A Year of Insight and Impact

Annual Report  |  FY 2019
50 Years of Excellence

Why Us, Why Now?

“In this year’s report, you will see considerable progress in integrating our programs across four cross-regional issues: the rule of law, great power competition, digital threats and opportunities, and cooperation in the Arctic. These issues showcase the depth of our scholarship and thought leadership, and are at the top of the world’s geopolitical agenda. Policymakers and their staff want and need to be smarter about the world, and the Wilson Center is well prepared to help them.”

Jane Harman
Director, President, and CEO
Dear friends,

The Wilson Center is the nation’s top nonpartisan policy forum for addressing global issues through independent research and open dialogue that produces actionable ideas. In a complex world, our scholars help leaders understand global trends through more than a dozen regional and thematic programs.

It is my honor to serve as chair of the board of trustees and to follow my good friend, the late Fred Malek, who was so passionate about the work of the Wilson Center. We are proud to share our annual report with you.

Wilson Center research is bolstered by our Fellowship Program, which hosts over 100 scholars each year from around the world. They come from academia, government and other sectors with incredible reputations, and their work at the Wilson Center will follow them for the rest of their lives.

Our nonpartisan insight and analysis help power the decisions of policymakers, civic leaders, and the general public across a wide spectrum of beliefs and backgrounds. This year, we are leveraging our regional expertise to pursue cross-cutting research on the rule of law, great power competition, digital threats and opportunities, and the Arctic.

Please take a closer look at our website and join us at some of our weekly events. Wilson Center experts and scholars are an unmatched resource. They are the reason we have twice been named the world’s #1 regional studies think tank - as well as #1 for institutional collaboration.

Special thanks to our staff, experts, scholars, trustees, cabinet, council, supporters, and partners for the excellent work conducted during the past year. Thank you for taking the time to review this annual report of our work.

Sincerely,
Scott Walker
Chair, Board of Trustees
Support the Center

The Wilson Center is a public-private partnership with a comprehensive sponsor community dedicated to our mission.

Our goal is to work individually with partners and donors to provide specific benefits to meet their investment needs. This work is grounded in the programs and initiatives at the Wilson Center.

Our partners have questions. We have the ability to research and present independent and cohesive answers. We analyze, inform and present our partners with cohesive information that far exceeds their investment.

The Wilson Center’s reputation and inspiration resides in the dedicated work of our scholars and the integrity of our scholarship.

For more information on becoming a Wilson Center sponsor, please contact us at (202) 691-4171.
Woodrow Wilson Awards Gala

“This really is an honor to be here, and to receive the award. I was blessed to meet Fred Malek through the Republican Governor’s Association…. He loved the Wilson Center, and it’s an honor to be here on behalf of the Center and in tribute and love to Fred.”

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
“I enthusiastically support the Wilson Center because it is a bulwark of non-partisan thinking; it is a highly respected source of independent research and globally recognized excellence within and across regions of the world; and it artfully convenes thought leaders and policymakers for open dialogue designed to produce actionable ideas.”

-Michael Waller, Wilson National Cabinet

“Citi’s partnership with the Wilson Center is a natural fit between the world’s most global bank and an internationally renowned institution with a global expertise and perspective that helps us better understand the world as it is now and plan for what it may be in the future.”

-Candi Wolff, Head of Citi Global Government Affairs

“...the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is an intellectual gift to the nation and the world. The scholarly work and innovative programming of the Center brings practical clarity to some of the most pressing issues facing the world today.”

- Donald F. McLellan, International Co-Chair, Wilson National Cabinet
“It is an honor to be here at the Wilson Center, named after a President that was a great champion for America leadership and for freedom on the world stage.”

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence
The Wilson Center and other policy centers hosted the first appearance in Washington by Colombian President Iván Duque in February 2019.

The Polar Institute collaborated with the U.S. Arctic Research Commission on its 8th biennial symposium, an event which attracted over 650 attendees and 80 speakers, including Senator Angus King (I-ME), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

The Wilson Center and other policy centers hosted the first appearance in Washington by Colombian President Iván Duque in February 2019.

The Latin American Program’s Argentina Project hosted major presidential and gubernatorial candidates from across the political spectrum in that nation in the months before Argentina’s October 2019 general election.

The Asia program hosted a speech by South Korea’s Minister of Unification Cho Myoung-Gyon on the state of diplomacy with North Korea during the Korea Global Forum.
The Mexico Institute convened “Building a Competitive U.S.-Mexico Border” conferences in Washington, DC and Mexico City that drew U.S. legislators – including Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) – as well as Mexico’s Ambassador to the U.S., Martha Bárcena, and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Christopher Landau.

A livestreamed conversation on the 2019 Russian regional elections hosted by the Kennan Institute attracted 40,000 viewers to hear leading Russian political observers, including Mikhail Vinogradov, founder of the St. Petersburg Politics Foundation.

The Maternal Health Initiative co-convened two meetings with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – a half-day roundtable with health experts, and a full-day conference attended by leaders and young people from 18 different international organizations.

The Environmental Change & Security Program convened decision-makers from across the U.S. Government, private sector leaders, and experts, to explore the future of global water security. The full-day conference was co-hosted by nine Wilson Center programs.
Analysis Across Time Zones

Our signature Ground Truth Briefing (GTB) podcast series responds to developing news in real time with the help of experts on the ground around the globe.

Ground Truth Briefings this year

Feb. 1, 2019
Venezuela: Internal Turmoil and Global Stakes

June 13, 2019
A Done Deal? Addressing the U.S.-Mexico Migration Challenge

May 3, 2019
United States Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook

May 31, 2019
Continental Divides? The Future of the European Union Post-Election

June 13, 2019
A Done Deal? Addressing the U.S.-Mexico Migration Challenge

July 22, 2019
Ukraine’s Parliamentary Elections

Nov. 13, 2018
Iran and the U.S.: New Confrontation, Accommodation, or Muddling Through?

Nov. 13, 2018
Iran and the U.S.: New Confrontation, Accommodation, or Muddling Through?
150 Fellows Yearly

40+ Languages Spoken

100+ Countries Represented
The Wilson Quarterly

Featuring original reporting, expert voices, and interactive multimedia elements, the Center’s award-winning digital magazine, The Wilson Quarterly, has earned widespread praise.

“In carefully-curated essays, on-the-ground reporting, and multimedia storytelling, the WQ offers thought-provoking perspectives on the headlines, trends, and events that shape our world.”

Richard Byrne, Editor

Fall 2018
The Fate of the International Order

Winter 2019
The New Landscape in Space

Summer 2019
Water in a World of Conflict
Books @ Wilson

Based on their work at the Wilson Center, fellows published seminal books that expand public understanding of history and shed light on issues critical to international security. “Books @ Wilson” titles were crucial to the Center’s work in bridging scholarship and public policy.

“I am so grateful for the Wilson Center... And for everybody who works here today. And they are in the room; they are my dear friends.”

Andrei Kozyrev, Wrote The Firebird as a Wilson Center fellow
Critical Coverage

With cross-cutting studies, influential publications, and experts and fellows tracking nearly every element of international security, the Wilson Center is a repository of insight and an incubator for ideas.

Farm Labor in Mexico’s Export Agriculture Industry Project, funded by the Walmart Foundation

- a comprehensive report with survey data and case studies
- evidence-based policy recommendations
- events to publicize the findings at the Wilson Center and in Mexico
- wide dissemination of key infographics and other findings in social media

The Brazil Institute’s efforts to support greater inclusion of women and gender issues led to...

- multidisciplinary reflections by experts and practitioners
- a new report, A Snapshot of the Status of Women in Brazil: 2019
- over 1600 views and downloads of the ten essays in the report
- sharing of the report and its results in global and regional forums
The decision by the Guggenheim Partners to transfer its Arctic Infrastructure Inventory to the Polar Institute will create...

• opportunities to highlight an essential data set on Arctic infrastructure needs
• an open-source database for use by public and private sector participants
• a new Polar Institute program built around the Inventory to amplify and publicize it
• deeper collaborations with the Arctic Economic Council

Women’s Well-Being and Markets in Brazil

The Maternal Health Initiative’s 2019 report, “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies: A Look at Brazil,” offered a new policy toolkit highlighting global best practices for governments, companies, and NGOs to include and retain women in the workforce.
Informing Congress

Abraham Denmark, Director of the Wilson Center’s Asia Program and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia, testified before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on China’s global military ambitions.

Polar Institute Director Mike Sfraga testified before the House Homeland Subcommittee on Transportation & Maritime Security on homeland security priorities in the Arctic.

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Polar Institute Senior Fellow Sherri Goodman provided analysis and perspective on how climate change threatens U.S. national security.

Public Policy Fellow Earl Anthony Wayne testified before the U.S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control on U.S. counternarcotics strategy.

Cynthia Arnson, Director of the Wilson Center’s Latin American Program, testified on U.S.-Venezuela relations before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues.
“We must strive to co-exist, compete, and cooperate with China — and all three are possible.”

U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
Training the Next Generation of Policy Staff

Congressional Foreign Policy Fellowships and Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Labs are six week seminars combining expert discussion, hands on exercises, and field trips designed to equip the next generation of Hill policy staff with the very latest knowledge.

NOW HEAR THIS

Need to Know is a new podcast produced by the Wilson Center’s Office of Congressional Relations. Each episode taps in-the-know experts for a non-partisan guide to global hotspots, players, and topics, including U.S.-Russia relations, the Hong Kong protests, and the technology behind “deepfakes.”

1ST STAFF DELEGATION TO RUSSIA IN 10 YEARS

The delegation met with U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman Jr. at his residence in Moscow, the historic Spaso House. In Stockholm, staffers took time for a cultural experience and enjoyed ice sculpture carving.

Have you listened to our podcast?

