



Socially  
Responsible  
Leadership

*A Business and Cultural Exchange*



2015

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

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**PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

**Christina Bruning**, AC Founder / Managing Director; Seattle WA USA;  
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**KEY DATES**

	<b>Women Deliver (WD)</b>	<b>Global Summit (GSW)</b>
<b>Application deadline</b>	Thursday, 2/18/16	
<b>Skype conversation (6pm - 9pm Eastern Europe Time Zone; 8am - 11am Washington State)</b>	Sunday, 2/21/16	Tuesday, 2/23/16
<b>Selection process complete</b>	Saturday, 2/27/16	
<b>Delegate SKYPE Call (7pm - 8:30pm EE Time Zone)</b>	Monday, 3/7/16	
<b>Confirmation of travel itinerary</b>	Saturday, 3/26/16	Saturday, 4/9/16
<b>WD &amp; GSW *travel dates may vary</b>	May 16 - 19th	June 9 - 11th

**REQUIREMENTS AND SPONSORSHIP**

The AC Women's Empowerment program sponsored by the Kazickas Family Foundation is seeking delegates to represent Lithuania. Participants may include government leaders, CEO's, business leaders, NGO representatives, entrepreneurs, students, educators, and journalists. Written and oral fluency in English is required, delegates must display leadership characteristics, and be capable of adapting to different cultures and situations.

Only complete applications in English will be considered. Participants will be asked to sign a liability / media release.

	<b>Women Deliver May 16 - 19</b>	<b>Global Summit June 9 - 11</b>
<b>Conference Organizers Provide</b>	The focus of the conference will be on how to implement Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to girls and women, with a specific focus on health, in particular maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights, and the interconnections with gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inspirational role models from every continent among an impressive roster of over 80 presenters;</li> <li>▪ Ample networking opportunities at breakfasts, lunches, and receptions throughout the event.</li> <li>▪ Information on doing business with Poland and Eastern Europe;</li> <li>▪ Insight into women driving business growth as consumers and business leaders;</li> <li>▪ Numerous sessions to help 'grow' your leadership skills, your business, and your network... and more!</li> </ul>
<b>Registration Fee</b>	four-day conference, program materials, simultaneous interpretation, and meals included in the WD conference May 16 - 19th.	three-day conference, program materials, simultaneous interpretation, transportation from the conference to any outside venue for Summit activities, and meals during the Summit from evening of June 9th to closing on June 11th.
<b>Lodging</b>	Lodging for up to 5 nights, double occupancy provided based on arrival date and full participation. Lodging location may not be at the site of the Conference.	Lodging for up to 4 nights, double occupancy provided based on arrival date and full participation. Lodging location may not be at the site of the Summit.
<b>AC Programming</b>	In addition to 'conference organizer' programming, participants should anticipate gathering as a group when time is not allotted. This may include day and evening times providing the team an opportunity to network and explore the local community. Activities may also be in Lithuania.	
<b>Participant Responsibility</b>	Travel to and from WD and GSW, ground transportation, and personal expenses. Professional Attire. Sign a Media / Liability Release. Narrative Reports with learnings, impact, impressions, multiple agent activities, and outcomes. Participate in AC Activities in Lithuania. Membership in Business & Professional Women Lithuania 60 Euro's payable to BPW Vilnius-Lithuania Association, code 304141955, bank account LT687400051687923810	



## ABOUT AC

Socially responsible leadership is paramount to understand the challenges, instigate fresh thinking, and effect change in the 21st century world. AC, formerly Across Cultures, is a catalyst for individuals that strive for this new paradigm through international experience involving communities in citizen diplomacy. AC custom-designs international business and cultural exchange programs for professional, cultural, and non-profit organizations that understand the need to broaden their global perspective for a sustainable future.

AC involves, educates and inspires individuals to be socially responsible leaders with a global perspective.

AC depends on the continued generosity of community members and organizations in Lithuania and the USA. Since 2004, programs have been sponsored in part by The Kazickas Family Foundation, Microsoft Lithuania, and the U.S. Department of State.

This unique, U.S. Embassy-endorsed program focuses on cultivating partnerships to support leaders and increase economic equity for a socially responsible, sustainable future. What makes the experience unique is the focus on education and leadership by example. Programs have been implemented for women, youth, industry experts, and government officials. AC introduces participants to various training, philosophies, trends, and practices that promote socially responsible leadership. In-turn, the delegates share their experience with associates and organizations in their local communities. AC has taken "think globally – act locally" to the next level.

### Delegates:

- are multiplying agents sharing their knowledge and engaging others via outreach programs in their local communities throughout Lithuania - Vilnius, Kaunas, Siauliai, Prienai, Telšiai, Klaipeda, Anykščiai, Kernave, and Trakai.
- have served as Ambassadors showcasing Lithuania globally - USA - Washington D.C., Washington State, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland, Egypt, Turkey, France, and Brazil.

## ABOUT BPW VILNIUS-LITHUANIA ASSOCIATION

**CONTACT INGA NAUSEDIENE FOR MORE INFO:** [nausediene.inga@gmail.com](mailto:nausediene.inga@gmail.com); +370 68714055;

Christina's Baltic journey began in 2003 with the Center for Women & Democracy collaborating with BPW Sweden and Estonia and further collaboration with BPW Estonia/ Young BPW Estonia... fast forward, AC Alumni in Estonia and BPW Estonia have supported many programs for Lithuanian Youth and now the creation of BPW Lithuania. In 2014, AC Delegates from Lithuania participated in the 24th Annual Global Summit of Women in Paris and were inspired to create BPW Lithuania as a resource to Women Leaders in Lithuania in various disciplines and at all levels of their careers. The first club will be in Vilnius with additional clubs to come throughout Lithuania.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) was founded by Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips in 1930 in Geneva. During the last 8 decades BPW International has become one of the most influential international NGOs of business and professional women with affiliates in 96 Countries in five continents. BPW has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and participatory status with the Council of Europe. Its members include influential women leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, executives, professionals and young career women through all industries.

BPW aims to make an impact for Women in the workplace, by advocating towards governments and corporations, and by revealing Women' potential. Whether a woman is an employee, a business owner, a manager or a corporate executive, investment in building her competencies and leadership potential enables her to make a difference to her community, to her country and to women around the world.

2015-2017 motto : **"Leaders of the Future – Be BPW now"**



## **FEATURED PROGRAMS**

Leadership programs focus on human rights, access to information, economic equity, and cultural experience – highlights include English language immersion, citizen diplomacy, and the environment. AC introduces participants to various training, philosophies, trends, and practices that promote socially responsible leadership.

### **Women's Empowerment**

- Across Cultures - A Business and Cultural Exchange 2004 (USA), 2005 (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), 2006 (Egypt)
- Women's Leadership Seminar Vilnius, Lithuania 2005
- Global Summit of Women participants - an international women's conference 2006 (Egypt), 2011(Turkey), 2014 (France), 2015 (Brazil)
- Women in Politics

### **Youth Leadership Development**

- Lithuania USA School Partnership - Prienų „Žiburio“ gimnazija 2014 - present
- Lithuanian Youth Leaders (LYL) 2007 - 2011
- Baltic Youth Summer Institute: Tolerance and Integration 2009
- ASLFL international youth conference 2011
- Lithuania Regional Youth Workshops 2008 - 2012
  - Siauliai High School Outreach Day 2008
  - Child Internet Safety in collaboration with Microsoft Lithuania 2008
  - Leadership Day of Learning January 2009, April 2009
  - Leadership Challenge in collaboration with Elon University 2010
  - Prienai High School Outreach Day 2011
  - Tips for Success in collaboration with Andrea Koehler 2011
  - DigiTips for Success in collaboration with Microsoft Lithuania 2011
  - Outreach Program with LYL and ASSIST students Anykščiai 2011
  - Honoring the Lithuanian Youth Leaders! Capstone Projects 2009, 2012
  - Human Rights Seminar - Belarus & Bagels in collaboration with Andrew Miksys 2011
  - Human Rights Seminar - Dainos For Diversity in collaboration with Emily Saras 2011
- Lithuanian based volunteerism: Save the Children, American Chamber of Commerce 2008-2012

### **Global Health & Medicine - Women's Health & Oncology**

- Lithuanian Youth Leaders 2009
- Baltic Youth Summer Institute Medical Field Career Exploration 2010
- Medical Student Volunteerism Event Kaunas 2011
- Prienai High School Outreach Day 2011
- International Breast Cancer Conference in collaboration with Nedelsk 2011
- Medicine - Policy, Science & Technology in collaboration with Seattle Cancer Care Alliance 2012

### **Special Interest**

- Innovation: Policy, Science & Technology 2006 (entrepreneurship education and technology transfer)
- University of Washington Ph.D. Student in the Baltics
- ASSIST Student Cultural Immersion in Washington State 2011
- A Family Heritage Experience Lithuania 2011
- NGO Development



## TESTIMONIALS

"The atmosphere of the trip gave us freedom to be open and explore. The AC experience was truly life-altering, it provided opportunities for us that most women will never have in a lifetime and each of us who made the journey returned different from when we left home. The AC journey renewed my commitment to use all my talents and abilities and be more open to share what I have. We are each capable of so much, and if we are not living our full potential, realizing our gifts, we have work to do!" *USA Women's Program*

"Across Cultures addresses the most crucial concerns of U.S. foreign policy today, including the fight against Trafficking in Persons, reducing the spread of HIV/Aids, trade relations, and women's rights around the world. Your commitment to building lasting relationships between successful Estonian businesswomen and businesswomen in Seattle is commendable." *U.S. Embassy Estonia*

