



CHICAGO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC – Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Innovation Award for Youth and Education for a city with a population greater than 500,001. The Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Youth and Education recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

Chicago Sister Cities International, in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago, founded the Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit in order to inspire globally-minded teenage girls from around the world to become active leaders in their communities and develop solutions to the challenges girls face around the world. “The globally-minded young women CSCI involved in our Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit will be the next generation of change-makers in international leadership,” said Leroy Allala, CSCI Executive Director. “CSCI is proud to receive this award, which recognizes the importance of empowering these young women to be a force for positive change in the world as citizen diplomats and global leaders.”

During the week-long Summit, which is open to girls ages 14-16 from Chicago and its 28 sister cities, students participate in workshops, meet women in leadership positions, meet peers from different backgrounds, and learn new skills to serve as advocates for each other in the future. The program is high-impact and successfully brings together participants from Chicago and its 28 international sister cities to promote peace through people.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 15 during SCI's 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI's 61st [Annual Conference](#) events, which include a [Youth Leadership Summit](#) and a [U.S.-Russia Mayors' Summit](#), will take place in Virginia Beach, VA from July 12-16, 2017. The events will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme “Global Communities for World Peace,” building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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About Chicago Sister Cities International

Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI), a division of World Business Chicago (WBC), provides leadership to develop, manage and coordinate comprehensive programs and projects with Chicago's 28 sister cities in the areas of cultural arts and tourism, global education, government relations and international business. CSCI expands Chicago's global reach for the benefit of the City of Chicago, its residents and businesses. For more information, visit chicagosistercities.com

Chicago's 28 sister cities include: Accra, Ghana (1989); Amman, Jordan (2004); Athens, Greece (1997); Belgrade, Serbia (2005); Birmingham, United Kingdom (1993); Bogota, Colombia (2009); Busan, Republic of Korea (2007); Casablanca, Morocco (1982); Delhi, India (2001); Durban, South Africa (1997); Galway, Ireland (1997); Gothenburg, Sweden (1987); Hamburg, Germany (1994); Kyiv, Ukraine (1991); Lahore, Pakistan (2007); Lucerne, Switzerland (1998); Mexico City, Mexico (1991); Milan, Italy (1973); Moscow, Russia (1997); Osaka, Japan (1973); Paris, France (1996); Petach Tikva, Israel (1994); Prague, Czech Republic (1990); Shanghai, China (1985); Shenyang, China (1985); Toronto, Canada (1991); Vilnius, Lithuania (1993); and Warsaw, Poland (1960).