

**FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's
Favorite TV Show, revealed**

**What's Bolton's advice
to Donald Trump?**

**Coach Kathy Kemper
about IFE:**

*"We are all about collaborating,
finding the positive and build
from there."*

Ever wondered what a covert influence campaign entails?

**Learn more from Former CIA
Director Michael Hayden**

August 2018



GRAND SLAM

“Welcome, sports fans! Welcome, sports fans.” That’s right. These words are so familiar to you, dear friends of IFE, and there is no better way to send our greetings and to thank you for reading through our very first issue of the IFE Magazine.

If you’ve ever wondered what the connection between tennis, soft diplomacy, bipartisanship and innovation is, the answer is quite simple: they each take time, practice and discipline to become a champion. You won’t make it in the finals overnight, but you will earn your opponent’s respect with hard work and a winner mindset. Coach Kathy Kemper reveals how she managed to educate the nation’s top leaders to practice this sport of soft diplomacy and to find common ground in a polarized political climate. You will learn from *An Interview with... Coach K* about how IFE became an ever-growing DC-based organization over the last three decades. Her advice? Follow through and be resilient.

We have done a lot this year - it’s our 27th season - and we are extremely proud to have had Joshua Bolten, Denis McDonough, Michael Hayden, Will Hurd and Ajit Pai, among our panelists this year so far. Read more on our INFO salons in the *Inside IFE* section!

Sometimes it takes travelling halfway around the world to see how things work in the digital government capital of the globe – Tallin, Estonia. Coach Kemper shares her experience as a digital citizen of Estonia and discusses what she learned from her e-government tour of Tallin. Yes. We live in the era of *Techplomacy*, as John Paul Farmer likes to describe these interesting times we are living in, and keeping up with technology is not easy. Luckily for us, at IFE, we bring our nation’s most talented technologists into the room with our top diplomats.

And, because we know how important innovation is, IFE is continuously investing in tomorrow’s bright minds. This is our 4th year running our free computer science camp, CS@SC, co-founded with the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. We are incredibly proud to announce that by the end of this summer, we will have educated our 2000th student!

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine as much as you enjoy being part of this Grand Slam game on the IFE court.

My very best,

Raluca Barbulescu

Editor-in-Chief

IFE Magazine



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West Wing Gatekeepers

Demystifying the Role of Chief of Staff

Two Former White House Chiefs of Staff and the legendary Andrea Mitchell joined the Institute for Education's INFO salon at the Belgian Residence, on February 7th. The event hosted by IFE Diplomatic Steward Ambassador Dirk Wouters featured a panel with Bush Chief of Staff Josh Bolten and Obama Chief of Staff Denis McDonough. Journalist Andrea Mitchell skillfully moderated the conversation "Demystifying the role of Chief of Staff" for event attendees and the American public.

The night kicked off with remarks from Ambassador Wouters welcoming guests into his stunning residence and celebrating IFE as a leading convening organization. IFE Founder and CEO Coach Kathy Kemper then shared exciting successes from 2017, including educating over 1,500 students at the Institute for Education's CS@SC summer coding camp. Washington Post Senior National Affairs correspondent Juliet Eilperin then introduced our illustrious panel.

The panel began with a nice bipartisan moment – with McDonough praising Bolten for his work, but also as an all-around "great guy". Andrea Mitchell asked both guests to summarize the role of a Chief of Staff for the audience, and Bolten and McDonough both agreed that the easy way to describe their everyday tasks would be "entering the Oval Office to give the commander in chief good and bad news, but preferably good". Joshua Bolten also stated that the key aspects for a successful collaboration with the president are "knowledge, comfort and a good relationship with your boss. It's hard to be a COS without them." To underscore

that being the person who has to tell the president sometimes “that is not a good idea”, Denis McDonough joked, “There’s no way to know what you’re getting yourself into.”

But “the crisis management really is the test of what you do.” The audience was speechless when Andrea Mitchell recalled the 9/11 moment when former Chief of Staff Andrew Card and had to tell president George Bush that America was under attack. “Those are the kind of situations that can be rehearsed endlessly but you never think would happen.”, said Mitchell.

Joshua Bolten, who was Deputy Chief of Staff at the time, had the audience choking up as he described the atmosphere at the White House on 9/11, telling us that no matter the rehearsed situations “this country had no feeling that we were under any threat domestically, that anybody could dramatically hurt us at home.” Bolten also described an incredible bipartisan moment from his tenure, when his immediate prede-

cessor, a Democratic previous Chief of Staff, thought to call him to ensure he knew the protocol for finding the bunker and post 9/11 safety procedures: “I mention this for two reasons. One, to underscore how well prepared the whole country was for the concept of war, but also for the notion of continuity. My immediate predecessor’s first thought was how my successor is preparing for what’s about to happen.”

Andrea Mitchell smoothly switched the topic to discuss the former Chiefs of Staff’s opinions regarding Trump’s twitter usage. Both Bolten and McDonough agreed they would advise

Both Bolten and McDonough agreed they would advise Trump to stop tweeting

Trump to stop tweeting. Acknowledging that Trump probably wouldn’t appreciate this advice, Bolten suggested that if he were Trump’s chief, he would coax the president to give him a few minutes to vet the tweets: “I would say, ‘In every case, Mr. President, give me a chance, give me 20 minutes to review every tweet you want to send and give me a chance to get that to the NSA, to the economic adviser, to somebody who should see it before it goes so that it won’t cause confusion and disrupt policy in a way that will undermine all the other great stuff you’re doing, Mr. President.’”

Denis McDonough agreed that “Twitter is an extremely powerful and attractive tool, especially if you experience your life inside those 18 acres of The White House. But you cannot overestimate the impact on the president.” Bringing up North Korea’s threat, Andrea Mitchell revealed she was bewildered by Trump’s “nuclear button” tweet saying “I fell off the couch”. Bolten referred to Trump’s foreign policy tweets as “political gasoline”.

During the Q&A session gracefully lead by Coach Kathy Kemper, Norman Ornstein broke the ice by amusing the crowd as he asked the Chiefs of Staff “what’s the worst piece of advice, in retrospect, you gave the president?” In addition to McDonough’s frankness saying “there’s a lot of candidates for this question”, there’s no better answer than a funny story.

Bolten recalled: “Helping the president giving the presidential medal of



Left: The Honorable Joshua Bolten, Ms. Andrea Mitchell, NBC News and The Honorable Denis McDonough (photo credit: Kevin Allen). **Right:** The Honorable Joshua Bolten, Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE’s Founder and CEO, The Honorable Denis McDonough, H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium Embassy of Belgium, Ms. Juliet Eilperin, The Washington Post, Ms. Andrea Mitchell, NBC News at Residence of the Belgian Ambassador (photo credit: Kevin Allen)

“Twitter is an extremely powerful and attractive tool, especially if you experience your life inside those 18 acres of The White House.”

