



## PRESS RELEASE

### **World Affairs Council – Washington, DC receives funding for Global Education Teacher Exchange program**

WASHINGTON, DC, May 28, 2015: A \$250,000 initiative from The MasterCard Foundation – Toronto – Canada will support the international cultural exchange of 10 global education teachers – 5 from South Africa (Johannesburg) and 5 from the United States (Washington, DC metro area), during the 2015/16 school year. The program will train educators in skills-based learning, and teaching techniques that will incorporate global education, international affairs and global communications knowledge into their classroom curricula.

“The MasterCard Foundation and the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC share a commitment to providing high school teachers with access to professional skill development, continuing education and high quality multicultural and community-based education,” said Reeta Roy, President and CEO of The MasterCard Foundation. “This innovative project will empower teachers and promote a diverse curriculum that includes global education and international affairs. It will also strengthen the education community and enable teachers to work, connect and communicate with each other more effectively.”

“One of South Africa’s priorities for 2015/20 is the transfer of skills to young people through education for work and education for life in their communities, nation and global community,” said H.E. Mninwa Mahlangu, ambassador of South Africa to the U.S. “I am delighted that the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC and The MasterCard Foundation are supporting this goal through teacher training, cultural exchange and promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation, critical thinking, social studies and student empowerment.”

“All of us on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council are deeply grateful to the MasterCard Foundation for supporting this important year-long exchange program, which will create a powerful connection between teachers in South Africa and Washington, DC,” said Dr. Steven Knapp, President of The George Washington University and member of the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC.

“As multiracial and multicultural countries, the United States and South Africa have a lot in common, but they face different challenges. This education exchange program will help to share learning experiences and enhance mutual understanding between two nations destined to work together beyond the educational sphere,” said Dr. Yaya Moussa, WAC-DC Board member.

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is ‘A Leading Forum for Global Education and International Affairs’ and an institution ‘Where Learning Happens’. The Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community, of geopolitical, business, environmental and civil society issues, in our inter-connected world.

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## Notes to Editors:

**The MasterCard Foundation** works with visionary organizations to provide greater access to education, skills training and financial services for people living in poverty, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa. As one of the largest, private foundations, its work is guided by its mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world. Based in Toronto, Canada, its independence was established by MasterCard Worldwide when the Foundation was created in 2006. **Reeta Roy** was appointed President and CEO of the Foundation in 2008. She has spoken before a wide array of fora, including the UN General Assembly (for the International Year of Youth), the Clinton Global Initiative, the World Innovation Summit for Education and the UNESCO Youth Forum. For more information, please visit [www.mastercardfdn.org](http://www.mastercardfdn.org) or follow [@MCFoundation](https://twitter.com/MCFoundation).

**H.E. Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu** is the current Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the United States of America having presented his credentials on 23 February 2015. In 2002, he was elected Permanent Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament. After the third democratic elections in 2004, he was re-elected Permanent Deputy Chairperson of the Council. In 2005, he was elected the Chairperson of the NCOP and was re-elected in 2009. He served in this position until the fifth democratic elections in 2014. He has represented South Africa in many international platforms, including the UN and G20 Speakers Conferences. He was the leader of the South African Parliament's delegation to the Pan-African Parliament.

**Dr. Steven Knapp** became the sixteenth president of The George Washington University in August 2007. His priorities include enhancing the university's partnerships with neighboring institutions, expanding the scope of its research, strengthening its worldwide community of alumni, enlarging its students' opportunities for public service, and leading its transformation into a model of urban sustainability. A proponent of fostering close community ties, Dr. Knapp serves on the board of directors of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC, the National Symphony Orchestra and the Greater Washington Urban League, the board of trustees of the Washington National Cathedral Foundation and Al Akhawayan University in Ifrane, Morocco, and the senior advisory board of the Northern Virginia Technology Council. He is a member of the executive committee of the Council on Competitiveness, the education committee of the Federal City Council, and the higher education working group on global issues of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also a member of the Economic Club of Washington.

**Dr. Yaya Moussa** is President & CEO of KONTINENT LLC, a company specializing in oil contracts and investments in Africa and Founder & President of AFRICA Today TV-USA. His professional backgrounds span areas as diverse as venture capital (with Société Générale Bank in Paris, France), public sector (Caisse des Depots et Consignations in Paris, France), credit rating (Fitch-IBCA, Paris and London), international development and global business. Prior to founding KONTINENT LLC, Dr. Moussa spent 12 years with the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC, including a four-year stint as the institution's Resident Representative in the Republic of Congo, as a Senior Economist in the Fiscal Affairs Department and as an Adviser to an Executive Director. Dr. Moussa also serves as the Vice Chairman of International Affairs Committee at the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC.