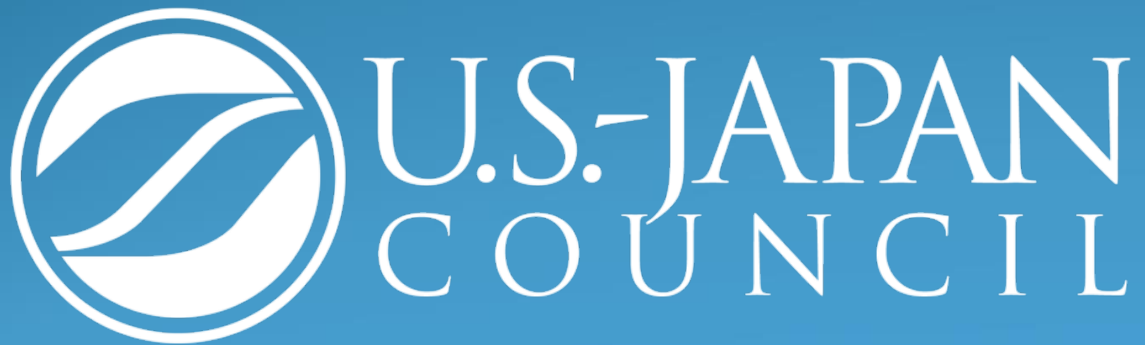


**People-to-People:
How Making Connections Brings
People to Japan and Transforms Lives**



Laura Winthrop Abbot
Executive Vice President & COO
March 21, 2019

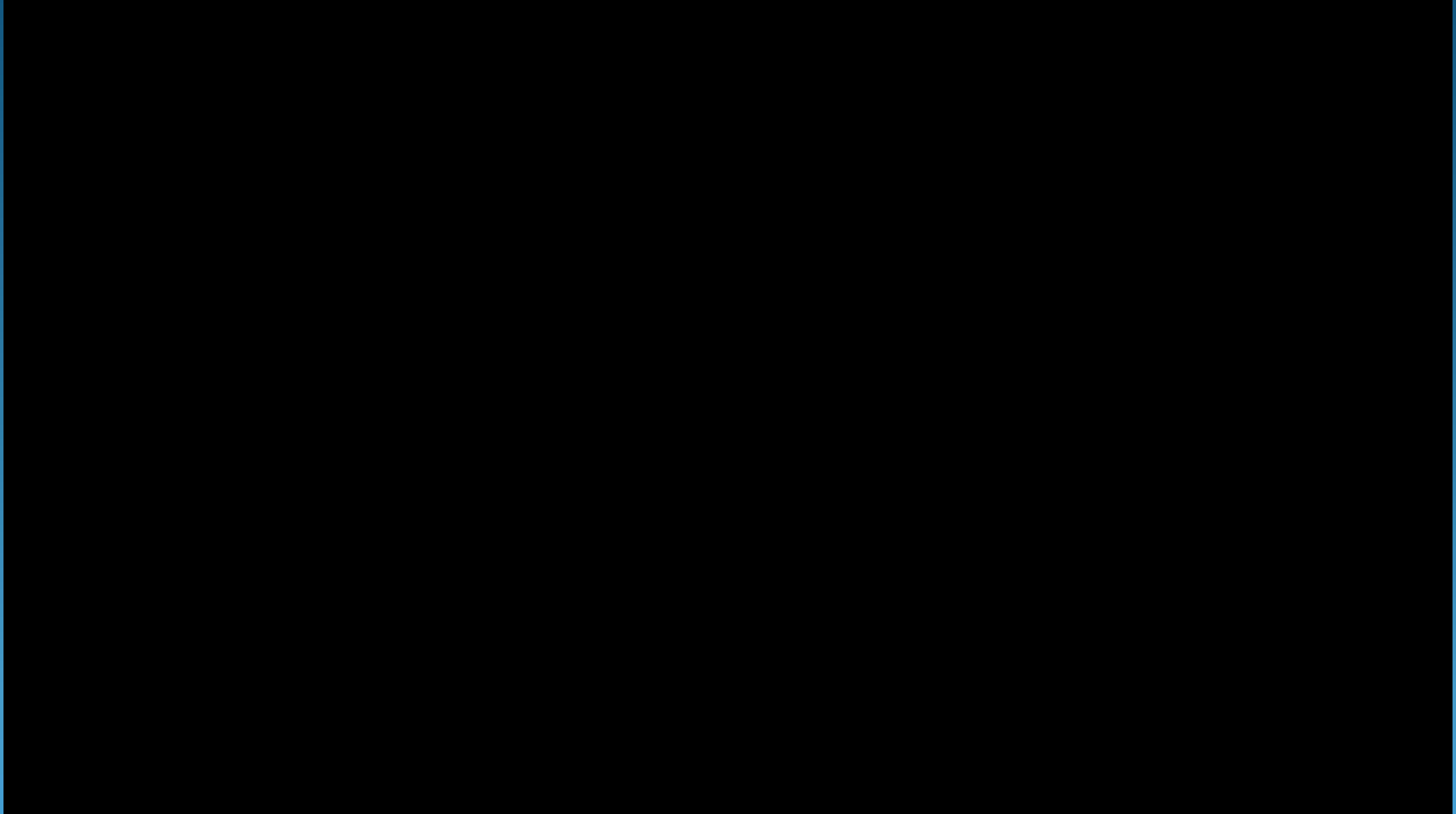
WWW.USJAPANCOUNCIL.ORG

Introduction: About the U.S.-Japan Council



- USJC *develops and connects* diverse leaders to create a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship
- USJC *brings together leaders* of the United States and Japan from across backgrounds, sectors, and generations *to partner for a better future* for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond
- USJC invests in the *next generation* of leaders from the United States and Japan

About the TOMODACHI Initiative



Investing in the Next Generation: The TOMODACHI Initiative



Vision

To create a “TOMODACHI Generation” that is committed to the future of U.S.-Japan relations, and possesses the skills to thrive in a more cooperative, secure, and prosperous world.



Mission

TOMODACHI invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs.

To date, 7,800 participants since 2012

Study Abroad/Educational Programs

- **Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program** provides financial assistance to undergraduate & graduate students in either the U.S. or Japan for semester or year-abroad programs
- Supported 10 students in the 2016-17 school year; 21 students in the 2017-18 school year; and 39 students in the 2018-2019 school year.
- A generous endowment gift of \$10 million from Mr. Toshizo (Tom) Watanabe to USJC makes this scholarship possible



Cultural Heritage Tourism: Japanese American Leadership Delegation

- Program built on people-to-people relationships and cultural heritage tourism
- Established in 2000, 217 delegates have participated to date
- Many program alumni make return trips to Japan with their families
