



For Immediate Release

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August 2, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

International Center of the Capital Region Hosting Five Delegations in August

Sports and the Arts, to Airport and Border Safety, among the Topics of Each Visit

(Troy, N.Y.) – The [International Center of the Capital Region](#) (ICCR) will be hosting five different delegations from across the world in the month of August.

The first visit will be from Poland, during which members of the delegation will learn about **disability sports for social change and inclusion**. A group of six individuals including professionals in the education, athletic, and disability disciplines will be in Albany from **August 4th through 9th**. They will be examining federal, state, and local laws and how they increase access to sport programs and facilities, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. They will also learn from various governmental and nongovernmental organizational (NGO) entities, advocacy associations, media outlets, and grassroots organizations about how these such groups influence policy and raise awareness about disability issues. They will have programming with Stride Adaptive Sports, which includes a volunteering component, the office of the Governor's Chief Disability Officer, NYS Public High School Athletic Association, as well as a round table discussion with Special Olympics, the above organizations, and a unified sports coach.

The second visit will be about **promoting the arts**, taking place between **August 9th and 13th**. A multi-regional group of 23 individuals from different countries will participate in programming in NYC and Kingston before stopping in Albany. Among the goals of this trip, delegation members will examine the role of arts education in encouraging young people to be responsible and engaged members of society, as well as explore the geographic, ethnic, and religious diversity of the U.S. population, and how innovative arts programming can be instrumental in encouraging community sustainability, managing conflicts, developing youth leadership and conflict resolution skills, addressing personal and community healing, and promoting cross-cultural understanding. Programming will include meetings with Youth FX, the Sanctuary for Independent Media, Proctor's Collaborative, and the Callaloo Theater Company which will include a performance at the Albany Public Library, Pine Hills Branch, which will be open to the public.

The third visit will include seven individuals from Iraq Kurdistan who work in various levels of security at the Erbil and Sulaimaniyah International Airports who will learn about **emergency preparedness and response**. Among their goals for this trip is to investigate how various stakeholders anticipate and develop contingency plans for terrorism threats, natural disasters, pandemics, and/or technological hazards, and also identify best practices for identifying mala fide travelers and detecting and combating fraud. The visit will be from **August 19th through the 23rd**, and while some meetings are still in the planning stages, ICCR is hoping for meetings with the University at Albany, NYS DOH, FBI Albany Field Office, Amtrak, and the Albany County Department of Health.

The fourth visit will include a delegation from Kazakhstan who intend to learn more about **strengthening government communications capacity**. Ten delegation members in higher levels of government will observe to understand the organizational and workflow structures of the US Government's communication offices in an effort to promote government initiatives and build public trust, including during crisis situations. This event will take place between **August 20th through 23rd**, and will hopefully include meetings with Assemblymember Fahy, the Empire State Development Media Center, the LCA Pressroom, and a local media outlet.

Finally, a group of nine people who work as Pakistan Border Personnel will be in Albany between **August 27th and 30th**. Their goal will be to familiarize themselves with the U.S. homeland security and law enforcement agencies, specifically those responsible for border security, customs, and immigration enforcement. They will be participating in programming in NYC before coming to Albany. Their tour will include a similar meeting itinerary as the Iraq Kurdistan visit above.

Interested members of the media are encouraged to reach out to the contact above for coverage inquiries.

All of these visits from across the world are made possible through the [International Visitor Leadership Program](#), (IVLP), which helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term visits to the United States.

ICCR is a nonprofit organization founded in 1956 that exists to promote cultural understanding among others by welcoming international leaders and dynamic newcomers to the Capital Region. ICCR connects the Capital Region to the world through citizen diplomacy by hosting programs with foreign visitors and events that help establish relationships across borders and cultures. For more information on the International Center of the Capital Region, visit <https://iccralbany.org/>.

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About International Center of the Capital Region. The International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, has been welcoming and assisting international newcomers throughout New York's Capital Region since 1956. We enable citizen ambassadors for professional and cultural exchanges through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program, while promoting the diverse people, rich history, and unique assets of the Capital Region.