



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS OF AMERICA SELECTS MATTHEW HUGHES AS ITS NEXT PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For Immediate Release

December 19, 2022

WASHINGTON, DC – The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), the largest nonpartisan, nonprofit network in the United States dedicated to educating and engaging the American public on global issues, today announced Matthew Hughes as its next President & Chief Executive Officer. Hughes will join WACA effective January 17, 2023.

“We are thrilled to welcome Matthew Hughes, an accomplished nonprofit leader with an exciting vision for WACA’s future and the credentials to achieve it. Matthew’s proven record of building organizational capacity, creating innovative programs and partnerships, and delivering results is exactly what WACA needs in our next chapter. His experience leading a WACA Council for the past six and a half years and his previous work managing global education programs for People to People International have prepared Matthew well for this role,” stated WACA Board Chairman Glenn Creamer.

Since 2016, Hughes has served as Executive Director of the International Relations Council (IRC) in Kansas City, where he built a robust offering of programs and events to increase awareness of global affairs. Among the many highlights of his tenure at the IRC, Hughes oversaw the organization’s expansion, introduced innovative offerings, broadened membership and collaborative partnerships, and diversified its funding sources.

Hughes said he is eager to take on the new challenges and opportunities of leading WACA. “More than ever, the educational mission of World Affairs Councils is critical for community cohesion, an informed national electorate, and global cooperation. I look forward to partnering with and supporting the more than 90 World Affairs Councils across the country to achieve our shared vision and mission,” Hughes stated.



Kim McCleary Blue, President & CEO of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall and a WACA Board member, led the Board's CEO search committee in collaboration with the executive search firm LeaderFit. "It was a privilege to lead the WACA search committee. In our extensive national search, we spoke with many outstanding individuals, both from within the WACA Council network and from outside. We are confident that we have made an excellent choice in Matthew as our next CEO. He is a collaborative and inclusive leader with exceptional communication and project management skills. He is deeply mission-driven, strategic, and results-oriented. We look forward to supporting Matthew in this role."

Current WACA President and CEO Bill Clifford, who announced in June his plan to step down after nearly ten years as CEO, commented, "I was delighted to learn today of the Board's selection of Matthew to be WACA's next CEO. He is a brilliant choice and I am confident he will lead WACA to new heights. I look forward to working with him to ensure a smooth transition in the new year."

Contact: Katie McNerney kmcnerney@leaderfit.org

About the World Affairs Councils of America

The World Affairs Councils of America is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, DC. WACA, in serving a network of 92 World Affairs Councils across the United States, acts daily to uphold a commitment to public learning and democracy. WACA and its Council affiliates believe in the notion espoused by Thomas Jefferson that an informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy. The World Affairs Councils of America supports the high-quality programs, educational initiatives, and operational excellence of its member Councils. Our common mission is to foster deeper understanding and public discussion of key global issues, provide community access to leaders and decision-makers, and prepare succeeding generations to thrive in a diverse and interdependent world.