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Contact: Asya Dinets
(212) 431-1195, ext. 24
asya@one-to-world.org

Celebrating International Educational Exchange and the Fulbright Vision in the Era of Anti-globalization

New York (May 11, 2018)—Despite tightening visa regulations and nationalistic rhetoric, one New York-based non-profit is raising awareness of the importance of internationalism and cross-cultural exchange. One To World will celebrate its 40th anniversary with its annual Fulbright Awards Dinner gala benefit on May 22nd. The event will include remarks by visiting Fulbright scholars and will honor New York City business and philanthropic leaders who embody the spirit of citizen diplomacy and global cooperation.

“I’m afraid Senator Fulbright would be very concerned today, because international educational exchange is facing great challenges in the U.S. as it becomes harder to come from abroad to study in this country,” pointed out Jen Clarke, executive director of One To World. “Our educational system is strengthened by the presence of international students and scholars who share their perspectives with their American peers. Restricting educational exchange programs, such as the Fulbright program, will ultimately damage our institutions of higher learning and our country itself.”

Since 1991, the One To World Fulbright Awards Dinner has celebrated the value of international educational exchange by honoring those who have been emissaries of cultural exchange and supported the development of greater mutual respect and appreciation among people in different nations.

This year’s One To World honorees are Creighton Condon, of Shearman & Sterling LLC; Ambassador Edward E. Elson, former U.S. ambassador to Denmark; Ken Forde, former chair, One To World Board of Directors; and Allison Gushée Molkenthin, managing director, Bentley Associates L.P. and Fulbright Scholar to Morocco.

Creighton Condon is partner and former senior partner of Shearman & Sterling, a multinational law firm whose lawyers from 80 countries speak 60 languages and operate in offices spanning the U.S., Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. He is a partner in the firm’s mergers & acquisitions practice, advising and collaborating across cultures on notable transactions around the globe.

Edward E. Elson was ambassador of the U.S. to Denmark from 1993 to 1998. He was the 34th rector (chairman) of the University of Virginia, was the founding chairman of National Public Radio, and was formerly trustee of Andover, Brown University, Spelman College, Brenau University, Hebrew Union College, Talladega College and Hampton University, among other higher education institutions.

Ken Forde was chair of the board of directors of One To World (then called Metro International) for many years, stewarding its growth and achievements for two decades. An exchange student from Ireland to the University of Minnesota, he was for many years president of the New York chapter of University College Dublin Alumni Association and Board Chair of World Education Services.

Allison Gushée Molkenhain has been a managing director at Bentley Associates L.P. since 1999, working on international transactions. A Brown University alumna, she was a Fulbright scholar to Morocco and earned her MBA from INSEAD in France. She was previously president and COO of UI USA, the U.S. merchant banking arm of Crédit Agricôle. She began her career at Bankers Trust, working in New York, London, Milan and Paris.

This year, more than 100,000 international students and Fulbright scholars from 140 countries are studying at New York-area institutions. While One To World was founded in 1977 to engage international students in American life, it has become much more: a builder of lifelong understanding and respect among people around the globe. Since 1982, One To World has been designated by the U.S. State Department as the official Coordinator of Enrichment Programs for the nearly 1,000 visiting Fulbright grantees studying in the greater New York area each year.

The late Senator J. William Fulbright, who authored the legislation which created his namesake program 70 years ago, specified these services as key components of the Fulbright program. He believed that the time Fulbright grantees spent off-campus would be as important as their academic experiences in fostering cultural understanding and ultimately, a peaceful world. One To World is proud to carry on this legacy.

About One To World

One To World is a New York City-based non-profit membership organization that advances global cooperation and fosters intercultural understanding by creating face-to-face experiences among local communities, international students and Fulbright scholars.

The only organization of its kind, One To World collaborates with over 400 international educators at its member colleges, universities and international exchange organizations in the New York metropolitan area, bringing its more than four decades of experience with international students to support successful educational outcomes.

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