– Denis McDonough –



Top: Coach Kathy Kemper, Joshua Bolten, Andrea Mitchell and Denis McDonough (photo credit: Kevin Allen).
Bottom: From left: H.E. Wolfgang Waldner, Embassy of Austria; H.E. Dirk Wouters, Embassy of Belgium; H.E. Kurt Jaeger, Embassy of Lichtenstein; Ms. Katrin Wouters, Embassy of Belgium; Ms. Gudrun Faudon-Waldner, Embassy of Austria; Ms. Isabel Fezas Vital, H.E. Domingos Fezas Vital, Embassy of Portugal at the Residence of the Belgian Ambassador (photo credits: Kevin Allen)

freedom, on the list was Harper Lee, the author of ‘Kill a Mockingbird’. And I said I do not think that’s a good idea[...] Then George Bush asked ‘Who put Harper Lee on that lists?’ And it was Mrs. Laura Bush.” Lee ultimately was awarded a medal of freedom by Bush.

After the panel, guests were served fine Belgian cuisine including Flemish beef stew, Atlantic cod, freshwater salmon with dill, arugula salad with beets and warm risotto with truffles. As a surprise, Mrs. Sunae Woo, Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea brought attendees take-home mascots in honor of the 2018 Olympic Games, her husband Ambassador Choyoon-Je is hosting Vice President Pence at the Olympic Opening Ceremonies.

This event was such a hit we attracted over a dozen ambassadors including EU Ambassador David O’Sullivan and Ambassadors from Libya, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Austria, Portugal, Hungary, Jordan, and Luxembourg.⁸

Contributed by IFE Fellow Raluca Barbulescu

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Raluca Barbulescu serves as the Chief Operations Officer of the Institute for Education and as the Editor-in-Chief of IFE Magazine. She is a seasoned journalist, currently a Washington, DC news correspondent reporting for an international press agency headquartered in Bucharest, Romania. Previously she covered Education and Healthcare for Romanian national media. She was part of AudioNow’s Marketing team, a DC based company working with broadcasters around the world, like BBC, RFI, Deutsche Welle, ESPN, Voice of America, United Nations, Red Cross and many others. Raluca has a master degree in Management in Media Institutions from University of Bucharest. She enjoys traveling, hiking, seafood and running.



FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai at the French Residence

From Judge Judy podcasts to Digital Divide

On Monday, May 7th, the Institute for Education hosted FCC Chairman Ajit Pai for an INFO Salon at the Residence of the French Ambassador Gérard Araud. In typical French fashion, guests were greeted with chilled champagne and enjoyed an array of amuse-bouches on the terrace in gorgeous May weather.

Attendees included leaders in government, entrepreneurship, and technology as well as top journalists who served as discussion captains for the plated dinner portion of the event. The program began with remarks from IFE founder and CEO Coach Kemper, who explained the mission of the Institute for Education, convening leaders of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and introduced Chairman Pai's wife, Dr. Janine van Lancker. Dr. van Lancker regaled the audience with charming anecdotes that revealed her husband's young-at-heart, people-centered, outlook. For example, guests were amused to learn Chairman Pai ventured to California with his mother to meet Judge Judy – of whom the two are die-hard fans. After Dr. van Lancker introduced her husband, Chairman Pai took the podium and thanked his wife and family for their support in this new role and commended Coach Kemper on yet another IFE event with

Photo: Sokwoo Rhee, Associate Director for Cyber-Physical Systems at NIST and Presidential Innovation Fellow, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and Coach Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO (photo credit: Kevin Allen)



Left: From left to right: IFE fellows Raluca Barbulescu, News Correspondent at *Magna News*; Alexandra Nemeth, Foreign Affairs Officer at US Department of State; George Zaidan, Executive Producer at American Chemical Association; Max Dickinson, MXD Services; Kelsey Valentine, Kellogg School of Management; and Mrs. Gouri Mirpuri, Embassy of Singapore (photo credit: Kevin Allen). **Right:** Juliet Eilperin, *The Washington Post*, poses a question during the Q&A session (photo credit: Kevin Allen).

Chairman Pai offered an overview of some of his favorite projects the FCC is working on, including ways to use technology and data to cut the costs of certain government services.

an incredibly diverse and august guest list — the institute has held hundreds of such forums in its 27-year history.

Chairman Pai offered an overview of some of his favorite projects the FCC is working on, including ways to use technology and data to cut the costs of certain government services. He also highlighted his commitment to closing the “Digital Divide” — a phenomenon whereby technology complements the labors of high-skilled workers but supplements the labors of low-skilled workers (exacerbating economic inequality). After Chairman Pai’s remarks, Coach Kemper introduced the evening’s table captains to the room,

including the *Wall Street Journal*’s Jerry Seib, the *Washington Post*’s Juliet Eilperin, *Al Jazeera*’s Abderrahim Foukara, *NPR*’s Greg Myre and *Fox News*’s Jennifer Griffin.

As our distinguished journalists facilitated engaging discussion at each table, guests enjoyed a chef’s tasting menu from the French Residence’s acclaimed culinary team. The first course offered asparagus salad with poached egg and basilic vinaigrette, followed by a filet de sole with spring vegetables, and gourmet citrus fruit dessert. Food was paired with a 2016 Touraine and a 2011 Saint-Julien — two fine french wines.

SPOTTED

H.E. Yoon-Je Cho, South Korea; H.E. Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenia; H.E. Hynek Kmonicek, Czech Republic; H.E. Lauri Lepik, Estonia; H.E. Ashok Mirpuri, Singapore; H.E. Floreta Faber, Albania; Matt Lira; Matt Cutts, USDS; Kaivan Shroff; Abderrahim Foukara; Andrei Iancu, USPTO; Catherine Bohigian, Charter Communications; Jennifer Rudy, Microsoft; and IFE Leadership Marci Robinson and Jim Valentine.

Coach Kemper closed out the evening by facilitating a Q&A between IFE members and Chairman Pai, kicking off with Charter Communications’ Catherine Bohigian. After the Q&A guests enjoyed coffee and chocolates in the foyer. ■

Contributed by IFE Team

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Smart Security

The Role of Tech In Security and What To Expect From The Future

On Tuesday, May 22nd, the Institute for Education's Tech in Gov program hosted General Michael Hayden and Congressman Will Hurd at the Residence of the Armenian Ambassador, H.E. Grigor Hovhannissian, for a Smart Security panel moderated by ABC News correspondent Kyra Phillips. Guests were greeted downstairs with wine, champagne, and Armenian brandy before moving upstairs for Ambassador Hovhannissian's welcoming remarks.