- Program cultivates a network of Japanese American leaders committed to furthering U.S.-Japan relations
- Japanese leaders learn about multi-cultural America by meeting a diverse group of Japanese Americans



Connecting Elected Leaders to Japan: Asian American Leadership Delegation

- Program provides opportunity for Asian American state-elected officials from across the U.S. to travel to Japan
- Established in 2014, 29 delegates have participated to date
- Program broadens the understanding of U.S.-Japan relations at the state legislative level
- Leaders meet with Japanese political and government leaders, business executives and nonprofit leaders to create networks that can mutually benefit the U.S.-Japan relationship



Convening leaders: The Annual Conference

- Brings together leaders for high-powered networking and education in the U.S. and Japan.
- ~750 attendees each year
- 2016 Conference: Silicon Valley
- 2017 Conference: Washington, DC
- 2018 Conference: Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 Conference:
Los Angeles, CA
Lowe's Hollywood Hotel
November 4-5, 2019



Promoting Prefecture/State Collaborations

- Introduces and facilitates networking and collaboration between U.S. states and Japanese prefectures
- **Governors' Circle:** Promotes bilateral economic collaboration between Japanese prefectures and regional areas in the U.S.
 - **May 9-11, 2017:** Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit brought several Japanese prefectural leaders and business executives to Hawaii
 - **May 7-9, 2018:** Japan-Texas Economic Summit brought together business leaders, investors, state and local officials, and economic development organizations from across the Lone Star State and Japan



For more information on our programs and initiatives, please visit:

www.usjapancouncil.org

or

@USJC

www.tomodachi.org

@TOMODACHI

