

NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 2025

National Security Education Board (NSEB) Members

Ms. Gina Kaye Abercrombie-Winstanley, Presidential Appointee

Mr. Jeffrey L. Bleich, Presidential Appointee

Ms. Rory M. Brosius, Presidential Appointee

Ms. Marianne Craven, U.S. Department of State

Mr. Karl Eikenberry, Presidential Appointee

Mr. Matthew Emrich, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Dr. Claudia Kinkela, National Endowment for the Humanities

Mr. Patrick Mendis, Presidential Appointee

Mr. Rafael Nevárez, U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Ruben Pedroza, U.S. Department of Commerce

Mr. M. Osman Siddique, Presidential Appointee

Ms. Cynthia Snyder, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

U.S. Department of Defense

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness (Chair, Vacant)

Dr. Sam Eisen, Designated Federal Officer, NSEB and Director, Defense Language and National Security Education Office

MS. GINA KAY ABERCROMBIE-WINSTANLEY

FORMER CHIEF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Gina Kay Abercrombie-Winstanley, a 30-year diplomat, is the former Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Department of State. Through her career, she has held a series of senior positions including Ambassador to the Republic of Malta from 2012 until 2016, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of U.S. Cyber Forces, and Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism where she grew counterterrorism partners and programs. Additionally, she coordinated the largest evacuation of American citizens from a war zone since WWII.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Abercrombie-Winstanley served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Oman. She began her formal work in teaching and leadership development as Chairwoman for Middle East Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute where U.S. diplomats are trained. Earlier in her career, she served in Baghdad, Jakarta, and Cairo before taking on the position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of State. She is a strong proponent of excellence through inclusion across organizations and strives to break down barriers to the full participation of women and minorities. She currently serves as President of the Middle East Policy Council, the organization's first woman and African American president.

Abercrombie-Winstanley, a Cleveland native, has degrees from George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University. She was a co-Founder of The Leadership Council for Women in National Security and an active board member for several organizations, including the International Career Advancement Program — ICAP committed to excellence in education and leadership development. In 2019, she was voted into the American Academy of Diplomacy.

MR. JEFFREY L. BLEICH

BOARD CHAIR, JEFF BLEICH CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY AND DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY



Jeffrey L. Bleich chairs the board of the Jeff Bleich Centre on Democracy and Disruptive Technologies at Flinders University. He previously served as a Special Master for the U.S. Courts, arbitrator, and as the Chair of the boards of PG&E Co. and Nuix, Ltd. He formerly served as Special Counsel to President Obama in the White House, and as the 24th U.S. Ambassador to Australia from 2009 to 2013.

After receiving his B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, Bleich earned an M.P.P. from Harvard with highest honors in 1986, and a J.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Law with highest honors in 1989. At Berkeley, he served as editor-in-chief of the California Law Review. He clerked for Judge Abner Mikva on the D.C. Circuit and Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on the U.S. Supreme Court, before clerking at the International Tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands.

Prior to joining the Obama-Biden Administration, Bleich was a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson for 17 years where he handled significant pro bono civil rights matters. He has also served as Chief Legal Officer at Cruise, and as a partner and Group CEO at Dentons LLP. He has held several leadership positions including as Chair of the Fulbright Board, Chair of the California State University Board of Trustees, President of the California State Bar, President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and President of the Barristers Club of San Francisco. In 1998, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as director of the White House Commission on Youth Violence following the tragic Columbine, Colorado shootings. Bleich holds honorary degrees from San Francisco State University, Griffith University, and Flinders University in Adelaide, which in 2019 established the Jeff Bleich Centre in his honor.

Ms. RORY M. BROSIUS

FORMER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES



Rory M. Brosius is a partner at Cicero Group, a data-driven management consulting firm, where she helps to lead social sector projects. Prior to joining Cicero, Brosius served as the Special Assistant to the President for Military Families and the Executive Director of Joining Forces at the White House, where she oversaw a policy portfolio that included economic opportunity, military child education, and health and wellbeing for the families, caregivers, and survivors of service members and veterans. A veteran of the Biden Presidential Transition Team and 2020 Presidential Campaign, she previously served as the Deputy Director of Joining Forces during the Obama-Biden Administration.

A social worker by training and a military family member, Brosius has more than a decade of public service, working in roles supporting institutions of higher education, the United States military, federal government, and two Presidential Administrations. Over the course of her career, she has worked to identify and amplify innovative solutions to pressing national security problems, specifically, retention and recruitment of the Force through the lens of personnel and family readiness. She earned her bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Clemson University, and after entering the workforce, earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California. Born in Lockport, Illinois, she now resides in Washington, District of Columbia.

Ms. MARIANNE CRAVEN

ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Ms. Marianne Craven is the Managing Director and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The programs supported by her office include Fulbright Scholarships, Humphrey Fellowships, Gilman Scholarships, undergraduate exchanges, teacher exchanges, the promotion of U.S. higher education overseas and study abroad, and English and foreign language study programs. Ms. Craven also serves as a liaison for the State Department with the East-West Center in Hawaii, and she contributes to the development of U.S. positions on international higher education issues in multilateral fora. Ms. Craven is a career civil servant who began her U.S. government career as a Foreign Service Officer, serving in Mali, Poland, and Italy. She has held several positions in the ECA Bureau in Washington administering international educational and cultural programs. She is a graduate of Smith College.

LTG KARL EIKENBERRY

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE
SCHWARZMAN COLLEGE



LTG Karl Eikenberry is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center. He is also Senior Advisor to the United States Institute of Peace and faculty member of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University.

His almost four decades of national service culminated as the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2009 until 2011. Before his appointment as Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Eikenberry had a 35-year career in the United States Army, retiring in 2009 with the rank of Lieutenant General. His military operational posts included commander and staff officer with mechanized, light,

airborne, and ranger infantry units in the continental U.S., Hawaii, Korea, Italy, and in Afghanistan as the Commander of the American-led Coalition Forces. He held various policy and political-military positions ranging from Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium, Director for Strategic Planning and Policy for U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii, U.S. Security Coordinator and Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in Kabul, Afghanistan, Senior Country Director for China and Taiwan, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Assistant Army and later Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China.

Eikenberry is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, serves on the boards of The Asia Foundation and American Councils for International Education, and is the Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council of the Regional Studies East Asia Program at Harvard University.

DR. SAM EISEN

DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LANGUAGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION OFFICE

Dr. Sam Eisen is the Director for the Defense Language National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) in the Department of Human Resources Activity (DHRA). In this role, Dr. Eisen directs the policy and programmatic matters regarding foreign language, culture, and regional expertise for Department of Defense personnel. Dr. Eisen also evaluates changes in legislation, policies, regulations, directives, and funding to assess the impact on language, cultural, and regional capabilities within the Department for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, DoD civilians, and contractors.

DLNSEO has program management oversight of many high value training and education programs to include the Defense Language Institutes (Foreign Language Center and English Language Center), the Joint Foreign Area Officer program, the National Language Service Corps, the Department's language testing program and culture programs as well as the National Security Education Program, which includes the Language Flagship Initiative, Language Training Centers, Boren Scholarships and Fellowships, the English for Heritage Language Speakers program and the National Language Service Corps.

Prior Experience

As the Director of Programs at DLNSEO Dr. Eisen held responsibility for strategic language programming through the Language Flagship program, Boren Scholarships and Fellowships, ROTC Project Global Officer, the Language Training Centers, and English for Heritage Language Speakers. Before coming to DLNSEO, Dr. Eisen served as the Director of the Advanced Training and Research Group in International and Foreign Language Education at the U.S. Department of Education (2007-2011), where he provided language and international and area studies. Dr. Eisen also served at the U.S. Department of State (1999-2007) in the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia and coordinated the FREEDOM Support Act funding for academic and professional exchange programs and democracy promotion programs for the former Soviet Union. Before joining the federal government, Dr. Eisen taught Russian language, literature, and culture as Assistant Professor of Russian Studies at American University in Washington, D.C.

