



# WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## WASHINGTON, DC

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Former USAID Administrator Raj Shah to speak at World Affairs Council Gala

WASHINGTON, DC, March 11, 2015: **Dr. Rajiv Shah**, former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, will deliver the Global Address at the World Affairs – HONORS: Global Education Gala on June 9 at the Ritz-Carlton. This event was postponed due to a winter storm.

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC will present Dr. Shah with the 2015 **International Public Service Award**.

“On behalf of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC, we could not be more pleased to welcome Dr. Shah on March 5 given our alignment on global education and development,” said Edie Fraser, CEO, STEMconnector, and Chairwoman, World Affairs Council – DC Board of Directors. “He is a globalist who understands the World Affairs Council’s program mission.”

The Council’s 35<sup>th</sup> annual Global Education Gala recognizes organizations who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to global education, international affairs, and global communications.

“It is instructive that 86 percent of students surveyed agree that infusing global literacy into curricula is crucial to solving current world problems; but only 12 percent believe they receive instruction that helps them understand how global issues impact their daily lives,” said Michael Norris, market president and COO, Sodexo, and Vice Chairman, World Affairs Council – DC Board of Directors. “Current workplace and societal trends indicate that our students simply must become globally competent, and that the time for leaning solely on reading, writing and arithmetic for an education is long gone.”

Ms. Reeta Roy, President and CEO of **The MasterCard Foundation** will accept the **Global Education Award** on behalf of the Foundation.

H.E. Dr. Peter Wittig, Ambassador of the **Federal Republic of Germany** to the United States, will accept the **Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award** on behalf of his nation and the German diplomatic corps in the United States.

Javier Miyares, President of **University of Maryland University College**, will accept the **Educator of the Year Award** on behalf of the university.

B.J. Levin, Executive Producer of VICE on HBO, will accept the **Global Communications Award** on behalf of **VICE Media**.

The World Affairs – HONORS: Gala will be held at The Ritz-Carlton, Washington, D.C. on March 5 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. 800 attendees will celebrate the global education, international affairs, and global communications services that Council provides to students, teachers, and the public in the Washington, DC metro area and nationally.

For additional information, contact:

**Gabby LaVerghetta – Global Communications Director, WAC-DC**  
Office: (202) 293-1051 email: [glavergchetta@worldaffairsdc.org](mailto:glavergchetta@worldaffairsdc.org)

#### Board of Directors

Edie Fraser  
*STEMconnector*  
Chair  
Michael Norris\*  
*Sodexo*  
Vice Chairman  
Candace Duncan  
Treasurer  
Maryscott Greenwood  
*Mckenna Long & Aldridge*  
Secretary

Marc E. Albert  
*Stinson Leonard Street LLP*  
Carlos Alcazar  
*Culture ONE World*  
Gloria Bohan  
*Omega World Travel*  
Hon. Roel Campos  
*Locke Lord LLP*  
Joseph Caracuel  
*Bank of America*  
Fumbi Chima  
*Wal-Mart Stores Inc.*  
Hon. William Courtney  
*RAND Corporation*  
Hon. Joseph D. Duffey  
*Laureate Education*  
David Etzwiler  
*Siemens Foundation*  
John D. Greenwald  
*Cassidy Levy Kent*  
G. Christopher Griner  
*Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP*  
Patrick W. Gross  
*Co-Founder & Former Chairman*  
Michael K. Hickey  
*Glenmede*  
Dr. Steven Knapp  
*The George Washington University*  
Hon. Franklin D. Kramer  
*Former Chairman*  
Mary Webster Krulic  
*Education Advisory Board*  
Hon. Ray LaHood  
*DLA Piper*  
Evelyn Lee  
*SunTrust*  
Richard P. Merski  
*Cigna*  
Hon. James Moran  
*Former U.S. Representative*  
Dr. Yaya Moussa  
*Kontinent LLC*  
Jane Oates  
*Apollo Group*  
Eugene A. Procknow  
*Deloitte LLP*  
Hon. Nick Rahall, II  
*Former U.S. Representative*  
Dr. Sidney Ribeau  
*Howard University*  
Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel  
*Lockheed Martin Corporation*  
Raymond S. Sczudlo  
*Children’s National Medical Center*  
Robert Stout  
*BP America*  
David Trulio  
*Raytheon*  
Tony R. Culley-Foster (ex-officio)  
*President & CEO*

\*Chairman – World Affairs-  
HONORS:Global Education Gala

**Dr. Rajiv Shah** is the former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He led the efforts of nearly 10,000 staff in more than 70 countries around the world from 2010 to 2015. Under his leadership, Dr. Shah elevated the importance of partnering with and financing the private sector, advocating for infrastructure development, incubating technology solutions and science, and restructuring how USAID delivered its assistance to solve the world's most intractable development challenges. From extending mobile networks in West Africa to improve real-time data collection for the Ebola response, to creating the Tropical Forest Alliance with Unilever, P&G and other major consumer product firms, to accelerating the use of mobile banking in emerging markets, Dr. Shah demonstrated his leadership, passion and remarkable skills garnering support from both sides of the aisle in Congress.

