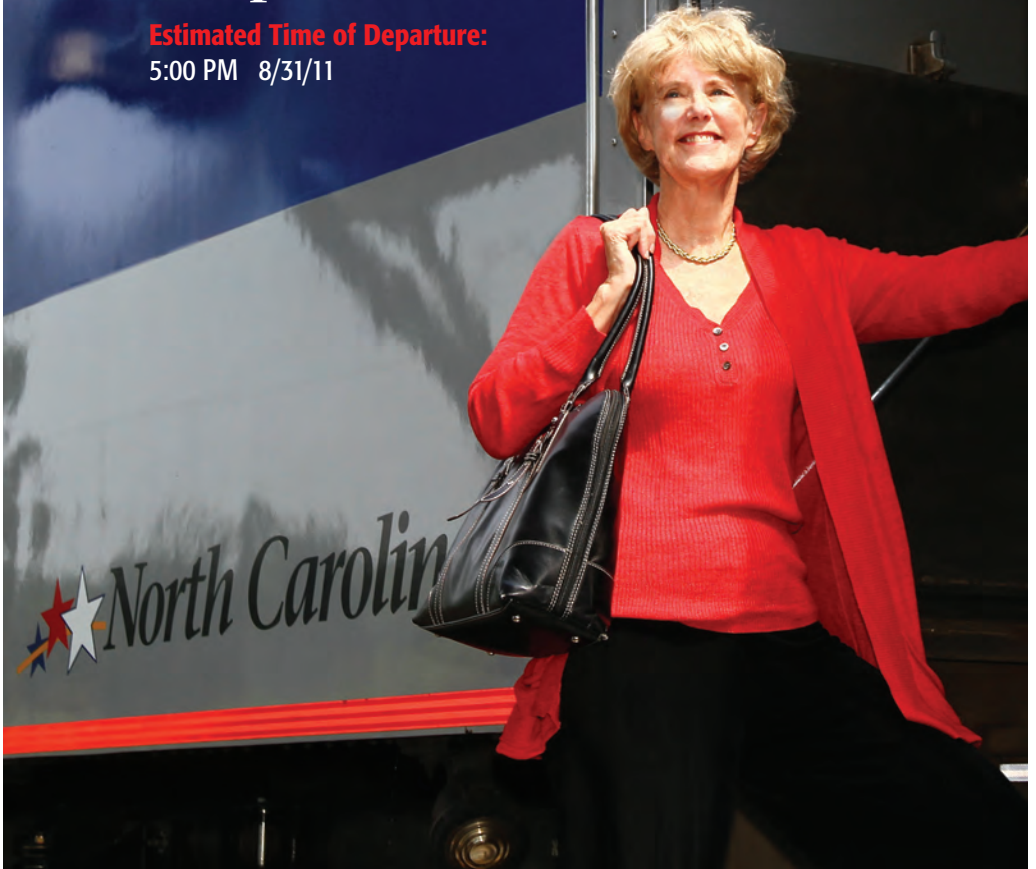


Millie's Departure

Estimated Time of Departure:

5:00 PM 8/31/11



ver this past year, I have often wondered what it would feel like to send my final message as Executive Director. I do so with mixed emotions.

Introduction

On August 31st, I will step down as Executive Director of the Center for International Understanding, a position that I have had the great privilege to hold for 32 years.

As I prepare for new personal adventures, I leave secure in the knowledge that we have built a strong and vital organization that is in the best possible position to continue its mission to prepare global leaders for North Carolina.

I wanted to take this opportunity to invite you along for a brief look back at the last three amazing decades. More

than 8,000 of you have traveled with the Center to 48 different countries, and each of you has been an important part of our organization's journey. Each of you knows your own experience, but perhaps not the entirety of what the Center does now. With this brief review, I hope you will see that your experience has helped shape the unique brand of global education that is the Center for International Understanding today.