The focus of the evening, partly inspired by General Hayden's latest book, *The Assault on Intelligence*, was on the role of tech in security and what to expect from the future. In both content and those who attended, tech was well represented. The importance of tech's role in the world wasn't underestimated by anyone in the room that evening, as Coach Kathy Kemper welcomed the crowd and remarked that "the future of democracy rests with young people, and the future of the world rests with those who embrace the latest technologies." These remarks, and the fact the event was hosted by the Armenian Ambassador, become especially relevant when considering that just last month, the world witnessed ten dramatic days of protests that forced Armenian Prime

Photo: ABC News correspondent Kyra Phillips (center) moderates the conversation on Smart Security with Texas Congressman William Hurd (left) and General Michael Hayden, former Director of the National Security Agency, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

“The future of democracy rests with young people, and the future of the world rests with those who embrace the latest technologies.”

– Coach Kathy Kemper –



H.E. Grigor Hovhannissian, Congressman Will Hurd, General Michael Hayden, and Coach Kathy Kemper

Minister Serzh Sargsyan to resign. The man who replaced him, Nikol Pashinian, was the leader of those protests. He rode to power on the backs of hundreds of thousands of Armenians, mostly tech-sector employees under 30. Calling them “young shock troops,” the *New York Times* observed “They used messaging apps like Telegram to coordinate protests,” for example by stopping traffic by “organizing infinite loops of pedestrians at street crossings not controlled by traffic lights.”

In keeping with the tech focus, John Paul Farmer, the co-founder of the Presidential Innovation Fellows program and current Director of Microsoft’s Technology & Civic Innovation group, introduced the panel. He

highlighted the diversity of the speakers, noting that despite different hometowns, sports teams, and political parties, the desire for a government that works unites them. Kyra Phillips then kicked off the panel, cutting straight to the chase by noting General Hayden’s use of former Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig’s quote “Cyber systems nourish us, but at the same time they weaken and poison us.” Hayden explained that working within the digital domain for security is simultaneously empowering and enabling yet makes the U.S. vulnerable. Representative Hurd expanded upon this by noting how much has changed in tech since he left the CIA in 2009, and how important it will be to have people in

agencies who understand new systems and can learn from past mistakes in Internet security.

Phillips then asked both panelists about “bad actors:” from least capable to most capable, who are they? Nation-states, criminal gangs, hacktivists? Hayden agreed with this ranking but added the category of “the disaffected,” and noted that nation-states have more consequences to be aware of, which might limit the scope and severity of cyber actions they pursue in comparison with other actors’ abilities. Representative Hurd added a key point to the question of cyber-attacks: “We can defend against 85% of that using basic digital hygiene.” With General Hayden nodding along in agreement, Hurd listed many underestimated safety protections: keep your software updated, have a password more than 14 characters, and don’t click on emails from people you don’t know. Nothing too fancy is required; just following the basics can protect from interference, even from nation-states.

The nation-state at the forefront of the panel’s mind was Russia, and Phillips asked both men for a reality check on Russia’s role in election interference. Hurd’s approach was to ask why Russia targeted the U.S., noting that the U.S. plays a key role in NATO, and in undermining the U.S.’s democratic institutions and overall system, Russia would be undermining NATO and experience more freedom on the global stage. Part of his solution to the U.S.’s vulnerability circles back to an earlier point on digital hygiene; culturally, we live in a society that likes to overshare information and being more judicious and careful on what we share with strangers would go a long way towards protecting the U.S. system from interference. Hurd earned a laugh from the audience in saying “You have to assess the credibility of a post... Just because my nutty uncle posts something doesn’t



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General Hayden expanded on Representative Hurd's mention of Russia's covert influence campaign, explaining that the purpose is to exploit pre-

it because "tribal" thought processes might prevail over fact-based ones. When asked whether Russia or China presented a larger threat, Representative Hurd emphasized the greater issue that General Hayden had outlined: the chasm in society. Overall, Hurd takes an optimistic tone in saying that "Way more unites us than divides us," and believes that once the public realizes this, the system can begin healing and be more resistant to future attacks.

In terms of resistance and leadership in the future of cyber, Kyra Phillips questioned the logic behind getting rid of the position of the "cyber czar." On the removal, General Hayden he "can't tell you the logic of the White House scrapping the position of cyber czar because there doesn't seem to be any," and worries that the cyber portfolio has been "submerged in the White House structure, and at worst, deem-

the General and Congressman awake at night when it comes to the future of cyber warfare. General Hayden commented that the fact that the U.S. has Cyber Command, at Fort Meade, "is explicit evidence that we believe that a cyber conflict could be a decisive conflict rather than a supportive conflict... and we can imagine a future conflict in which cyber is the dominant campaign and air, land, space, and sea are supportive." However, Hayden believes that in practice, cyber will have a more supportive role, but that Russia's interference provides an example for future conflict. What keeps Representative Hurd up at night is that there is a "hubris in the federal government that we have the greatest capabilities, we are the smartest, and we are the fastest, but we can't take for granted what other countries are doing and catching up to us." In response to the Ambassador of Kazakhstan's question on how the international community can cooperate to combat cyber-attacks, Representative Hurd pointed to Estonia's Tallinn Manual as a model for applying international law to cyberspace. In response to a query on the U.S.'s frequently changing policy towards China and ZTE, General Hayden's point is that we should consider security on a broad basis rather than narrowly, and that it's all about trade-offs when it comes to policy, which do change in response to the broader context. ¹⁴

"We can defend against
85% of (cyber-attacks)
using basic digital hygiene."

– Congressman William Hurd –

existing fractures. This means that "the ultimate fix is ourselves;" the same tactics were attempted in Norway yet were unsuccessful because their system is not as fractious as the U.S.'s. Exacerbating this, as Hayden's book outlines, "We have moved into a post-truth, trending culture." The public relies less on data and evidence, and more on feeling, preference, emotion, loyalty, tribe, or grievance. Hayden noted this reinforces Hurd's point on how if someone we know posts something, we share it without thinking or verifying

phasized." Representative Hurd agrees that he's concerned about the removal of the position of ambassador-at-large for cybersecurity and hopes Secretary Pompeo will reinstate it, but also surmises that getting rid of the cyber czar was more about removing a level of management and rearranging staffing chains of authority than a statement on values. He still reserves judgement on whether it will be a smart strategic decision.