He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Russian Language and Literature from Stanford University and a B.A. in Russian from Amherst College.

MR. MATTHEW EMRICH

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, FRAUD DETECTION AND NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY



On November 15, 2015, Mr. Matthew Emrich began serving as the Associate Director for the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate (FDNS). In November 2012, Emrich was selected as the deputy associate director of FDNS. In this position, he managed more than 180 headquarters-based staff who issue operational guidance for more than 900 FDNS personnel.

Mr. Emrich also designed the operational concept and structure for the EB-5 Division, which was created in 2013 to support the new Immigrant Investor Program Office. He staffed that new division, improved screening methods and protocols, and established new relationships with law enforcement partners.

Mr. Emrich has more than 21 years of immigration law enforcement and intelligence experience. He began his civilian government career in 1997 as a special agent for the legacy INS Chicago District. While serving in the INS, Mr. Emrich's criminal investigator assignments included the Lake County Repeat Offender Task Force and the Anti-Smuggling Unit. Following Sept. 11, 2001, he was detailed to the National Security Unit at INS headquarters and later selected for assignment to the Chicago Joint Terrorism Task Force. Mr. Emrich also served as a supervisory special agent and assistant ICE attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to help establish the first permanent ICE Visa Security Program post.

In February 2008, Mr. Emrich headed ICE's headquarters-based analytic units as a deputy assistant director in ICE's Office of Intelligence. Following the attempted bombing of a commercial airliner on Dec. 25, 2009, he was the chief of the DHS Threat Task Force which provided integrated intelligence and operational information to DHS leadership and components. In May 2010, Mr. Emrich was selected as the chief of the Intelligence Division within FDNS.

Mr. Emrich served for eight years on active duty in the Marine Corps in counterintelligence and infantry. He was also deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, as a senior human intelligence analyst for multinational forces.

Mr. Emrich has a master's degree in strategic intelligence from the National Intelligence University, a graduate certificate in applied management from the Australian Institute of Police Management and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Park University.

DR. CLAUDIA KINKELA

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



Dr. Claudia Kinkela is a Senior Program Officer in the National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Research. For the past seven years, she has been coordinating the Fellowships Program, and has worked with other programs in that same division (Summer Stipends, Collaborative Research, Documenting Endangered Languages program). Dr. Kinkela is a political scientist by training and got her education in her native Germany. Before coming to NEH in 2008, she taught Political Theory at Duke University, Georgetown University and American University. She also taught at the University of Cologne and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany.

DR. PATRICK MENDIS

FORMER AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AND MILITARY PROFESSOR OF NATO AND INDO-PACIFIC COMMANDS



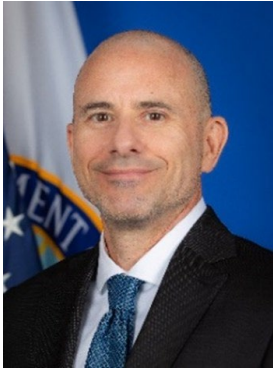
Patrick Mendis is a former American diplomat and military professor in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Indo-Pacific Commands during the Clinton, Bush, and Obama Administrations. Mendis has held many senior government positions in the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and State. He is currently located in Washington, District of Columbia, while serving as a distinguished visiting professor of transatlantic relations at the University of Warsaw in Poland as well as a distinguished visiting professor of global affairs at the National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Until recently, Mendis served two terms as a commissioner to the U.S. National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the Department of State. Previously, he worked as the Secretariat Director of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs under Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as the Chairman of the U.S. Interagency Policy Working Group on Science and Technology in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs under Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He also served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, an advisor to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Center for Global Security Research, and a consultant to the World Bank. Mendis also served in the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mendis is an alumnus of the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has authored over 200 books, journal articles, newspaper columns, and government reports. Mendis has taught at more than 25 Chinese universities and academies and worked in and travelled to more than 130 countries.