DECADE 1: Citizens

Our organization set out to demystify other nations and cultures through people-to-people diplomacy.

We were affiliated with two international organizations — The Friendship Force and Youth for Understanding — and relied on a network of volunteer leaders in communities across North Carolina. We literally took planeloads of people to live for a week in the homes of others in England, the Netherlands, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Egypt, and many other countries. Those planes would drop off our North Carolina delegations, turn around and load up for the return flight with 250 people from that country, bound for New Bern, Asheville, or Guilford County. Our first journey, a week in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, cost \$250 per person. Can you imagine?

That maiden flight was a big deal. First Lady Rosalyn Carter and North Carolina's First Lady Carolyn Hunt were there. I will



U.S. First Lady Rosalyn Carter congratulates 250 North Carolinians who were part of the Center's first citizen exchange to Newcastle, England, in 1979. N.C. First Lady Carolyn Hunt, left, and Center Executive Director Millie Ravenel, right, look on.

never forget the excitement of being on the tarmac for that first send-off in 1979.

In the first decade of our existence, North Carolina executed more of these citizen exchanges than any other state in the nation. Governor and Mrs. Hunt, as well as Governor and Mrs. Martin, welcomed easily more than 1,000 international visitors through the front door of the North Carolina Governor's Mansion.

DECADE 2: Teachers

Our first decade taught us just how powerful it is to connect North Carolinians to other regions and cultures of the world.

In our second decade, we transformed our citizen work into professional development for teachers. We increased our impact beyond the individuals who traveled with us into the schools. Our global teachers — more than 700 of them have been to 12 different countries — became the change-agents who could bring the world into their North Carolina classrooms and help introduce school systems to the idea of globalization.

The goal of the Center's work with teachers is ultimately to help instill global competence and awareness in their students, North Carolina's future leaders. There is a tremendous ripple effect from taking teachers to places like Hungary, Denmark, Ghana, and China. They bring back what they learned to their students and can spark a lifelong curiosity about the 90% of the world that lives beyond the borders of the United States.

We are indebted to so many generous sponsors who have given scholarships so that their local teachers could participate in our global immersion programs. Several of our longest-serving funders are North Carolina



“For the first time in my teaching career, the project I developed this year from my trip to Ghana has helped many students I teach really think about exactly how brutal the system of slavery was.”

— Chris Monte, social studies teacher,
J.F. Webb High School in Oxford, N.C.

families, including the Dan Royster family in Raleigh, the Beattie family in Asheville, and the James G.K. McClure family in western North Carolina. Literally hundreds of teachers — as well as their students and broader school communities — have been the beneficiaries, and we are so grateful for our donors' continuing support.

DECADE 3: Leaders

In our third decade, we expanded our focus to include North Carolina's current leaders. We help them gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to make informed decisions on international issues impacting their home communities and our state.

North Carolina is bigger than it used to be, and we need to be prepared to play a role on the global stage.

Our towns and counties are all impacted by globalization: jobs move abroad; foreign firms invest in North Carolina; North Carolina products are exported all over the world; people from many countries call North Carolina home; and we compete for

jobs with people from all over the globe.

We are proud of the imaginative leadership our Global Leaders programs inspire. We connect North Carolina to international best practices in education, economic development and energy policy with a goal of positioning our state to be one of the most globally engaged states in the nation.

Through our Latino Initiative, North Carolinians learn about the push-pull pressures of immigration and develop practical strategies for integrating Latino immigrants into the fabric of their communities.

Our organization is devoted to helping North Carolinians lead our state through the host of challenges and opportunities presented by globalization. We have built what we like to call



The Center for International Understanding is working with business, education and policy leaders to help make North Carolina one of the most globally engaged states in the nation.

“a network of statesmen” throughout our state. They are in North Carolina hospitals, squad cars, churches, hospitals, universities, newsrooms, businesses, the General Assembly, and around the table at county commissioner meetings.

