host organizations including cultural immersion and visa processing.
2. Building training programs leading to ongoing international development, business and cultural exchanges.
3. Facilitating intercultural relationships that connect the Central Ohio community with regions from around the world through our host family network and member services; and
4. Partnering with local and international governmental organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to provide opportunities for global problem solving.

**History**

In the early 1950s as the U.S. was recovering from the Second World War, Dr. Henry B. Ollendorff brought 25 Germans to the U.S. for youth leadership training as a way to reconnect the U.S. to post-war Germany. This program, based in Cleveland, Ohio, eventually attracted participants from all over the world who sought training in a wide range of professional fields. As the popularity of the program increased, affiliate offices were opened across the U.S. In the early 1960’s the Council of International Programs was formed to serve as the umbrella organization to recruit and direct affiliate offices located nationwide.

Dean Richard Medhurst of Ohio State University and Dr. Len Schneirderman founded the Columbus International Program in 1970. Mrs. Ruth Schildhouse was appointed from the OSU faculty to administer the program, which was originally housed at OSU. Since that time, CIP became independent of OSU and has hosted over 900 professionals from 112 countries. Placements have been made in over 150 businesses, schools and agencies throughout central Ohio. Since our beginning, CIPUSA has brought over 15,000 international professionals from 147 countries to the U.S. for practical training in an array of disciplines. Our program is designed to address each participant’s professional and educational goals while encouraging awareness and understanding of cultural differences.

**Program Description**

CIP is an affiliate of CIPUSA based in Cleveland, Ohio. CIPUSA is a U.S. Department of State authorized J-1 visa sponsoring organization. (A J-1 is a type of visa that permits professionals from around the world to come to the U.S. for professional training.) CIP assists interested individuals living outside the U.S. in obtaining their J-1 visa then, though its International Professionals in Residence Program (IPR), facilitates training programs for international professionals in the U.S. Training length varies from 1-18 months.

CIP’s International Professionals in Residence (IPR) program includes several exchange options. For example, during fiscal year 2013, CIP welcomed exchange participants through a variety of channels, including:

* **CIPUSA’s Cultural and Occupational Resource Exchange program (CORE)** – a program intended for participants from foreign countries who want to visit the U.S. but need help with a professional placement. Average length of stay is 3-4 months.
* **CIPUSA’s Global Partners program** – a long-term training placement program for U.S. businesses funded by the host company or corporation.
* **CIPUSA’s Short- Term Exchange Program (STEP)** – a program similar to CORE but with a stay of only a few weeks.
* **U.S. State Department’s Open World Program** – a short term exchange program of about 8 days funded by The Library of Congress.
* **USAID Community Connections** – a 22 day exchange program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.
* **IPR On-Demand** – short-term exchanges initiated by professionals from developing countries who have field-specific interests. Participation is self-funded or grant funded.

To illustrate the diversity of programs and countries represented, in fiscal 2013 CIP hosted an Open World delegation that included five professionals from Serbia examining asset forfeiture and corruption in the U.S. CIP hosted Open World Delegations from the Kyrgyz Republic and Volgograd, Russia. CIP’s first IPR On-Demand delegations included four participants from Jamaica, Turkey, and the Cayman Islands who were hosted for an Art Therapy Training Program. The second IPR On-Demand delegation in 2013 focused on social work practices in the U.S. The countries represented in this group were: Cayman Islands, Japan, Jamaica, and Tajikistan. Our third delegation of four participants arrived from Kaliningrad, Russia, and their program focused on business development.

Currently CIP provides or is planning programs in the following interest areas for its IPR On-Demand program:

* Libyan Court Judges studying the Rule of Law
* Indian Disability Rights leaders studying universal primary education and gender equality
* Russian business people studying Small Business Development
* Swedish social workers studying poverty eradication, gender equality and combating disease
* South Sudanese Public Health officials studying extreme hunger and poverty

During fiscal 2013 our participants trained with many organizations including:

* Action for Children
* Arc Industries
* Central Community House
* Community Development for All People
* Franklin County ARC Industries
* Huckleberry House
* Mondokio International News, LLC
* National Youth Advocate Program
* United Way: Columbus Kids

We also collaborate and partner with various local chapters of international organizations:

* Columbus Council of World Affairs
* Global Columbus
* Greater Columbus Sister Cities
* Niagara Foundation
* United Nations Association

**Needs Statement**

We live in an increasingly complex world where borders have dissolved due to the expansion of technology. Problems that once affected one people or country, now affect whole societies, regions or continents. Never before has there been such a need for international dialogue, problem solving, and resource sharing to address global problems that affect millions. According to David Simpson in his academic journal article *International Exchange Programs Strengthen the Global Community*, “Establishing, cultivating, and engaging the global community is essential to meeting current and future global challenges. Food security, climate change, and financial markets are not limited to or confined within one country; rather, they are all global issues. To understand, participate in, and make meaningful contributions to address these challenges, global citizens must have a solid understanding of the world around them. Understanding and appreciating different cultures and viewpoints is crucial to being an active member of the global community.”

The United States government echoes these ideas. Richard Stengel, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs states in his Message to the Public Diplomacy Community, “Public diplomacy and public affairs have a vital role to play in our foreign policy and national security. [Specifically,] economic diplomacy is a priority for the President and the Secretary.  I intend to scale up programs that help entrepreneurs and start-ups around the world and connect successful American business leaders with aspiring entrepreneurs.  We should be looking not only to promote economic opportunity but to do so among disadvantaged groups.”

Even the citizens of central Ohio must be engaged in this dialogue and exchange of ideas and best practices. Columbus is home to over 644 foreign-owned businesses from 37 countries; over 109 languages are spoken in the homes of Columbus school children, and 6.2% of the Greater Columbus area is foreign-born. Because of Columbus’ rich international scene, many organizations providing international services and programs have developed over the last few decades. Most of these organizations have missions to promote peace, increase dialogue, encourage foreign tourism, or showcase international cultures.

Columbus International Program, an affiliate of CIPUSA, is unique among international programs in central Ohio. CIP has a 40 year track record of success and is the only internationally focused organization in central Ohio that provides access for Columbus businesses, nonprofits and governmental entities to international professionals for the purpose of sharing ideas and best practices in the workplace and encouraging entrepreneurism. The professionals who participate in our exchange programs find that “the challenges [they] face [at home] are global challenges that communities around the world, including communities in the U.S., struggle with. Working towards solutions to these challenges together, sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences on a community level has the potential to create real and sustainable progress.” So, rather than just visiting the U.S. or talking about global problems, CIP’s International Professionals in Residence (IPR) are learning, sharing, and creating solutions through direct interaction and hands on interaction with their American counterparts.

The CIP International Professionals in Residence program (IPR) are a key vehicle for global engagement in central Ohio. We provide personalized training plans for each participant, based on their professional and educational goals. Our participants may work independently at one of our placement sites for several months, or participate with a group in a short-term program. While in the program, participants work full time, similar to employees of the organization. As such, the participants significantly benefit the agency by working as a team member and providing input and insights that can help make positive change in central Ohio. They also provide an economical way for agencies to make positive change and assist with incorporating best practices through the insights of their international “employee” visitors. As a result, local professionals and organizations gain important insight into the work of their counterparts around the world.

The broader Columbus community also benefits from interaction with the international participants in CIP’s programs. During their time in Columbus, participants stay with host families, gaining additional experiences in the American culture, and sharing their own culture with their hosts. The participants also share the experiences and challenges of their profession within their home country with the organizations and professionals they meet in Columbus. Ultimately, intercultural exchange strengthens local business, makes Columbus a more vibrant and diverse place to live, and provides an environment for future generations to promote peace and cooperation because of their exposure to foreign cultures.