During the Q&A session, the audience wanted to know about what keeps

**Contributed by IFE Fellow
Katey Connolly**

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An Interview With...

Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO

Known as “Coach” to many, Kathy Kemper, Institute for Education’s Founder and CEO, is an open book when it comes to both tennis and how to leverage soft diplomacy given the current polarized political climate in DC. In politics, just as on the tennis court, you must make things work even when you are not at your peak-state, she says. How did the two career areas start finding common ground at IFE, what’s the importance of bringing together diplomats and technologists and why IFE’s is supporting children from the West Coast to learn how to code? You will find all these answers in an exclusive interview with Washington’s Networker in Chief.



On the tennis court at historic Congressional Country Club (from left to right) Tomas Kloosterman, Kaivan Shroff, Finalist, Gail Lionie, Coach Kathy Kemper, Dr. Joanna Breyer, George Zaidan, Nobuko Sasae and David Parker.

Everybody calls you Coach Kemper. How does tennis relate to soft diplomacy and programming?

CK In sports—it's about one goal—victory. That's similar in politics, of course partisans want to win just like athletes, but it can get too personal. Growing up as a competitive tennis player you win and lose every day. You get thick skin and learn not to let things get so personal.

Soft diplomacy is about putting aside those personal disagreements you have across party lines and just getting to know someone as a person.

Can you share with us a memorable story from your career as a tennis coach?

CK I was 25 years old when I was the tennis coach of a Secretary of State. It was the first time when a student of mine had so much security joining the class. When it was the time to go pick up the tennis balls, the security staff came on the court wanting to do the job and I had to stop them—this was a key moment for the coach and the student to talk about the tennis lesson and built trust and friendship, so they could not be there. It was intimidating at first but it was also a pivotal time in my life—I had to do what I believed in. The 'suits' all went back to their positions and from then on whether it was a President, King, Queen, or anyone with large security details, I learned to show that I am the boss on the tennis court.

On the tennis court, just as in life, there are always ups and downs. What's your advice to achieve a winning attitude?

CK Hope for the best and plan for the worst. Think about the positive. Be resilient.

When I was the women's tennis coach at Georgetown University, my no. 1 player was undefeated in dual match play for 3 years. However, when we went to the NCAA Championships each year she lost in the semi-finals 3 years in a row.

She choked and never could play her best. Months before her final NCAA Championship I wracked my brain thinking how I could coach her to play her best and be confident. It came to me—BINGO.

I said, 'Suzanne if you can choke and play terrible and STILL get to the semi's 3 years in a row, that is amazing. Now all you have to do is play and enjoy what an outstanding competitor you are—winning on your bad days.'

Suzanne went on to win the NCAA Championship and go undefeated in dual matches for 4 years. That was a first and has not been done after.



Coach Kathy Kemper, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and H.E. Kenichiro Sasae, former Ambassador of Japan to the United States.

Coach, you have clearly broken a lot of glass ceilings, by co-founding and leading an influential nonprofit organization, working in the world of technology, diplomacy etc. What advice do you have for other women inspired by the success that you've had?

CK Really go for it. Be bold and never worry about getting shut down, failing, losing. Of course, you'll fail from time to time, even have one or two major setbacks. What matters is that you get right back up, "pivot" as I like to say. And when you achieve success, be respectful and stay humble.

Tell us more about The Institute for Education.

CK The Institute for Education is a nonprofit, headquartered in Washington DC. Our mission is to engage the global community to harness the power of data, technology, soft diplomacy and innovation. What happens at these events is first off, people get educated.

Whoever our special guest is—whether it is a cabinet secretary, a Supreme Court Justice, a United States Chief Technology Officer and the first U.S. Chief Data Scientist, a professional athlete—our members get educated as to what is on that person's docket, what their mission is, what that person's profile is and why they are in the position that they're in. It peels back a layer of DC and political affairs that not many ever see.

The second thing that happens is that people come together, and it's always in the kind of atmosphere and ambiance that is social, not a lecture, they are having a drink together, they are breaking bread together and we find that this is very effective on the soft diplomacy end, because this is what builds trust, this is what cultivates friendships and then, this is how problems get solved.



IFE Innovation Steward, Dr. Amy Geng; John Paul Farmer, IFE ETR and PIF co-founder; Coach Kathy Kemper IFE Founder & CEO; first USCTO Aneesh Chopra; USCTO Megan Smith; Todd Park, PIF co-founder and former USCTO @ Congressional Country Club Innovation cook out, August 2015.

Your leadership is inspiring and unique and this is confirmed by IFE's success over the years. How did you manage to keep IFE up-to-date and cutting-edge?

CK So, the Institute for Education, we're 27 years old—that's quite a long time. We find lots of ways to serve our mission with the people that are leaders in their fields. Our programming consists of everything from having an evening salon at the French Embassy with Cabinet Secretaries, a Senator, a Supreme Court Justice or the Chairman of the FCC. The guests in the audience are thought leaders and influencers of the day. I always include young, dynamic people, that are going to be the thought leaders and influencers for the future. This is a winning recipe—investing in the young people. The senior, more established, guests appreciate the young energy in the room!

What does the day-to-day work of IFE look like?

CK On a day-to-day basis I'd say we do a lot of programming, which can range from an evening salon with one of our embassy partners, at the residences usually, to tennis tournaments, international round robins, golf

outings, cookouts, all of the above. We cross-pollinate with the Presidential Innovation Fellows and the diplomatic community and both sides are always fascinated with each other. It's like technology meets the diplomats and that's not a mix that happens often. IFE is always cutting-edge in its programming; we were one of the first groups to have an Internet of Things panel, one of the first groups to have a Wearable Technology panel, one of the very first groups to talk about block-



Coach Kathy Kemper and Madam Christine Lagarde at Most Powerful Women reception by Fortune Magazine, in 2017

chain. These topics are always game-changing—also, artificial intelligence—we are always there, talking about it, having it in the conversation.

Why is it so important to bring together diplomats and the world of technology?

CK Diplomats by nature and training are risk averse, but to move societies forward nations have to be more agile and leaning into tech. Democracies have to be tech friendly and transparent. I mean, it's 2018—we have the solutions to so many civic problems, now we need to implement them better and more efficiently.

What is the role that interns and fellows have in IFE?