I cannot tell you how much it means to me to hear your stories of what the Center for International Understanding has meant to you professionally and personally. We know only a tiny fraction of the impact that our programs are having in classrooms and communities across North Carolina.

We want to know more!

My Call to Action is to invite each of you to send me your story.

- How has your participation with us shaped the way you do your job?
- What changed as a result of your work with the Center for International Understanding?
- How has this impacted your colleagues, your students, your clients, your constituents?

There could be a no more important gift to help sustain the Center than to share your story validating the far-reaching impact of our work.

Please send your story my way:

You can mail your story directly to the Center at the address below:

**Center for International Understanding
100 East Six Forks Rd., Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27609**

Or feel free to email your response directly to me at:

millieravenel.ciu@gmail.com

Thank you!

The Future

There is so much exciting global work ahead for the Center for International Understanding!

Here is just a taste of what is in the pipeline:

- We have welcomed our second cohort of Chinese guest teachers to our network of Confucius Classrooms from Swain County in the west to Onslow County in the east. We expect some 3,000 K-12 students to be studying Chinese language in the coming months, thanks to this innovative program now in 25 North Carolina schools. And this will grow to 45 schools in the next few years.
- How global is North Carolina? In the coming months the Center, in partnership with SAS, will unveil a Global Indicators Map



demonstrating, county-by-county, what makes us global. The map will present data about international exports, languages spoken, nationalities represented, jobs created by foreign companies, numbers of international college students, and other global indicators. This will be the first time that this type of data has been compiled and sorted by county. I think some of the information will surprise you.

Welcome Cindy DeFoor

The Center for International Understanding will continue to be North Carolina's leader in identifying significant international policy issues and helping to position North Carolina to make the most of global opportunities.

Cindy DeFoor, our Associate Director and Director of Development, has been named Interim Executive Director, and I am so pleased and confident. Cindy has been my right-hand manager for more than 10 years, and she has the vision, the drive, the talent, the experience and the diplomatic skills that the Center needs. I am so grateful for Cindy's leadership and know that you will welcome her as the new leader of the Center for International Understanding.

This is the perfect time for me to transition to some of the adventures I have long dreamed about. My first stop is my

favorite city in the world, Paris! I will be living there long enough to visit all the small museums and walk the neighborhoods that I have longed to know. And then it's on to the wonderful country of Mexico, where I will travel to both familiar towns and regions I've yet to explore. When I am not journeying around the globe, I plan to spend more time with my children and grandchildren.

The Center for International Understanding is in great hands with a strong board and talented staff committed to positioning North Carolina to be one of the most globally engaged states in the nation. I want to thank each of you for continuing to support the Center's ongoing global work in classrooms and communities across North Carolina. I look forward to joining you as a member of the Center for International Understanding alumni network!



Millie Ravenel, Executive Director



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University of North Carolina

100 East Six Forks Road,
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Thank you, Millie Ravenel North Carolina's Ambassador to the World

Like so many of you, I have known and admired Millie Ravenel for a very long time.

This is a bittersweet moment in the life of the Center for International Understanding! It is sad to say farewell to our founding Executive Director, whose vision and drive have built a fine track record of engaging with the world. At the same time, it is incredibly gratifying for Millie and the rest of us that her 30 years of creative and gracious leadership leave behind a solid organization whose board and staff are committed to continuing Millie's legacy of innovative, forward-thinking global education. North Carolina needs the Center for International Understanding, now more than ever.

There is no way to adequately thank her for all that she has done to introduce the many facets of globalization to so many North Carolina classrooms and communities.

We will host a gala celebration of Millie next winter, and you will be hearing more about that in the months to come. But, for now, we offer our sincere gratitude and admiration for all that she has done throughout her career. Millie Ravenel has truly been North Carolina's ambassador to the world!

Sincerely,
*Tom McGuire, Chair
Center for International
Understanding Council*

Private funds paid for the development and distribution of this mailing.