The Office of Congressional Relations took a group of congressional staff on a study trip to Stockholm, Sweden, and Moscow, Russia, to explore U.S. relationships with both nations.
Global Action Across Programs

The Asia Program engaged with top leaders in the U.S. and across the region at 230 public and private events across four continents, and registered over 1,000 media appearances, offering essential insights into Indo-Pacific geopolitics and U.S. strategy in the region.

In a polarized political environment, the Brazil Institute created space for constructive dialogue between the Brazilian government, the private sector, and civil society, while strengthening its focus on sustainable development by hosting Brazil’s Vice President, Minister of Mines and Energy, Minister of the Environment, and Minister of Agriculture.

The Canada Institute has expanded the dialogue on U.S.-Canada-China relations in security, trade, rule of law, and natural resources through research initiatives and collaboration with experts, and will enlarge its focus to examine cross-border energy flows and affected communities.

In an era of intensifying risks, the Environmental Change & Security Program is leading efforts to unpack the complex relationship between environment, health, and security, and identify solutions to mitigate risk and build peace. To improve predictive capabilities for security risks posed by climate change in the Pacific region, ECSP convened experts from across USG, the private sector, and local leaders, like former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong.
The History and Public Policy Program's award-winning research tool Digital Archive brought new collections on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Chinese foreign policy, and NATO to users who have recorded over 1.2 million page views in the past 12 months.

At a moment when U.S. political sensitivities and conflict between Russia and its neighbors offer risks of escalation, Kennan Institute experts have supported reasoned, nonpartisan policy debates at events such as the first annual George F. Kennan Conference on U.S.-Russia Relations, and in briefings for government officials and the press.

Venezuela’s spiraling political crisis and economic collapse was a key focus for the Latin American Program (LAP), which added two Venezuelan fellows, hosted events, and briefed congressional offices, media outlets, and other stakeholders on the dimensions of that nation’s turmoil.
The Maternal Health Initiative’s CODE BLUE series investigated the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on women’s lives, using events, articles, and a final report aimed at increasing and improving education, diagnoses, and treatment.

The Polar Institute’s Greenland Dialogues is a multipronged, multiyear initiative in collaboration with the Greenland Representation in Washington DC, to inform and amplify Greenland’s aspirations toward independence, advanced research collaboration and other topics as the territory enters the global stage.

Members of Congress, as well as government officials, civil society advocates, and businesses in both countries, found unique value in the Mexico Institute’s critical insights and facilitation of economic and security cooperation across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Congressional staffers participating in the Science and Technology Innovation Program’s Artificial Intelligence seminar series drafted a congressional privacy bill using machine learning for the first time ever, using an OpenAI CPT2 text generator that predicts text and mimics natural language.
# External Relations and Outreach

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<td>Events and meetings</td>
<td>1,794</td>
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<td>Books and briefs designed and published</td>
<td>100+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational outreach visitors</td>
<td>1,700+</td>
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- **Facebook minutes viewed**: 58.8%
- **YouTube video minutes watched**: 28%
- **Instagram followers**: 31%
- **LinkedIn followers**: 15.5%
Partnerships

Craig Mazin, writer, creator, and executive producer of the award-winning HBO miniseries “Chernobyl,” described his creative process after a private screening of the first episode at the Wilson Center.

The Wilson Center, in partnership with The Fulbright Program and Dartmouth College, hosted the 2018-19 class of Fulbright Arctic Scholars. The partnership included a wide-spread social media campaign, reaching across all platforms at the Wilson Center, The Fulbright Program, and the State Department.

CNN anchor Kate Bolduan moderated a discussion on the burgeoning disinformation landscape.
Informing the Public

Most visible week ever

During one week in 2019, the Vice President’s speech on China at The Inaugural Fred Malek Leadership Lecture and the Argentina Project’s analysis of the Argentinian Presidential elections combined to produce the Center’s highest ever number of media mentions.
For the Second Year in a Row...

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars was named the number one regional studies think tank in the world. In addition, the Center was rated number one for institutional collaboration. The results are according to the 2018 University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index Rankings.

We know the need for nonpartisan scholarship and policy ideas is urgent and we are totally committed to our mission.

“It is so gratifying to see hard-won recognition by our peers.”

- Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO
Financial Summary
Fiscal year ending September 30, 2018

The Wilson Center’s funding matrix underwriting operations includes the direct federal appropriation; donor contributions; grants and contracts from private and governmental entities; and investment income. These resources fund mission-related activities including policy research, constructive debate, and dissemination of actionable ideas to key stakeholders and audiences, including policymakers and the general public.

The Wilson Center’s most valuable asset is its human capital. Staff professionals and fellows, both residential and non-residential, combine to offer expertise and insights that have lasting effect. This leads directly to the overall institutional performance. Financial results from operations remain strong, continuing a legacy of sound stewardship and the leadership’s commitment to excellent resource management.

Audited financial statements for the prior fiscal year are completed on or after March 31st each year. The Wilson Center’s audited financial statements are available at https://www.wilsoncenter.org/990-forms-budgets.
The Wilson Center, chartered by Congress as the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson, is the nation’s key non-partisan policy forum. Tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue, the Center informs actionable ideas for Congress, the Administration, and the international policy community.