PRESS RELEASE
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MAYOR BALLARD WELCOMES CONSULAR CORPS OF INDIANAPOLIS AT LOCAL RECEPTION

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Greg Ballard hosted the Consular Corps of Indianapolis and dignitaries from 13 countries at a reception at Marian College Tuesday evening. The reception illustrated the ongoing relationships between Indianapolis and the Consulars’ respective countries as well as shows how Indianapolis is gaining a greater international presence throughout the world.

“Failure to look beyond our borders for economic development opportunities will create a genuine risk to the standard of living of central Indiana residents for generations to come,” said Mayor Ballard. “Becoming an international city is something Indianapolis has already achieved: 52 languages are currently spoken in IPS schools each day. However, there is a universal language that Indianapolis must begin using more fluently around the world: the language of opportunity.”

Among those Consuls represented at the Mayor’s reception were the Consul of Mexico; Honorary Consul of Denmark; Honorary Consul of Germany; Honorary Consul General of Japan; Honorary Consul of Luxembourg; Honorary Consul of Romania; Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic; Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom; Honorary Vice Consul of Italy; Consul General of South Africa in Chicago. Several other local business and community leaders throughout Indianapolis were also on hand.

“Our strategy is to partner with Consuls and Honorary Consuls as well as local business leaders to cultivate a better understanding of the business and cultural environment in each potential sister city,” said Carolin Requiz Smith, Director of International and Cultural Affairs for the City of Indianapolis. “We will use this understanding to create opportunities for collaboration and give Indianapolis a true international presence.”

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