CK We have a very robust interns and fellow program. The interns are generally in college and if they're good, and show initiative and ambition and follow-through, they stick with us as long as they want to, and then they graduate to be fellows, and many of them who are even more impressive, become distinguished fellows and senior fellows. We give them beautiful titles to match their skill set. The fellows can do everything from book-keeping to tracking donations to running our social media accounts to our audio and visual, to photography. Whatever their skill set is, we find a place for them to be able to expand and develop that skill set for the Institute for Education.

So, they have access to all the senior leadership in a very flat way, easy to do. There's not a lot of bureaucracy and hierarchy. And so, they get opportunities that in most kinds of institutions you don't get because they're much fuller and fatter.

Because we are very horizontal, flat organization, IFE gives these young fellows and interns, opportunities and

access to meet cabinet secretaries, Supreme Court Justices, technologists, engineers, people from the White House. In most organizations, they would never have these sorts of opportunities.

What makes working at IFE different from other DC companies or nonprofits?

CK A very special thing about IFE, is that it is not a place where you come and have a three-month internship and then leave. Most of our fellows and interns have been with us anywhere from two years to fifteen years. And so, we are very much like a family. After events and programs, they get together, they debrief, not only on what the event was but also, they catch up with each other on what their professional lives are doing, what classes they're taking, where their love lives are, and this is what makes it very authentic.

Something that makes IFE very special is our team, the people who are behind the scenes doing the work of the IFE. These are our interns and fellows and after programs, they all kick back, debrief, have a drink, they relax, they laugh, they cry, whatever they do. And this makes it very much like a family. The Team IFE is like a family.

You co-founded a computer science coding camp at the University of Southern California that IFE is supporting. Why is it so important for these children to have coding in their skillset?

CK We are co-founders with the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering of a free computer science coding camp for underrepresented student populations at the University of South California. This has just been a game-changer for these children, aged from kindergarten



Computer Science Summer Camp, Class of 2015, co-founded together with University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering. Nearly 2000 students, aged from kindergarten through high school learn how to code over the summer.

through high school. They get the opportunity to come and learn a little bit of code. Some of them stick with it, and then they learn a lot of code. This is changing their lives and their families lives. They come on campus, they've never been on a college campus before, and all of a sudden, it's boom! "Maybe someday I can go to this college...I could go to this university, and wouldn't that be something? And what do I have to do to get in to this university?"

How do these children get selected?

CK So, there's an application process and these kids get chosen. They're typically the best and the brightest from their underrepresented student populations. The camp counselors, the people that are teaching and coaching them on code are the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering, getting their PhDs. We try to get women, people of different colors, so the coaches are very diverse and there's a great interaction with the young students and the young coaches. So, it's a big lift for the families as well, and they're very excited to

have their children be offered this opportunity because the parents are smart, and they know that technology jobs in the next 30 years are the jobs that are going to lift them forward, you know, move them forward. Income inequality is an increasing problem these days, and teaching kids to code, getting them comfortable with tech hygiene, getting them comfortable with tech literature, this is what changes their lives. And I think that whole feeling is what they bring away from that. And it's exciting for them. It's as if it opens up new doors, new aspirations, and new dreams for them to have.

Since we brought up the importance of coding, technology and innovation and how this should be part of our lives from the very beginning, what about public institutions? Could you please explain the Tech-in-Gov program and its goals?

CK Technology is like exercise. The more you do it, the better you get at it. Neither is easy, but both are critical living a healthy more efficient life. In many regards, IFE has been in-

vested in Tech-in-Gov because it has been a natural area for bipartisan efforts, but beyond that the U.S. government is falling behind in terms of Tech-in-Gov and its critical we educate our mostly senior-aged congress about the opportunities and importance of tech that can serve the public—increase access, decrease barriers to participation.

Given the polarized political climate in DC, it is perhaps harder than ever to remain bipartisan. How does IFE remain appealing to both sides of the aisle?

CK We are all about collaborating, finding the positive and build from there. We are committed to doing the work we've always done—leaders and policymakers know this about us and they trust our intent. They know we want to have a conversation and in some cases that means getting an awesome and diverse group together off the record. At times it can mean having one type of guest that appeals to one demographic perhaps one time and a completely different sort of person or party official in the next event.



Coach Kathy Kemper wearing Google Glasses at a Tech-in-Gov event, with John Paul Farmer, Geoff Mullian and Sokwoo Rhee.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to learn about IFE and its trajectory. Our last question would be how do you imagine IFE in 10 years from now?

CK No idea! But I'm incredibly excited about where we are headed! As someone who loves science perhaps salons on the moon with Space X—you have to think big.

Contributed by Doug Tusing and Mariam Motamedi

@DougTusing

Doug Tusing is an Institute for Education Fellow. He is the Director and Founder of Glacier, a nonprofit that connects charitable donors with needy individuals for direct personalized giving. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Doug was a member of the student-run advertising agency that won the National Student Advertising Competition in 2016. Doug also is an avid videographer and can be found shooting video at IFE events.

Mariam Motamedi is an Institute for Education Intern. She will be graduating from American University next May with a major in International Studies, and a thematic focus in Global Inequality in Development. She has previously worked with the Tahirih Justice Center, the Atlantic Regional Baha'i Council, and the College Consortium for International Studies. In her free time, she loves travel, cooking, and visiting museums.

**“We are all about collaborating,
finding the positive and
build from there.”**

– Coach Kathy Kemper –



Digital Divide

Tech-in-Gov in Estonia vs. the U.S.

Traveling in Scandinavia recently I knew I had to make a stop in the digital government capital of the world, Tallinn, Estonia. And it was one of the smartest things I have done—enter Governance Academy, headquartered in Tallinn.

Photo: Coach Kemper interviewed in Tallin's Central Square, in front of City Hall, discussing digital society, impressions of Estonia, and Washington, DC

Before I extol the wonders of e everything for society, let me say, go to Tallinn! The Old Quarter is a medieval village that is operational. Like a Disney Land, only real life! Tallinn is both the capital and largest city in the country. With settlements dating back 5,000 years the small city has seen its share of history, including Nazi occupation in the early 1940s—a fascinat-



As a digital citizen of Estonia, Coach Kathy Kemper experienced a demo on e-school, e-police, i-voting, e-Notary, e-Business, e-Health, e-Prescription, e-ID, e-Residency, and X-Road.

ing backdrop for what is now one of the most tech-immersed municipalities in the world.

Perhaps most notably my visit left me stunned by the contrast of what digital government means in Estonia vs. what it means in the U.S.—despite the U.S.'s private sector tech achievements celebrated in Silicon Valley. While the US is still using fax machines, tons of paper, voting at a polling place, wasting time trying to find a notary public, impossibly trying to maintain consistent Electronic Health Records, and paranoid about not controlling our own data—Tallinn is a haven of digital sustainability. Like the Old Quarter of Tallinn, the digital government was magical to me—so easy, agile, transparent with complete trust and support of the citizens.

Of course, Estonia has 0.4% of the population the United States does, and a far more socio-economically homo-

geneous population, allowing for certain policy change to progress more efficiently. But even grading on a generous curve, it is night and day to compare U.S. Tech-in-Gov evolution over time versus Estonia's. Experts working to digitize American government cite excessive, debilitating, fragmentation, lack of resources, and hard-to-convince congress members whose tech illiteracy was on display recently during the Facebook hearings about election interference. In sum, Cloud infrastructure has saved nearly \$100,000,000 in future costs for the VA and certain other targeted Tech-in-Gov initiatives have paid off, but my time in Tallinn was unlike any government interaction had in the U.S.

As a digital citizen of Estonia, I logged in to check on my status and a few personal matters. The process takes me through triple authentication, and then, with no human interaction,

I am able to see to a host of responsibilities including my health records, personal records, outstanding tickets, the lot. In an eye-opening moment, my tour brought local Estonian millennials, only used to digital voting, to a historic physical polling site to vote in person. The kids could barely comprehend the lack of sophistication—it was like trying to explain a world without email and cell phones to my daughters.

It was clear that the community trusted their government to store and manage deeply personal aspects of their lives through digital points of interaction. It's a group effort—I'm told there are only a handful of technologists in the country who are capable of doing the work required to keep digital government progressing at pace. The lure of top tech firms and other international opportunities is a great draw. However, the government has invested in its technologists, its technology, and, perhaps most importantly, in the citizens—teaching them tech literacy that allows them to embrace and navigate civic changes. There are training courses in tech and opportunities for anyone, especially elderly populations, to take courses on digital literacy. If people are unable to get out, tech coaches come to them. No one is left behind.

I am hopeful that if the U.S. continues to invest in big ideas and programs President Obama initiated and President Trump continues to scale, like the White House Presidential Innovation Fellows, our government will one day reach the level of modernization that I witnessed on what was the trip of a lifetime! ■

Contributed by Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO

[@CoachKemper](#)



Exclusive Q&A With...

Former Congressional Candidate Brian Forde

I talked to Brian Forde after he challenged Mimi Walters for her seat representing California's 45th congressional district in United States Congress. During his campaign, Forde, who grew up in Tustin, California, expressed concern about current policies on health care, immigration, technology and civil rights. He has a strong background as a former senior advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy during the Presidency of Barack Obama, leading projects like Tech-Hire and President Obama's Climate Data Initiative. In the interview below you will find Forde's honest answers about the challenges he faced while running for office, what it takes to embrace digital democracy and where he is headed next. Spoiler alert: honeymoon plans.

Photo: (from left to right) Steve Ressler, Brian Forde, Dr. Amy Geng and Coach Kathy Kemper

CK You worked in the Obama White House—how did that impact your decision to run office? Can you take us through that decision-making process?

BF Working in the Obama White House made me realize there was an important role for technologists, like me, in government. There were a few key reasons why I decided to run for office. The first was that the seat I was running for, my hometown, is one of the most important seats to flip—the incumbent, Mimi Walters, supports Trump's disastrous policy decisions nearly 100% of the time. The second is that more than 40% of our members in Congress are lawyers, yet less than 4% have a technical background. Our leaders in government are not equipped to take on the challenges of the 21st century—this was made clear to anyone who watched the Zuckerberg Congressional hearings.

CK What did your family and friends think when you told them you were running? Did their opinions change at all over the course of your campaign?

BF They were supportive. It's impossible to run without their support. They became even more committed to the campaign throughout the course of the election.

CK What was the hardest part of running?

BF Your name is on the ballot—yet you don't have time to oversee everything.

CK How can we get more candidates to embrace digital democracy? How can you educate voters to embrace e democracy?

BF Make it a national topic. Our message really started to resonate after everyone saw how poorly

prepared our Congress was for the Zuckerberg hearings.

CK What are your thoughts on establishing trust in our democracy and institutions and cyber security?

BF I'm less worried about cybersecurity and more worried about leaders who can't tell the truth. A democracy should be built to withstand the ebbs and flows of leaders, some good, some bad—but the truth is under attack, and that is what I'm most worried about.

CK If you could start your campaign over knowing everything you do now, 1) would you run again? 2) If yes, what would you have done differently?

BF Yes, I would run again in a heartbeat. I would have started my campaign several months earlier. There is a lot to learn and the sooner you start, the sooner you learn.

CK As one of your supporters, I'm glad you ran even though you didn't secure the nomination. Tell us what it's like to have donors and voters invest in you when you don't win.

BF That's been one of the most surprising experiences. In the wake of the loss, I worried that my supporters might abandon me but they were the ones to help pick me up, dust me off, and encourage me to run again.

CK Are you hopeful for America's future?

BF I am. We have a lot of great candidates running for office—many of them come from non-traditional backgrounds and I'm hopeful they'll get across the line and change the face of Congress, and hopefully lower the average age.

CK What is the one piece of advice you would give your former Primary opponent Democrat Katie Porter who will compete against Republican Mimi Waters in November?

BF Take a breath and make sure you reflect and enjoy the moment—this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something truly historic.

CK What is your least favorite aspect of running for office?

BF The amount of money you need to raise to run a competitive race.

CK Where are you headed next? We know big things are in store for you!

BF On my honeymoon. Alison and I got married during the campaign and didn't really have much time for a honeymoon.

Contributed by Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO

[@CoachKemper](#)

Coach Kathy Kemper, known as "Coach" to many, is Founder and CEO of the Institute for Education, a non-profit foundation that recognizes and promotes leadership, civility, and finding common ground, locally, nationally, and in the world community. Called Washington's "Networker in Chief" by US News and World Report, Coach Kemper also founded INFO, a program of IFE. INFO is a roundtable public affairs forum that draws diplomats, influential public officials, senior media, gamechangers, and business leaders from both sides of the aisle for debate and discussion. She has spent more than 25 years coaching tennis for Washington's powerbrokers and opinion makers—hitting the courts with Supreme Court Justices, members of the United States Congress and United States Secretaries of State through five administrations, at The White House, Senate Court and Embassy courts. A frequent op-ed writer and columnist, her work has been featured in The Hill, USA Today, Roll Call, The Washington Examiner, Newsday, Hurriyet Daily News, The Bangkok Post, Vietnam Daily, Hanoi Times, The Globalist, The Washington Diplomat, Washington Life, CCTV, and The Huffington Post.



Techplomacy

When it comes to bridging divides and connecting people across borders, sports and culture have long played important roles in diplomacy. For generations, the Olympic Games have brought people of different nationalities and different political persuasions together on the field of play. The 20th century saw Hollywood and the American entertainment industry develop into invaluable ambassadors for the United States.

Photo: President Obama, White House CTO Todd Park, IFE Leadership John Farmer

Now, in the 21st century, there is a new diplomatic lever: technology.

During the first week of his second term as President of the United States, Barack Obama sat down in the Roosevelt Room with me and 18 Presidential Innovation Fellows to discuss the impact technology was starting to have inside government. In just a matter of months, the PIFs had proven that a so-called Silicon Valley approach could be effective in the public sector too.

None of us knew at the time that just four years later the PIF program would be enshrined in bipartisan law, hundreds of technologists would have left highly paid private sector jobs to infuse Washington with such a sense of possibility that the incoming administration – despite having won election on a platform very much opposed to the Obama era – would enthusiastically adopt the digital government revolution that had begun under its predecessor.

At a time in which common ground is hard to find, technology has emerged as an area in which agreement occurs. Diplomacy isn't merely needed between countries; diplomacy is needed between any groups that are otherwise divided... which would include political parties.

Longtime Washington powerhouse Coach Kathy Kemper was quick to recognize the importance of the transformative power of technology in government and the impact it could have on diplomacy.

Under President Obama, a wave of tech and innovation activity was ignited. The Presidential Innovation Fellows, 18F, and the U.S. Digital Service are the highest profile of the initiatives, having gained notoriety on magazine covers such as *Wired* and *Fast Company*. Perhaps less well known, various agencies made incredible leaps forward, with examples including USAID's Global Development Lab, OPM's Innovation Lab, and HHS' Entrepreneurs-in-Residence program. But it is critical to understand



IFE INFO on Wearable Tech with PIFs and IFE Founder & CEO Coach Kathy Kemper

that these innovative leaps forward were non-partisan in nature. The infusion of technology to drive better governance has been championed from political leaders across the ideological spectrum, including Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Sen. Richard Lankford (R-OK). Longtime advocates for “tech in gov,” such as Matt Lira – a onetime digital guru for Congressmen who is now serving as Special Assistant to the President for Innovation Policy and Initiatives – are ensuring that the good work of technologists in government knows no party, but serves the needs of the citizenry.

As the United States dove headfirst into government innovation, other countries did too. In the United Kingdom, the Government Digital Service has gotten rave reviews. The Mexican president stood up the *Agentes de Innovación*. In France, the newly created *Entrepreneurs d’Interet General* are tackling audacious challenges across the public sector. But one of the very first countries to make a bet on the transformational potential of digital technologies was the small Northern European nation of Estonia. When Estonia emerged from behind the Iron Curtain, the country realized that it lacked the people power to do the work of state manually. So the newly free country

created a digital technology backbone known as e-Estonia, leading Wired to call Estonia “the most advanced digital society in the world.” It was in this environment that the popular communication platform Skype was born in Estonia (disclosure: Skype is now part of Microsoft, where I work). Recently, Estonia has continued to innovate through programs such as e-Residency, which allows anyone in the world to register their digital identity with the Estonian government and thereby “easily start and run a global business in a trusted EU environment.”

In 2014, IFE invited me to moderate a panel at the Embassy of the Philippines featuring Presidential Innovation Fellows discussing their roles. In 2015, I worked with IFE to bring wearable technology such as body cameras to an event at the Belgian residence. In 2015 and 2016, Microsoft and IFE co-hosted high-level discussions on Blockchain for Social Good. At the Singaporean Embassy, I interviewed the first U.S. Chief Data Scientist. At the Italian Embassy, IFE convened a deep discussion on – and demo of – drone technology. In 2017, Coach Kemper decided to host a series of convenings focused on bringing together technologists from the Obama and Trump Administrations, with one of the meetings at the Icelandic Residence incorporating a hands-on demo

of Microsoft’s mixed reality headset, HoloLens – the world’s first self-contained wearable holographic computer. Most recently, IFE introduced these government innovators to the world’s very first Tech Ambassador.

Caspar Klynge’s role as Denmark’s Tech Ambassador positions the Danish foreign service at the forefront of how nation states can build ties with tech companies and can use high-profile tech industry issues to advance their agendas. With offices in Silicon Valley, Copenhagen, and Beijing, Ambassador Klynge and his team are tasked with creating feedback loops between their country and the growing tech presence worldwide. As Ambassador Klynge says, “The tech companies are assuming a role they might not have had five or ten years ago. That’s why we need to engage with them. They’ll be a key partner in discussing future challenges...Our tech embassy will not be the last.”

In the 21st century, digital technology has become an elemental part of everyday life. It’s not surprising that technology is likewise becoming more ingrained in how governments do their jobs. Sharing those best practices and opening lines of communication related to technology issues has, perhaps unexpectedly, formed new bonds among national governments and other key influencers in our societies. In the years ahead, technology will be an increasingly important vector through which nations and their diplomatic representatives interact.

Welcome to the era of “Techplomacy”. ■

Contributed by John Paul Farmer

[@johnpaulfarmer](#)

John Paul Farmer is director of Microsoft Cities and founder & CEO of The Innovation Project, a 501(c)3. Previously, he served as senior advisor for innovation in the White House of President Barack Obama, where he co-founded and directed the Presidential Innovation Fellows program.



IFE Goes to Gridiron

The Gridiron Club and Foundation Spring Dinner has been a Washington institution since 1885. Every President since Grover Cleveland has attended the dinner and in 2018 President Donald J. Trump continued that tradition. Also attending this year were First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Mrs. Karen Pence, Senior Advisor to the Presidents Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner and the keynote speakers representing both parties, New Orleans Democratic Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Oklahoma Republican Senator Tom Cotton. With the President in attendance, his cabinet was well represented at the Head Table, with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt attending.

Photo: Chris Golden, IFE's Digital Innovation Fellow and Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO



Ivanka Trump and Secretary Elaine Lan Cho at the Gridiron dinner

The entire evening is a demonstration of bipartisanship, good humor, and soft diplomacy between the parties, the President, and the Fourth Estate, the press. The motto of the Gridiron Club is “sing, not burn” and jokes and skits come close to, but never across, the edge. Continuing with tradition, no skits depicted or mocked the sitting President.

In between speeches, there are intermissions, which are prime opportunities for schmoozing and mingling with other attendees, and with the Host Table. During the first intermission, I took advantage of an opportunity to introduce myself to the President, in order to congratulate him on his election victory and to encourage him to do all that he can to protect the Dreamers, noting that there were many people counting on him to do the right thing. Later in the dinner, the

President ad-libbed a line from his prepared remarks, noting that “on the way in tonight, someone asked me what I think about the Dreamers. I love the Dreamers...were all working together and I hope that somethings going to happen. I really do. I hope that somethings going to happen.”

The entire Gridiron Weekend is one full of events and networking. Prior to the dinner, there is a cocktail hour where all attendees meet in the lower level of the Washington Renaissance Downtown Hotel. Immediately following the dinner, there is an after party in the hotel, where the networking continues.

The following morning, IFE and international policy consultant T. Dean Reed, a senior member of the Gridiron Club, organized an exclusive brunch at Georgetown’s Four Seasons Hotel, hosted by the Ambassador of Qatar.

Guests from the White House, the diplomatic corps, the media, and the Washington establishment heard from three Ambassadors, from Qatar, Ireland and Afghanistan. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and his wife Heidi attended following the Secretary’s appearance on Meet the Press. The Ambassador of Qatar began his remarks by saying how impressed he was attending the Gridiron Dinner the night before, where both political parties were able to civilly come together and make jokes. This was a demonstration, he said, of something uniquely American - a country formed on the belief of freedom of speech, and demonstrated the health of American democracy, even in an era of heightened polarization. The Ambassador said that it was a lesson that he hoped he could take back to his country, a sentiment the other Ambassadors agreed with.

The Gridiron Dinner may be the final place in a partisan Washington where, for a few hours on one Saturday evening, both parties and the press can come together with the President to foster civility and advance political discourse with an evening of good fun and respect. ■

Contributed by IFE Fellow Chris Golden

[@ChrisGolden](#)

Chris Golden is the Institute for Education Digital Innovation Fellow. He is Director of Paid Advertising and Rapid Response at FWD.us, a bipartisan political advocacy organization focused on immigration and criminal justice reform. A graduate of American University, Chris worked in Washington, D.C. for former presidential campaign manager Joe Trippi before moving to San Francisco to work first at NextGen Climate and then at FWD.us. He enjoys travel, hiking, food and is a trained graduate of the San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).



CS@CS Summer Camps

The Institute for Education is proud to continue its support of Summer coding classes for girls and boys since its inception four years ago. We are happy to have over 400 children this year, giving us nearly 2000 K12 students in four years, who have gone through our program. We hope you enjoy these testimonials from our 2018 summer camp:



CS@SC provided my daughter with a wonderful learning experience. By the end of the camp, she had not only made some awesome games in Scratch, but also quite a few new friends.

– Marcus P., Parent



“

The class is interesting, the teachers are cool, and even the food is great! I looked forward to heading to camp every morning. I even answered one of the daily riddles at the morning meeting! – Reem Q., Student

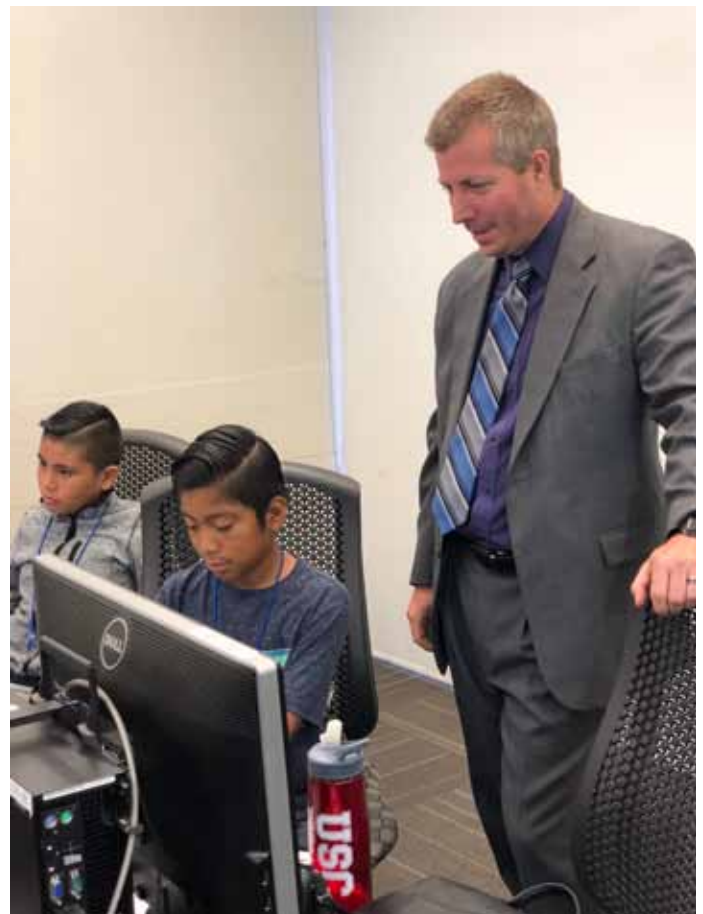
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We have a few students who have attended all four years of the camp! It's so amazing to watch them grow up and continue advancing their skills. Janessa is one of the girls I brought with me to DC, and she is attending again. She is a 6th grader now taking our Advanced Java camp! She has already finished covering what we teach in our first semester programming class at USC, so she is now moving into material covered in our second programming class. And she's in 6th grade! Just incredible!

– Professor Jeffrey Miller, Camp Founder & Instructor

”





Membership Opportunities

The Institute for Education (IFE) is a nonprofit organization committed to engaging the global community to harness the power of soft diplomacy, innovation, and technology. All forums are hosted at Embassy Residences, historic mansions, and private clubs.

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- Invitations to Embassy receptions and private dinners, where you will meet key decision-makers. Reserved seating
- Invitations to special events: Media and Technology, Women in Power, and Innovation Roundtables with reserved seating

Eagle Supporter: \$10,000

- Invitation to half of our INFO Salons.
- Invitations to Embassy receptions.
- Invitation to select events: Media and Technology, Women in Power, and Innovation Roundtables.

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Meet the Team IFE

Something that makes IFE so special is our team – the people that are behind the scenes – and we are very much like a family. At IFE, we like to think that with each passing year we are polishing a finely made tool, giving it more sense of worth and watching it achieve wonders.

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IFE Fellows

Douglas Tusing, Julianna Cavano, Nathalia Penton, Nick Seaver, Quenton Horton, Tomas Kloosterman, & Zachary Smith

IFE Interns

Mariam Motamedi, Veronica Lin & Mishel Kisi



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