



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **FORMOSA FOUNDATION LAUNCHES FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

LOS ANGELES—They come together from West Bloomfield, Michigan, Honolulu, Hawaii, Kaoshiung, Taiwan and all points in between to join the prestigious Formosa Foundation Ambassadors Program. Thirty students from across America and Taiwan will participate in the two-week intense congressional program that focuses on deepening each participant's knowledge of international relations with an emphasis on U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Formosa Foundation's fourth annual student Ambassador Program will begin on Sunday, June 18 in Los Angeles, California and conclude on Friday, June 30 in Washington, D.C.

The Ambassador program provides a rare opportunity to meet with United States Congressmen and Senators to discuss U.S. policies toward Taiwan. The Executive Director of the Formosa Foundation, Terri Giles said "This is the only program of its kind in the country. Our focus on devising strategies in support of Taiwan and speaking directly to members of Congress, gives our students a direct understanding of the challenges that we face." She continued, "Many of America's most influential experts, scholars and government leaders will be sharing their wisdom, helping our group understand the inner workings of Washington"

Beginning June 18, the Ambassadors will undergo training in Los Angeles with a series of workshops, seminars, and hands-on training in the art of advocacy. Each session is designed to enhance student's knowledge of current U.S. – Taiwan policy and sharpen their communication and networking skills. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Ambassadors travel to the nation's capitol to meet directly with members of Congress and voice their support and concern for issues ranging from the inclusion of Taiwan into the WHO, a reexamination of the One-China policy, allowing high-level diplomatic visits between the two countries, to a U.S. – Taiwan free trade agreement.

The Formosa Foundation's Ambassador Program was first launched in 2003 with the goal of broadening the involvement of future leaders in understanding and influencing U.S. foreign policy. Over the past three years 70 students have taken part in the highly respected program and have held more than 400 meetings with members of Congress and their staff.

Key voices from America's top think-tanks, universities, and government will lead discussions over the two-week period. A partial list of those speaking during the Ambassador Program includes: **Dr. June Teufel Dreyer**, Head of the Political Sciences Department at the University of Miami; **Dr. Arthur Waldron**, the Lauder Professor of International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania; **Dr. Bruce Herschensohn**, a member of the Adjunct Faculty at the School of International Relations, Pepperdine University; **Dr. Richard Kagan**, recently retired head of East Asian Studies at Hamline University, who is currently writing a biography on Taiwan's former President Lee Teng-hui; **Rupert Hammond-Chambers**, President of the ROC Business Council; **Amy Celico**, Senior Director for China Affairs, U.S. Trade Representative Office;

**Derek J. Mitchell**, Senior Fellow for Asia in the Center for Strategic and International Studies' International Security Program; **Shirley Kan**, Specialist in national security, foreign affairs, defense, and trade, at the Congressional Research Services; **Rick Fisher**, Vice President and Director of the International Assessment and Strategy Center's Project on Asian Security and Democracy; **Jeffrey D. Dutton**, Director for Korea and Taiwan Affairs at the International Trade Administration; **Dr. Tom Plate**, Director of Media Center at UCLA; **Dr. Ching-Chih Chen**, research fellow with the L.A.-based Institute for Taiwanese Studies; **Karin Wang**, Vice-President of Programs at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; **Dr. Daniel Lynch**, Associate Professor in the School of International Relations at University of Southern California; **Dr. Thomas Gold**, Executive Director of the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing; and **Dr. Margaret Shih**, Research Fellow at RAND Corporation.

The Ambassador Program is designed to foster leadership in college and graduate students who are interested in promoting better U.S.-Taiwan relations. Selection criteria include academic achievements, extracurricular activities, participation in community affairs, and interest in public policy, especially U.S. foreign policy. Special considerations were given to those who were involved or had leadership roles in the Taiwanese American community.

Based in Los Angeles, the Formosa Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting greater understanding of the relationship between Taiwan and the United States, and preserving and enhancing democracy, human rights and freedom for the people of Taiwan.

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