MR. RAFAEL NEVÁREZ

ACTING DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



As Acting Director, Rafael oversees the Department's international activities and education diplomacy efforts, as well as the Department's role in supporting the interagency Joint Statement on International Education. His areas of responsibility include managing the Department's participation in various multilateral forums and overseeing bilateral engagement with a broad range of countries. Rafael also leads the Department's work on academic and professional mobility. He serves as the U.S. representative to the European Network of Information Centers (ENIC), which promotes the recognition of education qualifications across borders.

Prior to joining the Department in 1998 as a Presidential Management Fellow, Rafael was a public school teacher in Sacramento, California and worked in international trade promotion for the State of California. Rafael holds undergraduate degrees from Sacramento City College and California State University Sacramento, and a graduate degree in education from Chapman University. He also completed studies in international affairs at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar.

MR. RUBEN PEDROZA

DIRECTOR, HUMAN CAPITAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Mr. Ruben Pedroza serves as the Director, Human Capital for the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is responsible for management in all areas of Human Capital Management. Mr. Pedroza's Human Resources background blends over 35 years of human resources experience both in private and public sector. Mr. Pedroza received his Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management Development and holds a Professional Human Resources (PHR) certification from the Society of Human Resources Management.

MR. M. OSMAN SIDDIQUE

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI ISLANDS



M. Osman Siddique served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji Islands with concurrent accreditations to the Kingdom of Tonga and the Governments of Tuvalu and Nauru from 1999 until 2001. Appointed by President Bill Clinton, he was the first American Muslim U.S. Ambassador to serve as a Chief of Mission anywhere. After receiving his MBA degree from the Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, Siddique started his professional career with a fortune 500 company, but soon emerged as a successful entrepreneur and a prolific businessman in the nation's capital. Under the tutelage of Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), he became very active in the Democratic Party and national politics.

In 2011, President Obama appointed Siddique as a trustee to the Board of Governors of the East West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Today, in addition to being a strategic advisor to several multinational organizations, Siddique serves on multiple boards including the Atlantic Council as a non-resident senior fellow. Born in Bangladesh, Siddique currently lives with his wife Catherine, in McLean, Virginia. He recently authored his memoir *Leaps of Faith: An Immigrant's Odyssey of Struggle, Success and Service to his Country*.

Ms. CYNTHIA SNYDER

CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE



Ms. Cynthia G. Snyder assumed the position of Assistant Director of National Intelligence for Human Capital (ADNI/HC) in January 2023. In this role, Ms. Snyder leads the design, development, and execution of human capital strategies, plans, and policies in support of the U.S. Intelligence Community workforce and in furtherance of the National Intelligence Strategy.

Ms. Snyder brings decades of leadership experience to the role of ADNI/HC through both military and intelligence environments. Before joining ODNI, Ms. Snyder served approximately 18 years in leadership at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), most recently as the Associate Director for Support (ADS), where she managed human resources, training and education, career services, leader development, and facilities and installation management activities.

Ms. Snyder's other leadership roles at NGA included Director of the NGA Human Development Strategies Office, Director of Installation Operations, Deputy Director for Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Mission Planning and Policy for the Analysis Plans and Business Operations Group, and co-chair of the GEOINT Analysis and Production Subcommittee (GAPSCOM).

Ms. Snyder also served as the Department of the Navy (DoN) Naval Intelligence (NAVINTTEL) Civilian Human Capital Officer (CHCO) as a joint duty assignment. In this role, she was a member of the IC Chief Human Capital Officers Council, which she now leads as the ADNI/HC.

Ms. Snyder joined the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service in 2007, after serving 25 years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force and retiring at the rank of Colonel. During her distinguished military career, Ms. Snyder gained extensive leadership and management experience across four commands and numerous installation and staff positions, including as Deputy Base Commander during Iraqi Freedom.

Ms. Snyder holds two Master of Science degrees, one in operations management from the University of Arkansas, and the other in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. She is a proud graduate of Tennessee State University, a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. In recognition of exceptional performance throughout her career, Ms. Snyder received a Presidential Rank Award in FY 2019.