**The MasterCard Foundation** is an independent, global organization based in Toronto, Canada, with approximately \$9 billion in assets. Through collaboration with partner organizations in 46 countries, it is creating opportunities for all people to learn and prosper. The Foundation's programs promote financial inclusion and advance youth learning, mostly in Africa. Established in 2006 through the generosity of MasterCard Worldwide when it became a public company, the Foundation is separate and independent from the company. Its policies, operations and funding decisions are determined by its own Foundation Board of Directors and President and CEO. **Reeta Roy** was appointed President 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. Dr. Peter Wittig** is Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. He most recently served as Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. He represented his country in the Security Council during its membership in 2011/12. He has served in Madrid, New York (Permanent Mission to the United Nations), as private secretary to the Foreign Minister at the German Foreign Office headquarters in Berlin, and as Ambassador to Lebanon. As Ambassador to Cyprus, he also was the Special Envoy of the German Government for the resolution of the Cyprus Question. In 2006, Ambassador Wittig was appointed Director-General for the United Nations and Global Issues at the Foreign Office in Berlin. For more information, please visit <http://www.germany.info/embassy>.

**Javier Miyares** was appointed president of University of Maryland University College (UMUC) on October 1, 2012. He has served UMUC in several leadership capacities since joining the institution in 2001 and excelled in guiding UMUC as its acting president since February 22, 2012. Prior to joining UMUC, Mr. Miyares was associate vice chancellor for Finance and Administration at the University System of Maryland (USM), where he had also served as assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. Mr. Miyares was the lead staff member for USM on issues related to strategic planning, accountability, student learning assessment, and institutional research. For more information, please visit [www.umuc.edu](http://www.umuc.edu)

**VICE** is the global youth media brand. VICE initially launched in 1994 as a punk magazine and has expanded and diversified to become the world's leading youth media company; operating an international network of digital channels, a television production studio, a record label, an in-house creative services agency, a book-publishing house and a feature film division. VICE's video content covers news, culture, music, technology, sports and fashion from a unique perspective tailored towards a young international audience often ignored by mainstream media. The company has established a network of content distribution partnerships with leading platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, HBO, and others. VICE's online presence has since exploded, with its network of channels reaching hundreds of millions of viewers a month. Smith has reported from the world's most isolated and difficult places, including North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Liberia and Greenland. VICE has won scores of awards including an Emmy Award for Best Information Series or Special, the Environmental Media Award, Television Academy Honors for socially conscious programming, and more. For more information, please visit [www.vice.com](http://www.vice.com).

**Michael Norris** is COO and Market President of Sodexo North America, a \$9 billion 'Quality of Life' solutions provider. He reports directly to SODEXO's President and CEO George Chavel. Mr. Norris has an extensive background in driving sales growth and increasing market share, brand development and profits. He currently oversees Sodexo's Business and Industry and Sports and Leisure portfolio. Mr. Norris has served as President of Sodexo's International Large Accounts market, representing 32 of the largest global accounts and is the market champion for Sodexo's Global Business & Industry Group. Before joining Sodexo, Mr. Norris was President and CEO of Loews Cineplex Entertainment with annual revenues in excess of \$2 billion. SODEXO has a strong active commitment to social responsibility, sustainability, education, health and physical fitness. Mr. Norris is a member of the National Press Club, on the Board of the United Negro College Fund, and SODEXO Magic and active with STEMconnector.

**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.

The annual **World Affairs – HONORS: Global Education Gala** is an A-list event that involves 1,000 guests; including 75 + Ambassadors from the Washington, DC diplomatic corps; White House, Cabinet, Congressional, business, civic, labor, trade and professional association, press and media representatives; as well as students, teachers, parents and educators. The annual World Affairs –HONORS: Global Education Gala recognizes best practice by five (5) organizations and individual leaders who share the Council's leadership commitment to global education, international affairs and global communications programs. WAC-DC events involve students, teachers, parents, community leaders, educators, the American public and international representatives in neutral forum discussions of issues that impact the US & its worldwide strategic relationships in the United States and within the global community.