



**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER
OF THE CAPITAL REGION, INC.**

423 State Street, 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12203
www.iccralbany.org

“Welcoming the World to the Capital Region of New York State”

*A Council for International Visitors/ CIV
An Affiliate of the Foreign Policy Association
An Affiliate of the World Affairs Council*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ICCR TO HONOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
VOLUNTEERS**

(Albany, NY, October 2, 2008) – This Monday, October 6, the International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR) will honor its Citizen Diplomats in the Governor’s Reception Room of the Capitol beginning with a reception at 5:30 PM.

“The commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers that have engaged with the international community through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State has been extraordinary,” says Bonnie Beard, coordinator of the ICCR’s Council for International Visitors, one of 91 across the country. “Whether professional or social, the willingness of these individuals to share and learn, bend schedules, host meals and accommodate individual needs, has been inspirational and gratifying. Each of their interactions has had a powerful influence on the views and attitudes held of the United States. They are true Citizen Diplomats and we honor their individual commitment, vision and hope for the future. They are representative of what’s best in this country and are affecting international relations - “one hand shake at a time.”

CIV Consultant: Bonnie Beard

One of the professional volunteers, Richard A. Curreri, Director of Conciliation, New York State Public Employment Relations Board, remarks about his personal involvement with a delegation from Africa: “[...] We were fascinated by the diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints among the delegation’s members, and were energized by a type of interchange that we rarely, if ever, get to experience. From an educational and informational standpoint, we might well have gotten more from the delegates than the delegates got from us! I do hope, however, that they too benefited from, and enjoyed, the discussion.”

The keynote address for Monday’s program will be delivered by Dr. Sherry L. Mueller, President of the National Council for International Visitors.

Media is invited to attend.

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The International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR) is a regional not-for-profit organization that began hosting international tourists in 1957. A designated “Council for International Visitors” (CIV) since 1960, the ICCR works with the National Council for International Visitors (<http://www.nciv.org/index.asp>), and the US Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program (<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/ivp/>) in crafting professional and cultural program that maximizes one-on-one interaction and understanding between visitor and host. With this region’s increasing participation on the global stage, the ICCR is expanding initiatives and programs that foster ‘citizen diplomacy’ (<http://www.citizen-diplomacy.org/>) and global engagement at all levels. Bringing international visitors into our offices, classrooms and homes has proven to be one of the most effective strategizes in promoting global community while strengthening international relations – ‘one handshake at a time’. You can learn more at www.iccralbany.org.