Unfortunately, funding for exchange programs has been cut significantly in recent years, just as the complexity and interrelatedness of global problems has risen. For example, CIP hosted up to 5 delegations through the State Department in 2011, but in 2014, expects to host only two. Currently CIP is creating a business plan that will help sustain their International Professionals in Residence exchange programs into the future. This plan includes expansion of programs with countries that have specific problems or needs to be addressed and that have an interest and ability to fund delegations to the U.S. This program, CIP’s new IPR On-Demand, tackles some of the most intractable world problems with countries that governments (both the U.S. and foreign) do not seem to be able to address effectively. CIP is so committed to this new program that it is seeking partners in the community and around the world to help defray the costs of travel for participants from especially impoverished nations like India and Sudan.

Community support is needed to help CIP fully develop its business plan and fully fund the new IPR On-Demand program. As David Simpson says in his article, “Exchange programs that bring international visitors to the U.S. to meet face-to-face with U.S. citizens strengthen the concept of a global community and are a key pillar of global engagement. The continuation, expansion, and diversification of exchange programs are crucial to supporting a global community that can interact and share ideas and information on a daily basis in an effort to make the world a better place to live.” Local corporations, foundations and individuals have the opportunity to make central Ohio an even more dynamic, diverse, and multicultural place. Perhaps even more important, they have the opportunity to make a significant impact on global problem solving by partnering with CIP to help address world problems through the hands-on exchange of ideas and best practices with professionals around the world.

**Logic Model**

See attached document.

**Sustainability Statement**

As the various programs develop, CIP will establish partnerships with local and international organizations that are interested in promoting our mission and helping their employees train in the U.S. The partnerships will provide opportunities for more funding options and allow CIP to share the costs with the partners. Future participants’ fees could be covered by global organizations, establishing more connections and enhancing the programs.

**Financials**

Financial information for the most recently completed current fiscal year is provided below.

FY13 Revenue

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Program-related income | $94,720  |
| Community Support/Contributions | $85,922  |
| Investments and Dividends | $5,538  |
| Other | $1,746  |
| Total: | $200,197 |

FY13 Expenses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Personnel | $72,088  |
| Administrative Costs | $23,549  |
| Direct Program Costs | $59,838  |
| Other | $6,962  |
| Total: | $193,997 |

**Biographical Information of Key Staff**

Mark Poeppelman

Mark Poeppelman is the Director of The Columbus International Program. He has served in this capacity since 2008. Mark holds a BSBA from The Ohio State University, and an MBA from the University of Dayton.

Prior to CIP, Mark worked in investments for Nationwide Insurance. He began in 1982 as a Securities Analyst. His responsibilities grew over the years where he built the Private Placement Program and eventually led the Fixed Income Asset Management team that managed over $40 billion in Fixed Income Securities for the general accounts of Nationwide Life Insurance Company and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Finally, Mark is program manager for U.S. State Department Grants, and principal of a boutique investment company LMP Investors, LLC. LMP is engaged primarily in small business development activities including commercial real estate.

Kathy Moser

Kathy Moser is the Office Manager of CIP. She has served in this capacity since January, 2013. Ms. Moser holds a degree in Elementary Education from The Ohio State University.

Prior to CIP, Kathy worked in the health care industry for various senior communities, where she gained 20 years of experience in marketing, public relations, and business development. Her responsibilities grew over the years in the areas of multi-site management, community relations, and business development.

Currently, Kathy is developing promotional campaigns to improve CIP visibility, managing daily office functions, and developing relationships with wide variety of stakeholders. She is also the President elect at The Hilliard Rotary Club.

Interns

In addition to key staff, CIP usually has 4-6 college interns who engage in program development, activity organization, social media, marketing, grant writing, and more. Interns are selected from universities across the Columbus area, especially from areas of International Relations and Social Work. Most interns have lived abroad and speak a foreign language.

**Board of Trustees**

The CIP Board consists of 22 members, including a Development Committee, Personnel/Nominating Committee, and a Program Committee.

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