



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **UKRAINIAN LEADERS EXAMINE THE ROLE OF STATE LEGISLATURE IN MODESTO, CA**

**Modesto, CA** — Five Ukrainian leaders participating in the Open World program will spend February 1 – February 9, 2013, in Modesto and Sacramento examining the role of State Legislature. Modesto Sister Cities International will host the delegation. Managed by the Open World Leadership Center, a support agency of the United States Congress, the Open World program is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system. The Open World program works to link Members of Congress to Eurasian leaders and is an instrument for Americans engaged in citizen diplomacy.

While in California, the delegates will meet with local and state representatives to discuss important transnational issues and will examine the role that legislative bodies play in handling them.

The visiting delegates are Oleksandr Vasylovych Havrylyuk, CEO, Regional foundation; Serhiy Anatoliyovych Kashchuk, Consultant; Arsen Vasylovych Sidash, Center for Innovations & Up-To-Date Solutions, NGO; Leonid Oleksiyovych Bystyuta, Deputy Mayor, Ternopil City Council. Kateryna Oleksiyivna Tyminska from Kyiv accompanies them as a facilitator.

In Modesto, the Open World delegation schedule includes meeting with Stanislaus County Officials to discuss the role of County Government in California, William Broderick to discuss Municipal Government, and Assembly Committee members in Sacramento to discuss the role of State Legislature along with taking a tour of the State Capitol.

[Quote(s) from VIP on schedule and/or host organization, if desired.]

Homestays will allow the Open World delegates to experience American family life. They will also take part in several cultural and community activities, including touring the Gallo Center for the Arts and a full day exploring San Francisco.

The Open World Leadership Center has awarded a grant to U.S. - Ukraine Foundation to administer this and similar exchanges in 2012.

Since its founding by Congress in 1999, the Open World program has enabled some 18,000 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, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

For more information, please contact Adrian Harrell, Modesto Sister Cities International President, at 209-668-6700 or Maura Shelden, Open World Public Affairs Officer, at 202-707-6197. For more information on the Open World program, please visit <http://www.openworld.gov>.

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