



# **MONTANA** WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022 PROGRAMMING YEAR

# OUR MISSION

The Montana World Affairs Council is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering global understanding and awareness in Montana's communities and classrooms.

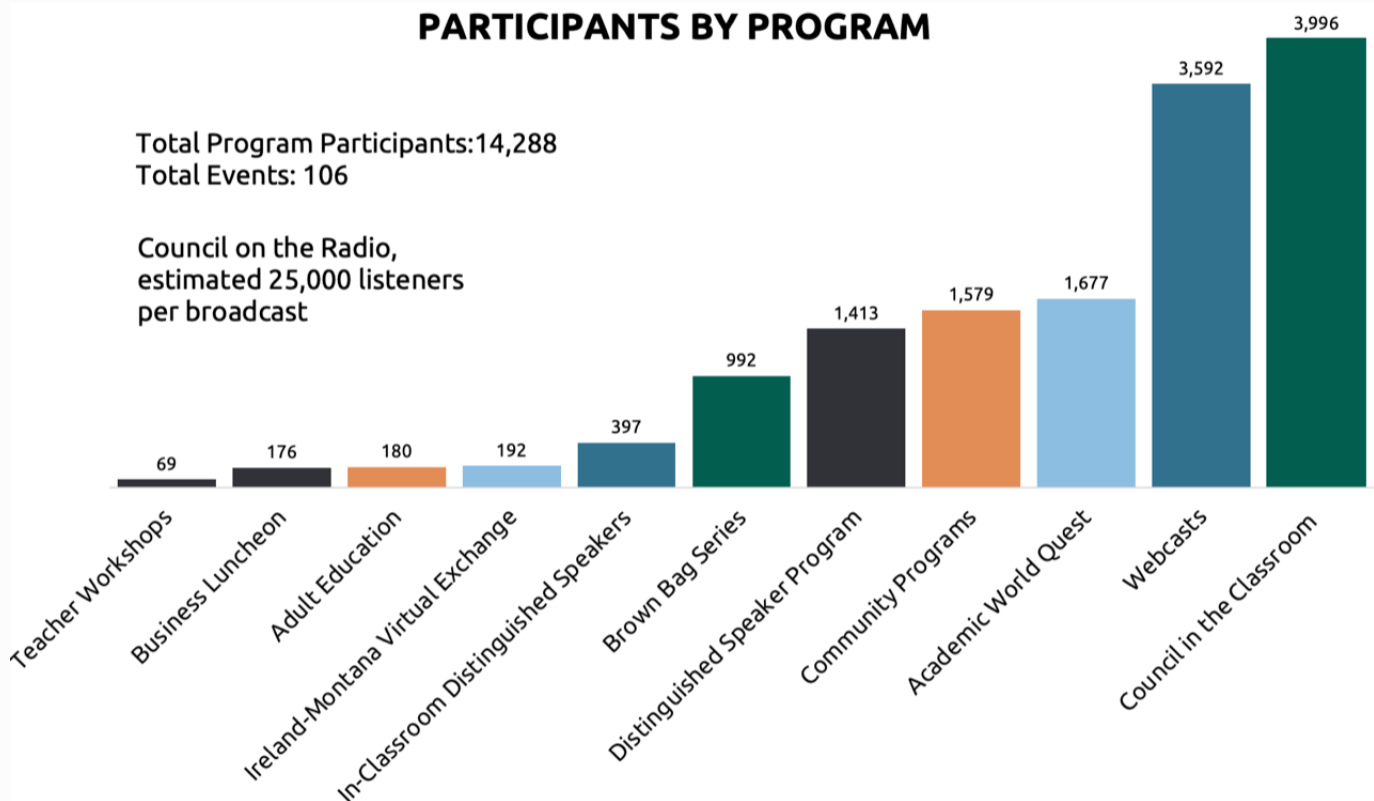
"Academic WorldQuest has made me want to pursue higher education in diplomacy. It's helped me in debate, social studies classes, and in life. Being from Montana, there aren't many opportunities like this, and AWQ is truly special."  
-Gardiner High School Student

"As a geography teacher and Academic WorldQuest Coach, I believe I learn as much from this experience as my students. I honestly can't believe we get to hear from and meet so many distinguished diplomats right here in Montana. Thank you for inspiring the next generation to feel invested in the world and for promoting the idea that one person truly can make a difference!"  
-Sentinel High School Teacher

## PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM

Total Program Participants: 14,288  
Total Events: 106

Council on the Radio,  
estimated 25,000 listeners  
per broadcast



# OUR PROGRAMS

---

## ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST

---

AWQ is our signature student three-day Global Education Conference held at the University of Montana. was held in person and virtually with 266 students from 19 schools: 31% urban, 53% rural, and 16% reservation schools. Special guests included US Ambassador Michael McKinley (ret.), Ambassador Ted Osius (ret.), and Consul General Oliver Schramm of Germany. We offered teachers 3 workshops with OPI credit.

**The grand prize this year was a 2 week paid trip to Germany sponsored by Goethe Institute and Transatlantic Outreach Program.**

**"I loved hearing from Ambassador Ted Osius. Even though I come from the opposite end of the political spectrum I love hearing another perspective - especially because he's an excellent example of diplomacy."  
- Superior High School Student**

---

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER PROGRAMS

---

Our Distinguished Speaker Programs brings expert speakers in-person and online into communities statewide. This year, the Council hosted 31 Distinguished Speaker Programs reaching 6,173 people.

## COUNCIL IN THE CLASSROOM

---

GeoQuest is an interactive project designed for students of all grades. GeoQuest fulfills geography and social studies standards. This year we had **935 students** participate!

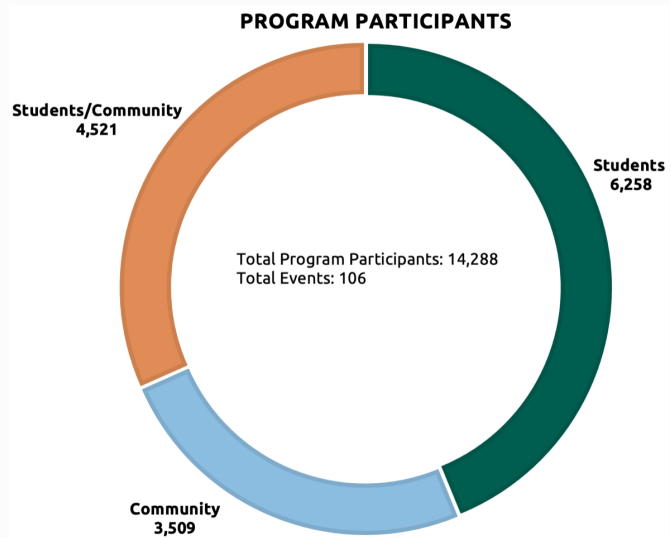
In response to the Ukraine War, the Council hosted a series of programs for Montana schools. These programs reached **over 1,100 students** across Montana.

The Council also **launched our first virtual exchange program** in partnership with UM Irish Studies with Project Alternative Learning in Helena, Butte High School, and Hays Lodge Pole High School and three schools in Ireland.

**"GeoQuest represents a lot of different cultures in a way that makes everyone happy. It's really interesting how different their way of life is but also how similar it is at the same time than life here in America. If we all knew more about countries, I think it would influence us to try and do some things differently for the better. They are all passionate in what they believe in, like us in America."  
- Bozeman High School Student**



# OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## INCREASING IN-PERSON STATEWIDE REACH

Bozeman Programs: 1100  
Helena Programs: 76  
Missoula Programs: 2998  
Hamilton Programs: 53

## SCHOOL VISITS

The Council drove **1,320 miles** through **21 counties** to visit **29 schools** statewide to increase rural and reservation school participation

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2022, we were able to **cover \$12,000 of schools' requests** for transportation, lodging, and substitute teachers.

## TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

106 programs reaching 14,346 participants

## WEBCASTS

Chris Hyslop, MWAC Executive Director, hosted **43 programs** reaching **3,592 participants**.

## COUNCIL ON THE RADIO

Bob Seidenschwarz, MWAC President Emeritus, hosted **42 shows** reaching **25,000 Western Montana listeners per show**





# OUR FUTURE



---

## ECONOQUEST

---

EconoQuest: Exploring Global Economics and Photonics Opportunities in Montana

In partnership with Gallatin College and Montana Photonics Industry Alliance, EconoQuest provides Montana high school students with a unique opportunity to engage with local companies and government leaders about global economics, business investment planning, international trade, and future career paths. **By participating, Montana students will understand basic economic theory, business investment planning, Montana's connection to the world, the impact of global dynamics on our economy, and engage students in career pathways into the technology and photonics industries.**

---

## EXPANDING GEOQUEST

---

With our partners at Inspired Classroom, World Language Initiative, and Montana Association of Language Teachers, we are **excited to announce that foreign language will be added to our 2022-2023 GeoQuest Platform.** We hope this new addition will add incredible value to foreign language teachers statewide.

We are also excited to announce, in partnership with Montana's Japan Trade Office, **Japanese students will participate in the 2022-2023 GeoQuest Platform!** Montana and Japan students will have the opportunity to become "pen pals" as they discuss the similarities and differences of their geography, youth, culture, economics, and good news coming out of their communities



# OUR THANKS

## OUR BOARD AND STAFF

### Staff:

Chris Hyslop, Executive Director  
[chyslop@montanaworldaffairs.org](mailto:chyslop@montanaworldaffairs.org)

Nikki Geiszler, Programs Director  
[ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org](mailto:ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org)

### Board of Directors:

Chuck Leonard, Board President  
 Kit Heffner, Vice President and Treasurer  
 Lauren Descamps, Secretary  
 Greg Munro, Governance  
 Ryan Montgomery  
 Julie Sirrs  
 Tom Tunny  
 Anna Conley  
 Julie Sirrs  
 Don Cape Jr.  
 Ryan Anderson

### Advisory Board:

Ambassador Mark Johnson, Charlie Oliver, and Bob Seidenschwarz

### Educator Advisory Board:

Ryan Conney (Helena), Christina Cote (Gardiner), Amy Wallner-Drake (Bozeman), Paul Condon (Hays Lodge Pole), Jena Burke (Missoula)

Thank you to our sponsors, members, and partners who make our work possible.

# DENNIS & PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION

