



# WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## WASHINGTON, DC

PRESS RELEASE

### World Affairs Council – DC, Africa Society host Youth Forum on Africa for High School Students

WASHINGTON, DC, November 16, 2014: In conjunction with International Education Week, the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC and The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa will host 500 Washington area high school students for a Youth Forum on Africa on **Monday, November 17** at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, will deliver the keynote address.

District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray has proclaimed November 17, 2014 Youth Forum on Africa Day in recognition of the positive role of youth forums in fostering critical thinking, leadership skills, and cultural awareness.

This program will educate young Americans about Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, challenge their perceptions about the Continent, and provide a balanced overview of the cultures, economy, challenges, options, and opportunities related to the nations of Africa today.

During this intensive day-long experience the students will have the opportunity to interact with leading experts, diplomats, policymakers and political leaders, and explore topics such as governance, trade and investment, peace and security, and media and communications as they relate to Africa.

Kevin Moose, Social Studies Teacher at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, said “I have attended several Youth Forums on various topics sponsored by the World Affairs Council. They have all been excellent events bringing students together to work and learn from each other and from professionals in the field. The Youth Forum on Africa is especially vital, this is an area of the world we have neglected for too long and our students will benefit greatly from learning about the challenges and opportunities present in Africa today.”

Dr. Yaya Moussa, member of the WAC-DC Board of Directors, said “Africa, a vast, diverse and rich continent, is emerging as the next economic frontier and is set to play an increasing role in world affairs. It is therefore critical to educate our students about its peoples, cultures, challenges and potential.”

For additional information, contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Since 1980, the **World Affairs Council-Washington, D.C.** has provided thought-provoking, top level presentations, debates and discussions of global education and international affairs in the Washington metropolitan area. Council's global education programs offer students, teachers, educators and adults opportunities to engage with global leaders and foreign policy experts to expand their understanding of critical issues facing our increasingly interconnected world. These programs, including the teacher development workshops, and youth leadership forums, foster a balanced view of global issues and prepare our youth to compete in the 21st century workplace.

The **Youth Forum on Africa** is part of a series of WAC-DC programming focused on the continent of Africa and the inaugural U.S. Africa Leaders Summit in August 2014. The Council hosted H.E. Denis Sassou-N'guesso, President of the Republic of Congo for a luncheon at the National Press Club. A panel of experts discussed the topic "Aftermath of the Summit: What's Next?" at a Foreign Policy Series event in September. On December 2, Dr. Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, will join WAC-DC for a discussion of his recent book "Emerging Africa: How the

The mission of **The Africa Society** is to be the premier entity that engages and educates Americans about the countries comprising the continent of Africa and to create, through partnerships, a better understanding of its peoples, diverse cultures, histories and economies. This innovative Africa-educational initiative consists of three phases that target administrators, teachers and students, and has been implemented successfully on two occasions at, and in partnership with, the Department of State, in 2004 and in 2010.