"Across Cultures exemplifies the type of citizen exchanges that build lasting relationships and understanding between Americans and our Lithuanian friends. Your choice of key topics reads like a list of top foreign policy goals: combating trafficking in persons, reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, women's rights and trade relations." *U.S. Embassy Lithuania*

"The schedule of events you have arranged for the Baltic businesswomen is impressive. The mentorship program and meetings with business leaders in the Seattle area will help enhance the potential of these women and teach them new skills and strategies. The seminar on human rights is of great importance as we deal with the special challenges facing women all over the world today." *Kazickas Family Foundation*

"LYL's are some of the most impressive young people I have ever met, not just in Lithuania, but in all my service. The intellect you have at this age, and the drive you have to learn more, and the ambition to succeed, and the desire to do more for your country and your society is just so impressive. I am blown away each time I meet one of you. It is important to recognize Christina...What you have done is nothing short of amazing. These young people look up to you. You have inspired them to do these wonderful things. For that I thank you." *U.S. Embassy Lithuania*

"As a developer of leading software and Internet technologies and services, Microsoft takes seriously its responsibility to help address the security and privacy challenges of the information-based society, from viruses and spyware to spam and online identity theft. We understand the responsibility and concern of parents who worry about their children's exposure to inappropriate content and potentially dangerous interactions on the Web. The launch of Microsoft Lithuania employee volunteering together with Lithuanian Youth Leaders on Child Safety Online was a great success! This collaboration between Microsoft professionals and future entrepreneurs have benefited up to 1000 schoolchildren of 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. We truly believe that we've learned a lot from Youth Leaders and hope they likewise." *Microsoft Lithuania*



## LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHY



**Christina Bruning**, a vibrant social entrepreneur, is one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century recognized by Women's eNews for stretching her reach across cultures. With 25 years of leadership in operations, IT, and project management, Christina is a dynamic business and civic leader. She is an expert in citizen diplomacy and socially innovative education programs. Christina has managed culturally diverse relationships with government, fortune 500 companies, emerging businesses, private foundations, non-profits, and educational institutions in more than 20 countries.

Ms Bruning has served the community as the Global Networking Chair for the Center for Women & Democracy (CWD), a board member of Women's eNews, the Washington State coordinator for the Partners of Americas Youth Ambassador Program, President of Women's Business Exchange, and leadership council member for the Northwest Girls Coalition. She builds a strong sense of community through civic engagement, is a recipient of the Kiwanis Everyday Hero award and the City of Vilnius Lithuania Mayoral Award. As a citizen advocate, Christina initiated social programs for families in need, strategically led a group of residents to positively affect city policy, and oversaw the reconstruction of fourteen homes devastated by flooding.

Christina conveys a broad based international perspective locally, nationally, and globally. She is the founder of AC, a business and cultural exchange with a focus on human rights, access to information, economic equity, and cultural experience, enhancing the leadership potential of enterprising youth, non-profit and government leaders, executives, and entrepreneurs. Christina participated in the CWD Women's Mission to Sweden and the Baltic States, South Africa, and led the development of the Mission to Chile. Bruning participated in the U.S. Business Investment and Trade Mission to the Baltic States, led a multi-national delegation to Egypt, Turkey, and France for the Global Summit of Women, spearheaded Innovation: Policy, Science and Technology a study trip focusing on entrepreneurship education and technology transfer in the U.S. for Lithuanian ministry officials and industry leaders, and is leading the Lithuanian Youth Leaders program. Christina collaborated with the Kazickas Family Foundation, Internews Network, and the International Women's Media Foundation on a Leadership Institute for journalists from the former Soviet Republics. As a catalyst for the 5th Biennial Eastern Europe/Central Asia Breast Cancer Education, Outreach and Advocacy Summit, Christina partnered with Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Nedelsk - Do Not Delay and included a multi-day Oncology Exchange; subsequently developed Medicine: Policy, Science & Technology program featuring Women's Health and Oncology for Lithuanian medical students. She has facilitated international trainings for State Department program alumni in the far east of Russia, was a speaker at Women of the World in St. Lucia, and is a requested speaker for local and international events. Christina is a professional host for the Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation, Issaquah Sister Cities Morocco, and Seattle World Affairs Council.

Ms Bruning worked for Nordstrom and Weyerhaeuser in an IT leadership capacity and as the Manager of Project Management for the US Library Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Christina led a team to achieve the Foundation's US Library Program objectives, a five-year, \$250 million investment in public libraries throughout the United States, providing approximately 47,000 computers in 11,000 buildings, 62,000 training opportunities, internet connections, and support to increase access to digital information and software tools for underserved populations.

She enjoys traveling, exploring the outdoors, hiking, and cycling.