



OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER

For Immediate Release

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Visitors from Republic of Georgia in the Coulee Region

Civil Service Leaders to Share Experience

Through Open World Program

(La Crosse, WI) . An [Open World](#) delegation from Republic of Georgia arrives in La Crosse on Friday, September 19th for a week long program to promote mutual understanding between Georgian Civil Service managers and their U.S. counterparts. Hosted by World Services of La Crosse, the delegates will explore best practices, standards, and ethics in civil service administration as the country works to transform civil service practice in a democratic society.

The public is invited to attend a forum co-hosted with the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University on Monday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm in the D.B. Reinhart Center Boardroom. The Georgian delegation will share information about the Republic of Georgia; its progress in strengthening local government; and efforts to transform its civil service system.

The Open World program builds the groundwork for enduring cooperation by bringing emerging Eurasian government and civic leaders to the United States to work with their American counterparts.

The Republic of Georgia delegation includes:

Cathrine Kardava	Head, Civil Service Bureau, Republic of Georgia
Nino Machaidze	Head of Human Resources, Chancellery of the Government of Georgia
George Toklikishvili	Director, Manu Khukhunaishvili Center for Effective Governance+
Nino Nanikashvili	Head of Human Resources, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
Paata Turava	Professor of Administrative Law, Law School of Tbilisi State University

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The delegation is joined by an English language escort, Lana Chkhartishvili, Legal Education Coordinator for the East West Management Institute.

During the weeklong professional exchange, the delegation will meet with public administration faculty from UWL and Viterbo University. City and county officials in Sparta and La Crosse County will share information about civil service administration and local government management. Delegates will also travel to Madison and meet with officials in the Office of State Employee Relations and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Through homestays, the Georgian visitors and their American hosts gain a better understanding of culture and way of life in a foreign land. Volunteers in La Crosse and Sparta will open their homes and demonstrate the generous hospitality of the Coulee Region. The annual Oktoberfest Torchlight parade will cap off the week of exploring the cultural attractions of the area.

Since its founding by Congress in 1999, the Open World program has enabled over 20,000 current and future Eurasian leaders to experience American democracy, civil society and community life; work with their American counterparts; stay in American homes; and gain new ideas and inspiration for implementing change back home. More than 7,100 American host families and their communities in all 50 states have partnered with Congress and the Open World Leadership Center to make this ambitious public diplomacy effort possible. The Open World program currently operates exchanges for political and civic leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

For more information about the Open World delegation's visit to the Coulee Region contact Deborah Lutjen Ph: 608-797-2247 or World Services of La Crosse Ph: 608-781-4194. For more information about Open World, please contact Maura Shelden, Open World Leadership Center: Ph: 202-707-6197

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