

# Megan Clark Torrey

*Transformational Leadership - Organisational Strategy - Innovation & Performance*

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## **OPENING STATEMENT**

I am currently the Chief Executive Officer of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut. In this position I am responsible for leading and creating world class content, designed to enhance the understanding of economic, social and cultural global issues. I am an experienced leader, advocate and international policy analyst with more than 18 years' experience. I have a strong track record working collaboratively with international and domestic subject matter experts and leaders, analysing evidenced-based global policies designed to improve lives and deliver economic growth.

My core operational deliverable is to lead the exploration and connection of ideas, policy, social, cultural and economic global trends highlighting challenges and opportunities. I am an experienced negotiator highly skilled at influencing the agenda to achieve results. I am known as a critical and strategic thinker, tenacious and curious, with developed skills to uncover the facts and data supporting decision makers with accurate information, both qualitative and quantitative. I possess high intelligence of global public affairs and their relevant interface with industry and the community. I am highly skilled managing complex stakeholder groups, including Government representatives (at all levels), non-profit global organisations, business and community. I have the skills and motivation to operate in highly dynamic and fast paced environments. I have both domestic and international experience having worked in the USA, and abroad.

## **Key Areas of Expertise**

**Leadership** - Regarded as a visionary leader, skilled at working with others to develop, implement and operationalize strategy, creating purpose-built solutions that deliver to organisational objectives in the short and long term. Highly skilled at leading and managing the performance and development of individuals and teams. Skilled at uniting people, aligning their values and competing agendas to serve a common cause.

**Communication, Stakeholder Management, Public Speaking and Facilitation** - Excellent ability to synthesize, translate and break down complex information and data for all audiences. An expert communicator with abilities to proactively engage with all sectors. Extensive public speaking and facilitation experience. Skilled in the techniques of managing complex professional networks ensuring agendas are understood and stakeholder expectations met.

**Innovation** - Creative thinker who has proven ability to develop and implement new and innovative ideas and practices. Experienced with delivering high value new concepts working with and expanding partnerships. Proven ability to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and create new sustainable solutions.

**Organisational Strategy & Program Management** - Demonstrated experience designing and transforming business models to support successful commercial outcomes. Experienced at leading sustainable financial growth and business performance through complex economic challenges. Strong capabilities to see the "big picture" with proven experience identifying the right mix of resources to make things happen.

**International Relations Advisory, Advocacy and Thought Leadership** – Experienced writer, skilled at developing the business case and impact statement influencing global thought leadership amongst key stakeholders and members. Skilled in fact-finding, grant writing and event management. Proactive and responsive, known for providing pragmatic, relevant solutions to complex issues.

**Team Management** - Advanced abilities managing multi-disciplinary teams, working collaboratively enabling performance to achieve specific outcomes. Vibrant and self-motivated individual, skilled at connecting with executive management, government officials, workforce personnel and the community at all levels.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### **World Affairs Council of CT, Hartford CT**

**2003 – current**

*The World Affairs Council of C, established in 1924 is one of 90 + World Affairs Councils operating in the USA. As a non-profit, non-partisan, membership organization, the Council's purpose is to increase global awareness on international issues and create informed public dialogue. Since 2003, I have enjoyed three promotions. I was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2017, the first CEO in the organizations history.*

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## **Chief Executive Officer**

**2017 – current**

## **Executive Director**

**2013 - 2017**

### **Key Achievements:**

- Led the organization to success during the Covid19 pandemic
- Transitioned the work of the organization to an entire virtual presence during 2020
- Secured and maintained funding during crisis
- Increased diversity in audience, membership and board of directors
- Expanded organizational endowment funds by 300%
- Increased organizational budget by 75%
- Grew staff by 100%
- Creator of high value digital content including
- Increased event audience by 100% over five years due to specific outreach initiatives
- Implemented new technology strategies that overhauled digital presence
- Completed two strategic plans that transformed and led the organization during a time of great change
- Rebranded the organization
- Built a cohesive and highly functional team
- Created deep and lasting community partnerships
- Transformed the organizational profile in the community
- Founding and Creating the Global Security Forum, a regionally recognized security conference
- Frequent keynote speaker and moderator for global issues content events
- Leads global travel experiences for local council and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

## **Program Director**

**2003 - 2012**

### **Key Achievements:**

- Responsible for conceptualization, design and delivery of high quality programs, conferences and lectures with international leaders and thinkers.
- Coordinates all communications and public relations
- Provides media and marketing materials designed to foster a consistent message and brand recognition.
- Planned and implemented new technology strategies designed to reach out to new and growing audiences
- Cultivates and maintains relationships with members and corporate partners.
- Participated in strategic planning process
- Developed new partnerships with local and national organizations
- Manages all membership, volunteer and intern staff.
- Strengthened public profile of the organization through new outreach initiatives
- Increased program participation among new and diverse populations

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **M.S., International Studies, 2008 Focus: Forward Engagement & Citizen Participation in Foreign Policy**

Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

### **B.A., International Studies, 1996**

Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

## **AWARDS**

### **World Affairs Councils of America 2020**

Chairman's Award for Council leadership

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## **Hartford Business Journal 2019**

Remarkable Women in Business

## **Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame 2015**

Women of Global Impact Honoree

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND HONORARY POSITIONS**

- Advisory Committee Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition
- Member, Women in International Security
- Advisory Committee Member Global Business Council , Metro Hartford Alliance
- Frequent commentator on foreign policy
- Keynote speaker and presenter